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The State of Knowledge and Knowledges of the State in Pakistan

This thesis presents a study of the Pakistani state that foregrounds a particular technology of rule as integral to its enactment of authority. The main focus of research is National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), established in 2002. NADRA collects conventional, biometric and authentication data about Pakistanis, who, in turn, are issued a National Identification Card (NIC). It is argued the NADRA represents the latest in a long line of governmental offices to be innovated through the operations of ascriptive technologies in tandem with the primary impetus of state-making, security, to reframe the modes of state power operationalized over time.