

DR. SYEDA JENIFA ZAHAN
Curriculum Vitae

Research Fellow
Interuniversity Department of Regional & Urban Studies and Planning
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Websites – <https://www.urbanstudiesfoundation.org/funding/grantees/dr-syeda-jenifa-zahan/>
<https://beyondinhabitation.org/team/>

EDUCATION

- PhD Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2020
- Dissertation: “Reconstructing gender and space: single women’s access to and experiences of public spaces in the metropolitan city of Delhi, India”
- Committee: Tracey Skelton, Kamalini Ramdas, *Late* Choon Piew Pow
- MPHIL National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), 2011
- Dissertation: Education policy and gender inequality: a comparative study of India and Australia.
- Supervisor: Aarti Srivastava
- MA Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, 2009
- Dissertation: Re-institutionalising gender through state policy: a study of the Stree Shakti and the Ladli schemes of the Government of Delhi
- Supervisor: Anindita Datta
- BA DKD College, Dibrugarh University, Assam, 2006
- With Best Graduate Award in Arts from Dibrugarh University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Current Principal Investigator and Research Fellow, Urban Studies Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship project “The politics of smart urbanism: How smart housing is (re)structuring power in urban India”
- Host: Interuniversity Department of Regional & Urban Studies and Planning, Polytechnic University of Turin

- 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, Nepal and the Institute of Development Studies, UK.
- 2019-2020 Part-time Research Assistant, University of Toronto (Nov 2019-Apr 2020)
- 2019 Part-time Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, August-December 2019
- 2017 Part-time Research Assistant, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
- 2015-2016 Part-time Researcher, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
- 2013-2015 Programme Manager (Research), Deshkal Society, India
- 2011-2012 Research Associate, Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- 2022 Universities, gendered living and geographies of resistance in India, *Society and Space* Forum on the university as a site of contradiction and possibility for radical geographical knowledge and practice (*in press*).
- 2022 'Delhi is a hopeful place for me!': Young middle-class women reclaiming the Indian city, *Gender, Place and Culture* (ahead-of-print), DOI: [10.1080/0966369X.2022.2124961](https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2022.2124961)
- 2022 Smart urbanism and the politics of redevelopment in urban peripheries in India, *Urban Matters*, SI: Imagining/Doing Smart City. Institute of Urban Studies, Malmö University
- 2021 Silent cities, silenced histories: Subaltern Experiences of Everyday Urban Violence during COVID-19, *Journal of the British Academy*, 9(s3), 139-155 (with Jaideep Gupte)
- 2020 Feminist politicization of the urban: young female students challenging spatial patriarchies", *Space and Polity*, 24(1), 45-59
- 2013 Growth and inclusive development through skills: closing the skills gap in India, *The Global Analyst*, 2(4), 23-26, (with Aarti Srivastava and Arthi Rao)
- 2013 Higher education: Revisiting rural India, *University News: Special Issue on Research in Higher Education Institutes for Sustainable Development*, 51 (17), 253-257, (with Aarti Srivastava)

Journal Articles Under Review

- 2022 'The young Muslim woman's city at the intersections of gendered religious practices in India, SI in *City, Culture, and Society*, Submitted in January 2022.

In Preparation

(Special Issue proposal) The politics and possibilities of feminist solidarities for just and sustainable futures! Target journal: *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*

(Journal article) The making of the Delhi Smart City, one spinning wheel at a time: Affective urbanism and the power of the State. Target Journal: *Urban Geography*

(Journal article) Feminist activism and solidarities in the making of urban India. Target journal: *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*

(Journal article) Understanding gendered violence as plural and relational in Delhi, India. Target journal: *Dialogues in Human Geography*

Web-Based Publications

2020 Of race, religion and a pandemic: understanding Islamophobia in Assam, India
The Bastion, <https://thebastion.co.in/ideas/of-race-religion-and-a-pandemic-understanding-islamophobia-in-assam/>

Other Publications/ Policy Report

- 2014 Social diversity and learning achievement: the status of primary education in rural Bihar. Policy Report, Deshkal Society.
- 2014 The status of teachers in elementary schools with reference to the provisions of the Right to Education Act, 2009. Policy report for OXFAM and Deshkal Society.
- 2013 Right to homestead land in rural Bihar: a study of its status, issues and challenges in implementation of policies and provisions, Deshkal Society and Planning Commission of India.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- 2022 Urban Studies Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, GBP 180000
- 2020 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany, 2020-2021, EUR 34500
- 2021 Conference Funding, Asia Research Institute, SGD 400
- 2018 Conference Travel Grant, National University of Singapore, SGD 2000
- 2016 GRSS Fieldwork Grant, National University of Singapore, SGD 5000
- 2015 National University of Singapore Research Fellowship, SGD 64800 and Tuition fee for 4 years
- 2006 Loknath Dutt Memorial Award for the Best Graduate in Arts and Social Sciences, Dibrugarh University
- 2006 Best Geography Graduate Award, North East India Geographical Society, Assam, India
- 2003 Sahara India Merit Scholarship

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Symposia/Panels Organized/Participated

- 2022 Co-organised two sessions on “Global South geographies and feminist solidarity for just recovery!”, RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Newcastle, UK, 30 August- 02 September

- 2022 “Discussant”, Gender Place and Culture Keynote Speech at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Newcastle, UK, 30 August – 02 September
- 2021 “Feminist activism and solidarity: the case of young women’s collective politics in India”, Panel discussion titled ‘Beyond Borders: Women's Movements Around the World’, Wolfson College Gender Research Hub, University of Cambridge (UK), 14 May
- 2017 “Young single women and urban public spaces in Delhi: Some policy implications”, XXII Gender and Economic Policy Panel Discussion Forum, Heinrich Boll Stiftung and the Institute of Social Studies Trust, India, 2 May
- 2013 Co-organised “Asia Regional Skills Symposium”, National University of Educational Planning and Administration and Results for Development (R4D), Washington D.C.

