

DIYA MEHRA
South Asian University
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EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin.

Ph.D. Anthropology, 2011

Specialization: Cultural Anthropology

Advisor: Kamala Visweswaran

Dissertation: *Remaking Urban Worlds: New Delhi in the Age of Economic Liberalization*

M.A., Anthropology, 2001

Bryn Mawr College

B.A., Anthropology. Graduated cum laude with departmental honors, 1996

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Sociology (Senior Grade), South Asian University, New Delhi, 2012-to present.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Subaltern Urbanization in Touristic Southern and Eastern Asian Mountains, sponsored by ANR-France, coordinated by French Institute of Pondicherry and the Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies, 2022-2025 (in process).

Suburban: Subaltern Urbanization in India: A Study of the Impact of Rapid Economic Growth on India's Small Towns, sponsored by ANR-France, coordinated by the Centre de Sciences Humaine, New Delhi and the French Institute of Pondicherry, 2010-2013.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Urban Studies, **Centre de Sciences Humaines**, New Delhi, 2009 to 2012

Research Project: *Building Homes and Neighborly Spaces: New Delhi 1936-1965*;

Research Associate, **Sarai Program-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies**, New Delhi, 2002-2004

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Faculty, **Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Planning and Architecture**, New Delhi, 2009 to 2016

- Courses: Urban politics, Policy and Development, Institutional Governance, Regional Futures
- M.A. Thesis supervision

FORTHCOMING PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Shifting Ruralities: A Case Study of Higher Education, Tourism and Youth in Banjar District, Himachal Pradesh, paper prepared for a special issue of *South Asian History and Culture* on Urban Transformations,

Youth Aspirations, and Education in India, Manisha Priyam, Divya Vaid and Mona Mehra, editors, (*reviews completed*).

Shifting Boundaries, Shifting Cities: Middle Class Neighbours, the Poor and the 'Poor' State of the City, paper prepared for *SAMAJ: South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (*in preparation*).

PUBLISHED PAPERS

(* peer reviewed)

Jangpura Triptych: The Middle class, Resident Welfare Associations, and Delhi's Residential Modernity, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 55, Issue No. 51, 26 Dec, 2020.*

Mapping Mediated Politics: Some thoughts on the Indian Case, *Studies in Indian Politics*, December 2018

'Planning Delhi ca 1936-1959', special issue of *South Asia Beyond the Colonial City*. The Urban History of South Asia, 1920-1970, Nikhil Rao and Douglas Haynes guest editors, Vol. 36, no 3, September 2013.*

Wealth, Mobility, Accretive Citizenship and Belonging: Why Everyone Comes to Kullu and How they Remain in Marie-Hélène Zérah and Eric Denis (eds): *Subaltern Urbanisation in India: An Introduction to the Dynamics of Ordinary Towns*: Delhi: Springer, 2017.*

What kind of Urban? A case study of Kullu, a small Indian town. *Urbanisation*, vol.1, no 2 (November 2016). *

What has Urban Decentralization meant? A Case Study of Delhi, *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 86, no 4 (December 2013).*

'Shelter, Enumeration and Homelessness: Historical and Contemporary Contexts for Delhi' in Ashish Rajadhyaksha ed. *In the Wake of Aadhaar: The Digital Ecosystem of Governance in India*, Bangalore: CSCS, 2013.

'Urban Spatial Exclusion: A Historical Perspective' and 'Caste and Class in Indian Cities: Habitation, Inequality and Segregation' in Dupont, Zerah, Rewal, and Faetanini eds. *Urban Policies and the Right to the City in India: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship*. Delhi: UNESCO and Centre de Sciences Humaines, 2011.*

with Lalit Batra. 'Slum demolition and the Production of Space in Neoliberal Delhi' in Mahadevia, Darshini ed. *Inside Transforming Urban Asia: Processes, Politics and Public Actions*. Delhi: Concept, 2008.

