

Nirupama Jayaraman

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois at Chicago
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EDUCATION

- 2024 Doctoral student in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
(Expected) MA in Anthropology; Graduate Concentration in Gender and Women's Studies,
UIC
2016 MA Development Studies, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India
Minor Stream: Operations Research

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Socio-cultural Anthropology, urban studies, science and technology studies, South Asia, India, Urban infrastructure, transportation and mobility, gendered spatialities, media infrastructures

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Joel M. Rothschild Memorial Endowment in Geography Award, Department of
Anthropology, UIC (\$1000)
2022 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship Alternates List
2022 Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Award, UIC
2021 Mary B. Bialas Award, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, UIC (\$500)
2021 Digital Editorial Fellow, Political and Legal Anthropology Review
2020 NSF-REG Data Collection Grant, NSF Cultural Anthropology Program for
preliminary fieldwork (\$6000)
2019 University Fellowship, Graduate College, UIC, full scholarship for 4 academic
years (\$ 25000*4)
2016 IITMAANA Travel Grant, IIT Madras, India
2015 ISEC Summer Research Fellowship, Center for Research in UrbanAffairs at the
Institute for Social and Economic Change, India

PUBLICATION & MEDIA OUTREACH

- 2021 **Jayaraman**, Nirupama. "Indian Food Delivery Networks during the COVID-19
Pandemic." *Platypus: The CASTAC Blog*, February 5, 2021.
<https://blog.castac.org/2021/02/indian-food-delivery-networks-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.
2019 **Jayaraman**, Nirupama, Arjun Bhargava, Parama Roy, Bhavna Thyagarajan, and
Akshaya Ayyangar. 2019. "Healthy and Planned Urbanization." *In Resilient
Chennai Strategy, Kaleidoscope: My City through My Eyes*, 91-123. Chennai,
India: Resilient Chennai, 100 Resilient Cities Network. Edited by Parama Roy
2017 **Jayaraman**, Nirupama and Shamika Ravi. 2017. "Important Lessons for the
Smart Cities Mission." *The Mint*, 28 Jun. Op-ed, Indian national edition.
<https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/Kdd1dZ3GMr1dl1zMq5tzAL/Important-lessons-for-the-Smart-Cities-Mission.html>.

- 2017 Ravi, Shamika and Nirupama **Jayaraman**. 2017. *Gender Issues in India: An Amalgamation of Research*. New Delhi, India: Brookings India. Policy Brief.
- 2017 Ravi, Shamika and Nirupama **Jayaraman**. 2017. *Women and Representative Governance in India*. New Delhi, India: Brookings India. Policy Brief
- 2016 Jayaraman, Nirupama, "Beyond Madras Week: Exploring the Politics of Heritage and Urbanization in Chennai". Master's Thesis. IIT Madras. 2016

CONFERENCES & LECTURES

Sole-Authored

- 2022 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Stories from the field and the classroom: Reflections of a graduate student instructor". Poster presentation at National Women's Studies Association 2022 conference. November 2022 (Accepted)
- 2022 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Remembering how to commute: Of embodied memories and skills of transit". *Panel: COVID and Its Impact on India*. Paper presented at 50th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison. 21 October 2022
- 2022 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Travails of Travelling: How Does Gender Influence Public Transport Choices?". Invited speaker at Women's Leadership and Resource Center and Gender & Women's Studies present Feminisms Lunch Lecture. 11th April 2022
- 2022 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Mobility and the mobile phone: Cell phone as an ethnographer's tool and subject". Paper presented at Chicago Ethnography Conference: Ethnography and Qualitative Literacy: Communicating Research in Uncertain Times. 5th April 2022
- 2021 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Comments, Fandom and Digital Communities: Formation and Functioning of Cybercultures". Lectured at Graduate Instructor Guest Lecture Series. GWS 101: Gender in Everyday Life for Dr. Ronak K. Kapadia. 17th November 2021
- 2017 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "The Madras Week Celebrations: Chennai's Foray into Heritage Environmentalism." Invited speaker at National Seminar Series: Environmental Consciousness in current Indian Art. 8th January 2017
- 2016 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "The Street Market Experience: Exploring the Interplay of Space and Place." *Panel: Creative Spaces and Places in Asia's Urban Areas*. Paper presented at 46th Annual International Conference. Urban Affairs Association. 14th March 2016
- 2015 Jayaraman, Nirupama. "Deconstructing the Mystique of the Armenians of Chennai". Poster presented at 4th Annual Academic Conference: On Migration. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

Panel

- 2022 Paper to be presented "Madurai Mobilities: Examining gendered mobility through mobile media". *Panel: Techno-human Narrations*. Panel to be chaired and paper presented at Society for Social Studies in Science. December 2022 (Accepted).