Papers Presented

- 2022 " Feminist activism and solidarities in the making of urban India", RGS-IBG Annual Conference: Newcastle, UK. 30 August 30- 02 September.
- 2022 “Understanding gendered violence as plural and relational in Delhi, India”, UGI-IGU Centennial Congress, Paris, 18-22 July.
- 2021 Plenary Lecture, “The Anthropocene, planetary boundaries and the urban: thinking from the peripheries of smart cities”, Annual International Conference of the Institute of Indian Geographers, 4-6 October
- 2021 “The young Muslim woman’s city at the intersections of gendered religious practices in India”, International conference on Urban Religion, Gender and the Body, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 25-27 January.
- 2018 “Violence, public space, and young middle- class women’s politics in Delhi, India”, RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Cardiff University (UK), 28-31 August.
- 2018 “Gendered precarity and production of neoliberal ‘safety’ among middle-class young women in Delhi, India, New Zealand Geographical Society-Institute of Australian Geographers Joint Conference, University of Auckland (NZ), 11-14 July.
- 2017 “Living the possibilities: North-east Indian women’s experiences in Delhi”, International Workshop on Migrants in Global Cities: Experiences from Asia, the Middle East and Europe, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore and University of Sorbonne, France, 30-31 October.
- 2015 “Being Single: Experiences of young single women from North-East India living in Delhi”, International workshop titled Solo cities: Representations of ‘Single’ in urban spaces, HERA SINGLE project and the Goethe Institute, 06-08 October.

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “Theorising gendered violence as plural and relational in Delhi”, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (UK), 24 July

- 2019 “Re-Constructing gender and space: a conceptual framework of relational plurality”, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 14 November.
- 2017 “Doing qualitative fieldwork and its challenges: Reflections on fieldwork in Delhi”, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, (India), 13 September

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2022 Presentation at Lecture series on “Alternative Housing Models” and session titled “The new housing question. Starting points for new radical approaches”, DIST, Polytechnic of Turin, Italy, 20 May
- 2018 “Teaching as a graduate student”, Graduate Students’ Teaching Seminar, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore.
- 2016 Co-organised “Graduate student led session”, Social-Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) Seminar, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore.
- 2016 Co-organised “Graduate research seminar (GRS)”, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
- 2015 “Research in progress”, Social-Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore.
- 2014 Co-organised seminar on “Inclusive education and social diversity in Bihar, India”, PACS-DFID and Deshkal Society, India, 28-29 June.
- 2013 Co-organised panel discussion on “Inclusive education: pedagogic issues and problematic teaching-learning”, Dehskal Society, 09 November.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Regional & Urban Studies and Planning, Polytechnic of Turin, 22 June 2022

Lecture class titled “Feminist Qualitative Methodologies in Urban Studies”, PhD module on Qualitative Research Methodology in Urban Studies.

Department of Geography, University of Mumbai, India, 27 November 2021

Lecture class titled “Gender, Resilience and Sustainable Development” at the National In-service Faculty Refresher Course on Sustainability, Development and Community Resilience: A Spatio-Social Perspectives.

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2015 - 2019

Taught as a Teaching Assistant (part -time), Aug - Dec 2019:

- (1) GEK2001/SSA2202/GES1003: Changing Landscapes of Singapore
- (2) GE4233: Geographies of the Contemporary World
- (3) GE4225: Young People and Children: Global Perspectives

Responsibilities: conducted tutorials, conducted 1 lecture-class, supervised student projects and fieldwork; evaluated assignments and end-term examinations; assisted the module coordinator in preparing lectures.

Taught as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Aug 2015 - May 2018

(1) GE3241: Geographies of Social Life

(2) GEK2001/SSA2202/GES1003: Changing Landscapes of Singapore

Responsibilities: Conducted tutorials, supervised students for their fieldwork and mapping projects; and evaluated assignments and end-term examinations over 4 semesters.

EXTRA TRAINING

2012 Advanced Certificate in Gender Studies

Women's Studies and Development Center, University of Delhi, India

2009 UGC-National Eligibility Test (NET) in Geography, India (teaching accreditation)

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Reviewer, Gender, Place & Culture, 2022

Discussion, Research in-progress Seminar, the British Academy, 3 December 2021.

Core Member, Beyond Inhabitation Lab, Polytechnic of Torino, Italy, 2022- present

Member, Young and Emerging Scholars Committee, IGU Gender Commission, 2019-present

REFERENCES

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