'Squatting and Security of Tenure: the Latin American Experience' in Batra, Lalit ed. *The Urban Poor in Globalizing India*. Delhi: South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy, 2007.

with Lalit Batra. 'Neoliberal Delhi: Through the Lens of the Yamuna Pushta Slum Demolitions' in Broius, C. and Ahuja, R. eds. *Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata: Approaches to Metropolitan Cities in India*. Heidelberg: Draupadi Verlag, 2006.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies, USA, Himalayan Studies Fellowship, 2023.
Ancient India and Iran Trust Cambridge, Archival Bursary, 2022.
Myerson Grant for Dissertation Research, South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2006.
Margaret McNamara Fund Award for Women from Developing Countries for Dissertation Research, 2005.
University of Texas Liberal Arts Fellowship for Masters Thesis Research, 2000.
University of Texas Preemptive Scholarship, 1999.
Bryn Mawr College, Tuition Scholarship, 1992-1996.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANALS AND INVITED LECTURES

‘Presenting the colonial past, considering contemporary resonances: A case study of tourism in Manali and Kullu district (Himachal Pradesh, India),’ *Urbaltour* workshop, Pondicherry, India, May 21-23, 2023.

‘Researching the Urban.’ Invited lecture for a workshop on 'Doing Sociological Research: An Interdisciplinary Perspective,' organized by the Department of Sociology, Central University of Haryana, Jant, Haryana, March 10, 2022.

‘Urban Social Exclusion: Starting with Large Metropolitan Indian Cities (mostly Delhi). Invited lecture for the 2nd 2-Week Online Refresher Course in Human Rights & Social Inclusion, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia, August 11, 2021. A version of this talk was also presented at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics for the class Sociology of India 11, September 23, 2021.

‘Qualitative Research Methods in Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Sociology’. Invited lecture for a Two-week Refresher Course in Social Sciences and Humanities, organised by the Teaching Learning Center, Ramanujan College, New Delhi, 12-26 July 2021.

‘What Kind of Urban, What kind of Education, A Case Study of Banjar District.’ Paper presented at the International conference on Urban Transformations, Youth Aspirations and Education in India, IIT Gandhinagar, February 20-21, 2020.

‘Policy Making: Indian and International Contexts’. Invited lecture, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, March 4, 2020.

‘Shifting Cities, Shifting Boundaries: Middle Class Neighbors, the Poor and the Poor State of the City.’ Paper presented at the RC21 conference, In and Beyond the City: Emerging Ontologies, Persistent Challenges and Hopeful Futures, New Delhi, September 18-21, 2019.

Discussant, SAU-University of Chicago Workshop on ‘Tracking the Politics of Culture’, South Asian University, New Delhi, December 5, 2018.

Panelist, Panel discussion on Samaddar, R (ed.), 2018, *Migrants and the Neoliberal City*, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, South Asian University, September 26, 2018.

‘Jungpura Triptych: Striated settlements, Neighborhood activism, and Delhi’s Residential Modernity’. Paper presented at the weekly colloquium of the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS, JNU), New Delhi, September 4, 2018.

'Reading Rural-Urban Entanglements via a small town: the case of Kullu', workshop on Rural Urban Entanglements in India, organized by Ambedkar University and University of Washington, New Delhi, 27-28 April 2018.

Panelist, 'Writing the neighbourhood / Mohalle se likhna', City Scripts workshop, Indian Institute of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, March 10-12, 2018.

'Urban Segregation and Marginality: Some notes from Previous Research'. Paper presented at the national seminar on Urban Marginality, Social Policy and Education in India, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, February 12-13, 2018.

Panelist, 'Invisible Cities-Stories from Delhi', Lamakaan/Hyderabad Urban Lab, Hyderabad, Dec 14, 2017

Panelist, 'The City in Law', City Scripts workshop, Indian Institute of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, March 10-12, 2017.

Chair, 'Making Indian Cities More Equitable', Indian Institute of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, March 10-12, 2017.

Modern Delhi's Urban Development and Governance: A Brief Historical Overview. Invited lecture for the course Globalization and Environments in India, Department of History, Drexel University, New Delhi, March 22, 2016

'The Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi: Mapping Delhi's urban revitalization and the AAP's electoral success'. Paper presented at the South Asian Anthropological Group Annual Conference, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, November 20-21 2015.

'What kind of Urban? A case study of an Indian small town'. Paper presented at the Biennial Conference of the Finnish Anthropological Society, Helsinki, Finland, October 21-22 2015.

'Some Reflections on Delhi in the age of Economic Liberalization: The emergence of the AAP and Delhi's recent urban transformation.' Invited public lecture as part of the Cities in History series, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 11 September 2015.

'The Relevance of Contemporary History: A View from Urban Studies', invited presentation for the Roundtable on Contemporary History, as part of the workshop 'The Long Indian Century: Historical transitions and social transformations', sponsored by the University of London, Yale University, The Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 2-4 July, 2014

Everyday urban politics in contemporary India: Some prominent paradigms, 37th Refresher course for faculty in Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, September 22, 2014.