Co-authored presentations

- 2022 **Jayaraman**, Nirupama and Sreenidhi Krishnan. "Language Games: The transnational digital engagements & socio-cultural implications of South Indian matrimonial linguistic landscapes." Association for Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference. Virtual Conference March 2022.
- 2021 Krishnan, Sreenidhi and Nirupama **Jayaraman**. "When the Try Guys Post: The pleasures and vulnerabilities of a digital media fandom." Mental health, the pandemic, and fandom. Fan Studies Network – North America Virtual Conference October 2021.
- 2014 Evangeline, Diana and Nirupama **Jayaraman**. "Emancipation in the Era of Globalization." National Seminar on Globalization, Multiculturalism and Peace Building. Indialogue Foundation. October 2014
- 2012 Adelina, Charrlotte, Nirupama **Jayaraman**, and S. Kanishka. "Reinterpreting Internet Activism - A Study of its Relationship with the Nature of State." First International Multidisciplinary Conference in Humanities and Social Sciences: Beyond Borders. Indian Institute of Technology, Indore. Paper Presentation. December 2012

FIELDWORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Winter 2021, Principal Investigator, *Preliminary Dissertation Research*, Travails of
- Summer 2022 Travelling: How Does Gender Influence Public Transport Choices?
- Conducted **participant observation** in 2 main bus stands in Madurai, India
 - **Interviewed** female commuters and auto-drivers, municipal officials, transport planning officials in Madurai, Tamil Nadu and established contacts for larger fieldwork
 - Conducted **archival research** on Madurai's planning history through materials collated from Tamil Nadu State Archives
- Summer 2016 Research Intern, *Indo-German Centre for Sustainability, Chennai*, Peri Urban Dynamics and Sustainability: The Case of Sriperumbudur
- Charged with carrying out **literature review** on non-economic loss and damage indicators involving sea level rise in Chennai
 - Conducted 30 **household surveys** across Sriperumbudur Taluk as part of exploratory research project
 - Updated daily blogs during BypassLab conducted by IGCS
- Summer 2015 Research Intern, *Centre for Research in Urban Affairs, Institute of Social and Economic Change - Bangalore*, Smart Cities and Heritage Conservation in India, Supervisor: Prof. Kala Seetharam Sridhar
- Created **tri-systemic database** (spanning national, 24 states, 100 cities) on existing legislative provisions for urban heritage in India
 - Collated and analyzed data across Chennai and Bengaluru for physical indicators of urban infrastructure as defined by Smart Cities Concept Note
- Winter 2013 Research Internship, *Real Estate Research Initiative, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore*, Affordable Housing, Supervisors: Mr. Ramanna Tadepalli and Ms. Sthuthi Vijayaraghavan
- Authored **primer** on affordable housing outlining definitions, stakeholders, relevant policies and business and financial models of sector
 - Assembled data for publication of **case study** on sustainable business models in affordable housing

Summer 2013 Research Internship, *Madras Institute of Development Studies*, Uncontested elections in Informal Local Governance Institutions in Karnataka, Supervisor: Dr. Kripa AnantPur

- **Cleaned panel data** and identified trends of uncontested elections in 56 villages across 4 districts for 5 election-cycles for project funded by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex
- Conducted **literature survey** on constitutional amendments to rural governance in India

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Fall 2022 Teaching Assistant, Department of Gender and Women's studies, UIC
Gender in Everyday Life (24 students x 2 sections)

Spring 2022 Teaching Assistant, Department of Gender and Women's studies, UIC
Gender in Everyday Life (24 students x 2 sections)

Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant, Department of Gender and Women's studies, UIC
Gender in Everyday Life (24 students x 2 sections)

Summer 2021 Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, UIC
Introduction to Archaeology (10 students x 1 section)

Spring 2021 Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, UIC
Introduction to Economic Geography (25 students x 3 sections)

Fall 2020 Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, UIC
Introduction to Economic Geography (25 students x 3 sections)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 Lead External Consultant, Accessibility Vertical, Auxohub, Chennai

