

# MALINI RANGANATHAN

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- Since August 2013 Assistant Professor of Global Environmental Politics (Tenure Track)  
School of International Service  
Faculty Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Center, School of Public Affairs  
**American University, Washington, DC**
- 2011-2013 Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Social Dimensions of Environmental Policy  
Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science &  
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology  
**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

## EDUCATION

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- November 2010 PhD, Energy and Resources Group | Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
*Fluid Hegemony: A Political Ecology of Water, Market Rule, and Insurgence at Bangalore's Frontier*  
Committee: Ananya Roy (Dissertation Chair; City and Regional Planning), Isha Ray (Energy and Resources Group), Peter Evans (Sociology), Daniel M Kammen (Energy and Resources Group)
- May 2005 Master of Science, Energy and Resources Group  
**University of California, Berkeley**
- May 2001 Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry (Minor in Environmental Science)  
**Bard College, NY**

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Urban water governance and politics
- Urban flood risk
- Corruption and state formation
- Climate change risk and resilience
- Post-colonialism and urban India
- Race and environmental justice in the US
- Urban political ecology
- Ethnography
- Critical social theory
- Historical and spatial analysis

## SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPACT

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- 15 publications total to date; 8 articles published in peer-reviewed journals (4 since joining AU) with an average **2015 Thomson-Reuters JCR Impact Factor (IF) of 1.817**
- 1 article published in a top-10 Urban Studies journal and 2 published in top-20 Geography journals since joining AU
- Elected in 2015 to serve as officer for two Association of American Geographers (AAG) specialty groups with over 2,000 members each
- Peer reviewer for *Geoforum* and *Environment and Planning: A*

### [Google Scholar Citation Indices](#)

	All	Since 2010
Citations	261	192
h-index	7	7
i10-index	5	3

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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2015	Certificate of Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing for <i>Geoforum</i> (Elsevier) ( <b>IF 1.759</b> )
2009	Chancellor's Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, UC Berkeley
2007	John L. Simpson Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies, UC Berkeley
2007	American Institute of Indian Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago
2006	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
2006	Center for South Asian Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2005	Center for Human Rights Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2005	Center for African Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2004	United Nations <i>Bridging the Divide</i> Research Fellowship
2004	E8 Sustainable Energy Development Full Tuition Graduate Scholarship
1997–2001	Distinguished Scientist Full Tuition Undergraduate Scholarship, Bard College, NY

## SPONSORED RESEARCH AND GRANTS

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2015	<a href="#">Tackling Urban Vulnerability: Lessons for Building Community Resilience and Climate Justice in Washington, DC</a> . <b>American University Metropolitan Policy Center</b> Faculty Research Grant (with Eve Bratman)
2009	Seeing Like a Citizen: Technologies of Governance and Urban Service Delivery in Bangalore, <b>National Science Foundation</b> Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Geography and Spatial Sciences Program

## GRANT APPLICATION IN PROGRESS

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Ranganathan, M (Principle Investigator) and [Sapana Doshi, University of Arizona, Tucson](#) (Co-investigator).  
 "Narrating Corruption in the Post-Colonial City". Andrew Mellon American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Collaborative Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Requested budget: \$140,000.  
 Deadline: September 23, 2015

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- Ranganathan, M. 2015. "[Storm Drains as Assemblages: The Political Ecology of Flood Risk in Post-Colonial Bangalore](#)", *Antipode* (Early View – DOI 10.1111/anti.12149). **IF 2.104**.
- Ranganathan, M and C Balazs. 2015. "[Water Marginalization at the Urban Fringe: Environmental Justice and Urban Political Ecology Across the North-South Divide](#)", *Urban Geography* 36 (3): 403-423. **IF 1.355**.
- Ranganathan, M. 2014. "[Paying for Water, Claiming Citizenship: Political Agency and Water Reforms at the Urban Periphery](#)", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38 (2): 590-608. **IF 1.672**.
- Ranganathan, M. 2014. "[Mafias in the Waterscape: Urban Informality and Everyday Public Authority in Bangalore](#)", *Water Alternatives* 7 (1): 89-105. **SJR 0.955**
- Ranganathan, M, L Kamath and V Baindur. 2009. "[Piped Water Supply to Greater Bangalore: Putting the Cart Before the Horse?](#)", *Economic and Political Weekly* 44 (33): 53-62.
- Haya, B, M Ranganathan, and S Kirpekar. 2009. "[Barriers to Sugar Mill Cogeneration in India: Insights into the Structure of Post-2012 Climate Financing Instruments](#)", *Climate and Development* 1 (1): 66–81. **IF 1.379**.