'Wealth, Migration, Belonging and Accretive Citizenship : Why and How 'Everyone who comes to Kullu remains here.' Paper presented at the Subaltern Urbanization in India Conference, New Delhi April 17-18, 2014.

Discussant, 'New theories of worlding cities' by Professor Sujata Patel, Global Studies Programme Annual lecture series, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 11 March 2014.

'The City in South Asia.' Special Lecture for the Introduction to South Asia Course, South Asian University, New Delhi, February 21, 2014.

'What kind of Urban? A Case Study of Kullu?' Paper presented at the UIRF-SUBURBIN Joint National Level workshop Provincial Urbanization: Examining the Role of Small and Medium Towns and Cities in India, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, April 23-24 2013.

'Shelter, Homelessness and the Urban Poor: Historical and Contemporary Contests for Policy Paradigms in Delhi.' Invited presentation at the NIAS-CSCS Digital Deliberations workshop, Bangalore July 16, 2012.

Discussant, Panel on 'The Experience of homeless with UID and Mission Convergence', NIAS-CSCS Digital Deliberations workshop, Bangalore July 16, 2012.

'Politics and Protesting Publics in Urban India: Some Reflections from the 2006 Sealing Drives and the world of New Delhi Traders.' Invited presentation at the CSH-CPR Urban Workshop Series, September 27, 2011. A version of this paper was also presented at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, New Delhi on August 5, 2011 and at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, February 3, 2012 and at the Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, April 3-6 2012.

'Planned Encounters: Delhi c. 1936-1957.' Paper presented at the Associations of Asian Studies Annual Meetings, Hawaii, March 31-April 3. An earlier version of this paper was also presented at the 'Beyond Independence' Conference, Royal Holloway, University of London, April 11-12, 2007 and at the Centre for the Study of Social Science, Calcutta's Cultural Studies Workshop, Bangalore, February 2-7, 2004.

'*Bhagidari*, Politics and Participatory Government: The case of Delhi.' 2011. Conference on Decentralization and Urban Transformation in Asia, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, March 10-11, 2011

Panelist on the Panel, 'Debate and Dissent in times of Rapid Change: The Experience of Indian cities.' Delhi Urban Platform/CSH, New Delhi, October 29 2010.

Discussant of Solomon Benjamin's paper 'Manufacturing Neoliberalism.' Paper presented at the Power in Modern India workshop, Center for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi, March 25-27 2010.

'Spatial Freeze: The Case of Sealing and the Traders of Delhi.' Paper presented at the 'Space, Capital and Social History in South Asia' workshop at the Department of Modern History, University of Gottingen, June 23-27 2010.

'Trajectories Of Participation: Some Notes on Middle Class Urban Activism and New Forms of Participatory Governance In Delhi.' Invited presentation at the Madras Institute of Developing Studies "Opening Up Or Ushering In? Interrogating discourses of Public Consultation and Citizen Participation in Urban Governance workshop in Pondicherry, July 26-29, 2009

'Reconfiguring the World Class City: the Middle Class, Kristeva and Abjection.' Paper presented at the Modern South Asia workshop, Yale University, April 2009. A version of this paper was presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings in Philadelphia in December 2009. Another version was

an invited presentation at the workshop 'The Elite and the Poor in Delhi', organized by the Centre de Sciences Humaines, and the Department of Sociology, Delhi University, April 26, 2012.

'Ethnographies Of The Outside: On Being Relocated To Delhi's Urban Fringe.' Paper accepted at the Urban History Association Conference, Houston, November 2008. Presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings, San Francisco, December 2008

'Squatting and Security of Tenure: the Latin American Experience.' Invited presentation at the National Consultation on the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Mumbai, April 2006.

'Bastions of Freedom, Sources of Ambiguity: Rethinking the Resolution of the Women's Question in Post-Independence India.' Paper presented at the PUKAR Women and Gender Studies Workshop, Mumbai, April 2006. A version of this paper was also presented at the Emerging Scholarship in Women and Gender Studies Conference, University of Texas, Austin, March 30-31, 2005.

'Elite Imaginaries: Urban Transformation in New Delhi.' Special lecture at the Kamala Raheja College of Architecture Lecture Series, Mumbai, 2003. A version of this paper was also presented at the Sarai-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, 2002 and at the Graduate Colloquia at the Urban Issues Program, University of Texas at Austin, Austin 2001.

