

Project Title: Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the Divergence of Religious and Secular Nationalisms in India

Investigator: Leah Renold

Department: History

Project Summary:

The Research Enhancement Grant made it possible for me to work in India from May 28-July 22, 2008. During this time I was able to make considerable progress on my project. I visited the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh State Archives in Lucknow, the Bharati Bhavan Library in Allahabad, and the Bharat Kala Museum and Sayajirao Gaekwad Library of Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi. I was also able to meet with several family members related to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the chief subject of my research. These meetings resulted in fruitful interviews and my obtaining photos and documentation for my work. By happenstance, I also had opportunity to interview leading religious leaders in India and get feedback from them on my topic. While I was working in India, Star News, a national television news program and a major newspaper did a story on my research. I was certainly encouraged by the interest in my work. The most important find in my research came through comparing British official reports with those of newspapers written by Indians. I discovered that South Asian historians had relied upon British reports of events as a basis for their interpretations of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya as an instigator of violence. The Indian newspapers not only provided contrasting accounts of the events, but also addressed the falsity of the specific British reports of the incidents.

Publication:

N/A