- Provided **live interpretation** services for (Tamil <-> English) Astrea's panel on Emerging Queer Rights in South Asia.
- Provided **live translation** services for (English -> Tamil) e-Vidyaloka Roshni Summit

2018 - 2019 Research Associate, Healthy and Planned Urbanization for 100 Resilient Cities, Okapi Research Advisory Pvt. Ltd., Chennai

- Created **Resilience Strategy** for Chennai as part of Resilient Chennai team through secondary and primary research on identified diagnostic area
- Conducted **literature review, stakeholder discussions, expert interviews** and focus group ~~surveys~~ for Healthy and Planned Urbanization

2018-2019 Co-Founder; Head, Research and Communications, Connect-Human LLP, Chennai

- Led product, **market and UX research** for product through lenses of Social Network Theory and social psychology
- Created and developed content for user interface, company website and oversee all external communications

2018 Consultant (Urban Research), Buckingham Canal: Site Study and Civic Engagement

- Commissioned by GIZ GmbH, project to trace beginnings of Canal and document changes over last 30 years, including effects of planning decisions
 - Conducted **archival research, perception surveys and anecdotal interviews** among citizens and residents of settlements along Canal
- 2016 - 2017 Research Assistant (Development and Urbanization), Smart Cities in India, Development Economics Vertical
- Studied first 20 Smart Cities chosen in Phase I of India's Smart Cities Challenge through understanding project proposals submitted and measuring progress of implementation by interviewing involved stakeholders
 - Conducted **literature surveys**, collected data, managed social media interaction for Development Economics vertical
 - Co-ordinated logistics for all events conducted by Development Economics vertical including monthly Development Seminars by eminent scholars

INTERNSHIPS

- 2014 Research Intern, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan – Mid Day Meal Scheme, Monitoring Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
- Visited 32 Government Schools in rural Tamil Nadu, India as part of monitoring committee from IIT Madras to two centrally funded schemes: "Universal Free Primary Education for All" and provision of free mid day meal
 - Judged implementation and efficacy of these schemes through classroom observation as well as verification of official documentation
- 2014 Translator, Reversing Son Preference: A Study of Contributory Factors, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
- Participated in research project funded by United Nations Population Fund
 - Translated 10 in-depth interviews and focus group discussions in rural and urban environments from Tamil to English
- 2012 Summer Intern, Assessing impact of I.C.Ts on education, EZ Vidya Pvt. Ltd.
- Assisted the 'Scalability in Education' Team and 'Multimedia Services Division' Team
 - Assessed suitability of content for use in syllabus, collated data and undertook field visits to gauge success of Project BridgeIT India (Product – EZ Vidya)

SERVICE

- 2022 Host, Urban Studies Channel, New Books Network Podcast
- 2021- 2022 Contributing Editor for *Platypus – the CASTAC [blog](#)*
- 2022 Co-Chair, Executive Committee, Second City Anthropology Conference, UIC
- 2021- 2022 President, Graduate Anthropology and Geography Association, UIC
- 2021-2022 Member, Anthropology Brown Bag Organizing Committee, UIC
- 2020- 2021 Third Officer, Graduate Anthropology and Geography Association, UIC
- 2020 Adjudicator, Undergraduate Awards, Social Sciences: Anthropology and Cultural Studies Panel

2018 Public policy research, Krantikali, Youth for Gender petition and campaign
2018 Advocate, Cities-Rise, Landscape mapping for Chennai's medical community
2016-2019 Contributor, Weekly Round-up Series, Urban Design Collective Blog
2015-2016 Core, Training and Placement Cell, IIT Madras
2012-2014 Managerial Team Member, National Service Scheme, IIT Madras

MEMBERSHIP

Current CASTAC: Anthro of Science, Technology, and Computing at AAA
Current National Women's Studies Association
Current Association of Asian Studies
Current Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

AFFILIATIONS

Research Scholar Tamil Nadu State Archives, India
Researcher Affiliate Center for Feminist Research, York University

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

2020 CITI IRB Training and Exemption
2020 John's Hopkins COVID Contact Tracing Certification
2013 A-2 German, Goethe Institut

LANGUAGES (based on CEFR levels)

English (proficient user)
Tamil (native speaker)
Hindi (independent user)
German (independent user)
Sanskrit (independent user)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

ArcMap (Intermediate)
ArcGISPro (Intermediate)
NVIVO (Beginner)
STATA (Intermediate)
SPSS (Intermediate)
LATEX (Intermediate)
QGIS (Beginner)