Chaurey, A, M Ranganathan, and P Mohanty. 2004. "[Electricity Access For Geographically Disadvantaged Rural Communities—Technology And Policy Insights](#)", *Energy Policy* (32) 15: 1693-1705. **IF 2.575**.

Prasad, R., M Ranganathan, P B Singh, and I H Rehman. 2003. "[How Community Participation Can Integrate Energy Transitions Into Rural Development—The Experience Of Four North Indian Villages](#)". *The Journal of Energy and Development* (28) 2.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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Ranganathan, M. 2013. "[Financialized and Insurgent: The Dialectics of Participation in Bangalore's Neoliberal Water Reforms](#)", pp 65-88 in K Coelho, L Kamath, and M Vijayabaskar (Eds), *Participolis: Consent and Contention in India's Neoliberal Urban Governance*. Routledge: Abingdon and New Delhi.

Ranganathan, M. 2012. "[Reengineering Citizenship: Municipal Reforms and the Politics of 'e-Grievance Redressal' in Karnataka's Cities](#)", pp 109-132 in R Desai and R Sanyal (Eds), *Urbanizing Citizenship: Contested Spaces in Indian Cities*. Sage: Thousand Oaks and New Delhi.

Ranganathan, M. 2011. "[The Embeddedness of Cost Recovery: Water Reforms and Associationism at Bangalore's Fringes](#)", pp 165-190 in J Anjaria and C McFarlane (Eds), *Urban Navigations: Politics, Space, and the City in South Asia*. Routledge: Abingdon and New Delhi.

## POLICY AND GREY PUBLICATIONS

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Ranganathan, M. 2014. "[High Tech and the Monsoon](#)" in R Burdett, P Rode, P Shankar, and S Vahidy (Eds), *Governing Urban Futures (Urban Age Series)*. London: London School of Economics and Political Science.

Ranganathan, M. 2008. "[Grievance Redressal Mechanisms in Urban Service Delivery: How Effective Are They?](#)" *Asian Development Bank Governance Brief 17*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

Ranganathan, M and E Reynaers. 2003. "[Enabling Environments for Technology Transfer](#)". Technical paper commissioned by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn.

Ranganathan, M, R Prasad and P B Singh. 2003. "[Participatory approach for linking rural energy transitions and developmental needs in Uttar Pradesh, India](#)", *Boiling Point*, 49: 15-17.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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Ranganathan, M. Forthcoming. "Rethinking Urban Water Informality" in K Conca and E Weintal (Eds) *Oxford Handbook on Water Politics and Policy*.

Doshi, S and M Ranganathan. "Towards a Critical Geography of Corruption". Target journal: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. Target submission date: Fall 2015.

Ranganathan, M. "Governing Through Difference: The Legacy of Colonial City 'Improvement'". Target journal: *Geoforum*. Target submission date: Fall 2015.

Ranganathan, M. "Wetland Fictions: Legal Manipulations in Urban Wetland Development". Target journal: *Global Environmental Change*. Target submission date: Spring 2016.

## INVITED TALKS

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Post-Colonialism and Critical Urban Studies. Environmental Humanities Laboratory, **KTH Royal Institute for Technology**, [Rupturing the Anthro-obscene! The Political Promises of Planetary Urban Ecologies](#), Sweden, September 16-17, 2015.

Registering Urban Inequality and Struggles Around the Commons. [Urban Beyond Measure: Registering Urban Environments in the Global South](#), **Stanford University**, May 8-9, 2015.

