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September 2023

## Tracing the Genealogy of Urdu Crime Fiction in the Indian sub-continent:1880-1940

Amina Wasif

Western University, [awasif@uwo.ca](mailto:awasif@uwo.ca)

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### Citation of this paper:

Wasif, Amina, "Tracing the Genealogy of Urdu Crime Fiction in the Indian sub-continent:1880-1940" (2023). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 385.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/385>

## **Tracing the Genealogy of Urdu Crime Fiction in the Indian sub-continent**

My research explores how crime and detective fiction can impact, and, in some cases, anticipate contemporary forensic trends. During late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, translations of Sherlock Holmes became popular in the Indian sub-continent, and a string of Urdu transcreations and pseudo-forensic manuals, pertaining to the study of the criminal mind, followed in their wake. These early trends in crime fiction led to a deep interest in the working of the police force in colonial India, and in many cases, law enforcement agencies relied on fictional crimes and their solutions for help in solving real world crimes.

My research focuses on tracing the genealogy of Urdu detective fiction and the possible reasons for its popularity, and looks for a possible correlation between a changing socio-economic climate and the popularity of Urdu detective fiction.

Amina Wasif

PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature

Department of Languages and Cultures