'Consumption or Not? Tactics for Space among Homeless Youth Travelers in Austin.' Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2000.

BOOK REVIEWS

Sanjeev Routray. The Right to Be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 2023 (*forthcoming*)

Ravi Sundaram, Pirate Modernity: Delhi's Media Urbanism, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, 2012.

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Editorial Board Member: *Society and Culture in South Asia*, Sage

Peer Review: *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Urban History*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *South Asia*, *Sociological Forum*, *SAMAJ*, *Orient Blackswan*, *Society and Culture in South Asia*, *Punjab University Research Journal of Social Sciences*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Urbanisation*, *The Communication Review*

FELLOWSHIP REVIEW Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships, 2022, 2023

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Department of Regional Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
Member: Board of Studies 2013-2014.

South Asian University, New Delhi

Research Coordinator: MA/MPhil/PhD Dissertation Research, 2017-2023
Faculty Coordinator: To be continued, a Pandemic Reading Group, 2020. In collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras.
Gendertalks: Contemporary Gender Dynamics, 2019
Young Scholars' Conference 2016, 'Youth Geographies in, and of, South Asia'
Young Scholars' Conference 2015, 'Gender in South Asia'
Department of Sociology Seminar Series, 2013-2016

Committee Member: Faculty Admissions Committee, 2023
Central Admissions Committee, 2022-2023
Committee on MPhil/PhD Progress Monitoring Process, 2020
Faculty of Social Sciences, MPhil/PhD Committee on Writing and Research, 2019
Faculty of Social Sciences, Admissions Committee, 2018-present
Faculty of Social Sciences, MPhil/PhD Regulations Review Committee, 2017
Department of Sociology, Budget Committee, 2018-2019
Department of Sociology, Research Ethics Committee, 2016 to present
Souvenir Committee, 2013
Writing Clinic Hiring Committee, 2013
English Language Writing Clinic Tutor Selection Committee, 2012-201

Faculty Initiator: English Language Writing Clinic, 2012-2013

Departmental Service: Annual Report, Timetables, Internal email groups, Meeting Minutes, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi,

Organizer: Panel on Researching Delhi? Sites, Methods and Perspectives, 2012,
Organizer: Panel on Dissent and Debate at a time of Rapid Urban Change: Experiences from *Indian Cities*, 2010

Sarai-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Coordinator: The Academic Resources Program for Urban Studies, 2004.
A Conversation on the Demolitions on the Yamuna Pushta, 2004.
The Urban Cultures and Politics Seminar Series, 2003.
Student Stipendships for Research on the City. 2002.
City One: A Conference on the Contemporary Urban Experience in South Asia, 2002.

COURSES AND MODULES TAUGHT

Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory	Anthropological Theory
Sociology of South Asia	Qualitative Research Methods
Urban Anthropology	Pandemics

Ethnographic Writing and Writing Ethnography
Political Sociology

Institutional Analysis and Governance
Policy Making and Politics

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, **Sharan-Sahara**, New Delhi, 1997-1999.

- Quantitative and qualitative field research in various cities in India on urban drug subcultures especially those involving intravenous drug use and street children; the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, health policy and health services.

Consulting Researcher, **City University of New York**, John Jay College, New York City, 1996-1997

- External evaluation of new 'zero-tolerance' policing and sentencing policies in Midtown Manhattan in the mid-1990s for the National Institute of Justice.
- Part of a six-member team that worked on an ethnographic study of heroin production, distribution and use among different communities in New York City's five boroughs .

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Amnesty International, NYC, 2005; ACORN, West Philadelphia, 1997.

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

'Review of Nazima Parveen, *Contested Homelands: Politics of Space and Identity.*' *The Book Review*, vol. 45, no 5, May 2021.

'Review of Sam Miller, Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity.' *Biblio*, vol. 14, no 7-8, July-August 2009.

'Sealing, Demolition and the Delhi Master Plan.' In *Indian Architect and Builder*, May 2007.

'The Demolition Game.' *Architecture, Time and Space*, vol. 4, No 6. June 2004.

'A View on Elections from the Yamuna Pushta.' *Mainstream*, Vol. XLII, no 2004.

'A History of Civil Society Associations in Delhi.' *Medianagari*, Vol.1, no 1., September 2003.

'Technology, The City and Globalization.' Review of *Sarai Reader: Cities of Everyday Life* in *Biblio*, 2002