Drains of Labor: Filth, Commodification, and Risk in Bangalore's Wetland Assemblage. [Infrastructures of Labor](#), **New York University**, December 10, 2014.

The Everyday Life of Reforms: Urban Struggles for Water, Citizenship, and Sustainability in Millennial Bangalore. **University of California, Santa Cruz**, December 4, 2014.

(Wet)Land Grabs, Capital Flows, and the Politics of Flood Risk in Millennial Bangalore. Center for Health, Risk, and Society, **American University**, November 5, 2014.

Emancipatory Urban Politics Through the Everyday State: Improvisations and Translations at the Frontlines. [Radical Incrementalism: Theories/Practices of Emancipatory Change](#), African Center for Cities, **University of Cape Town**, October 23-24, 2014.

Beyond the 'Slum': Urban Informality in the Global South. IDPSA Weekly Colloquium Series, International Development at SIS, **American University**, Washington, DC.

Stormwater Drains, (Wet)land Grabs, and the Assembling of Flood Risk in Bangalore. School of Habitat Studies, **Tata Institute for Social Sciences**, Mumbai, July 21, 2014.

Urban Informality as the New Normal in Millennial Capitalism. [Cities at the Center of the World](#), Center for Global Studies, **George Mason University and Woodrow Wilson Center**, Washington, DC, April 22, 2014.

Stormwater Drains as Assemblages: The Geography of Flooding in Bangalore. *The Future of Water and Waste in South Asia*, **Rutgers University**, February 7-9, 2013.

Financing Infrastructure in India's Slums: Rajeev Gandhi Awas Yojana's Prospects and the Political Economy of Urban Reforms. [The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Indian City: Working Towards Being Slum Free?](#), **University of California, Berkeley**, April 27, 2012.

Invited discussant and panelist at *Representing Vulnerability: Maps, Narratives, and Political Action*, **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**, September 23-24, 2011.

Informal Water, the State, and the Peripheralized Middle Class. [Urban India: Historical Processes and Contemporary Experiences Conference](#), **Yale University**, April 30, 2011.

Governing an Urban Water 'Crisis': Political Ecological Insights from India. Environmental and Urban Studies weekly colloquium series, **Bard College**, New York, May 3, 2011.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Conjuring Land from Water: Law, Materiality, and Discursive Politics in Urban Wetland Redevelopment. *Land Fictions: The Commodification of Land in City and Country*, The 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial McGrann Conference, Rutgers University Department of Geography, May 1-2, 2015

Assembling Flood Risk in Post-Colonial Bangalore. *STS and Urban Infrastructure in the Global South*, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 24, 2015

Doing Urban Political Ecology: Fieldwork Methods and Ethical Concerns, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 23, 2015

The Ethical City? Critical Geographies of Corruption and Accountability in Urban India. Panel co-organizer and co-presenter (with Sapana Doshi), *Critical Geographies of Corruption and Accountability*, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Tampa, April 8-12, 2014.

Pluralizing 'the State' in Urban Political Ecology: State Formation and Water Politics in Bangalore, India, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, February 27-29, 2014.

Mafias in the Waterscape: Public Authority and Informality in Bangalore. *Informal Space in the Urban Waterscape*, UNESCO-IHE Conference Delft, December 4-6, 2012.

The Production of Everyday Flood Risk and the Politics of Blame at the Urban Periphery. Initiative for Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences (ICARUS) Annual Conference Columbia University, New York City, May 16-19, 2012.

A Spatial History of Bangalore's Waters. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 13-15, 2012.

Prone to Floods: A Political Ecology of Everyday Risk at the Urban Frontier. *Risky Endeavors*, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, New York City, February 24, 2012.

Peri-Urban Flood Vulnerability: Evolving a Political Ecological Agenda through Insights from Bangalore. *Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation: Marginal Peoples and Environments*, ICARUS Annual Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 6, 2011.

Banking on Water: Debt, Discipline, and the Financialization of Policy Expertise in Bangalore. Co-organizer (with Erica Kohl-Arenas) and presenter *Politics of Expertise in Urban and Regional Development*, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle, April 16, 2011.

Capitalizing on Water: The Techno-Politics of Greater Bangalore's Piped Water Supply Project. *Water Resource Technologies and Politics*, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington DC, April 18, 2010.

The Right to Water as the Right to the City. Right to Water Conference, Syracuse University, March 9, 2010.

## **MEDIA AND VIDEO APPEARANCES**

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May 2014 [Improv Cities: Urban Peripheries and the Future](#), American University TEDx Talk

January 2015 [Obama's visit to India includes climate change talks](#) by David Jackson, *USA Today*

September 2014 [Africa's Population Will Quadruple by 2100. What Does That Mean for its Cities?](#) by Sam Sturgis, *Atlantic Cities*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2008-2009	Consultant	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, Bonn
2005	Intern	Berkeley Institute for the Environment Urban Sustainability Initiative
2005	Intern	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley China Energy Group
2005	Intern	ENDA-Tiers Monde, Dakar Programme Energie
2004	Intern	California Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Low Income Energy Programs
2001-2003	Research Associate	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi Renewable Energy Technology Applications

## COURSES TAUGHT AND INSTRUCTOR RATINGS

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Spring 2014, Spring 2015	SIS 620: Urban Political Ecology, overall instructor ratings, <b>6.75/7, 6.36/7</b>
Spring 2015	SISU 349: Global Cities, Justice, and the Environment, overall instructor rating <b>6.48/7</b>
Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014	SISU 250: Environmental Sustainability and Global Health, overall instructor ratings <b>6.14/7, 6.73/7, 6.72/7, 6.67/7</b>
Fall 2011, UIUC	GEOG 496: Climate Change and Social Vulnerability (Lecturer)
Spring 2011, UIUC	HDES 595: Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (Co-Instructor), no rating available
Fall 2008, UC Berkeley	ER 175: Water and Development (Graduate Student Instructor), overall instructor rating <b>6.12/7</b>
Spring 2006, UC Berkeley	CP 270: Global Metropolitan Studies: Theories of the North and South (Graduate Student Co-Organizer), no rating available
Fall 2005, UC Berkeley	ER 100: Energy and Society (Graduate Student Instructor), overall instructor rating <b>6/7</b>

## STUDENT ADVISING

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2014-15 – current	Dissertation Committee Member for Abby Lindsay, PhD in International Relations: "Water Governance in Latin America"
2014-15 – current	Honors Capstone Research Project Advisor for Christine Chipko, BA in International Studies: "Gender and Participatory Development"
2013-14	Honors Capstone Research Project Advisor for Evan Anderson, BA in International Studies: "The Politics of Urban Redevelopment in Turkey"
2013-14	Thesis Advisor for Brianna Suarez, MA in Peace and Conflict Resolution: "The Struggle Continues: Mexico's Neoliberal Environmental Policies and Rural Indigenous Water Rights"
2013-14	Substantial Research Project Advisor for Averelle Talbott, MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development: "Race and Rooftop Farming in New York City"

2013-14 Substantial Research Project Advisor for Jackson Stubbs, MA in Global Environmental Politics: "Achieving Zero Waste in Washington, DC"

**INTERNAL SERVICE**

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2015-2016 Member, Task Force on School of International Service (SIS) MA Programs  
 Spring 2014 – current Undergraduate Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability and Global Health, SIS  
 Fall 2014 Undergraduate Mentor, SIS  
 Fall 2014 Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Global Urban Studies, SIS  
 Fall 2013 Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Quantitative Methods, SIS

**EXTERNAL SERVICE**

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Ongoing Peer Reviewer for journals *Geoforum*, *Climate and Development*, *Environment and Planning: A*, *Water Alternatives*, *Journal of Material Culture*  
 2015-2017 Elected Officer-at-Large, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers  
 2015-2017 Elected Board Member, Urban Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers  
 Fall 2014 Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation CAREER Proposal  
 Fall 2013 Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences Program Proposal