

MALINI RANGANATHAN

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INTERESTS

Urban political ecology, critical urban geography, political sociology, critical theory, political economy of development, environmental justice, water, flood vulnerability, ethnography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), transgressions across the North-South divide

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

American University, Washington, DC (August 2013 – current)
Assistant Professor of Global Environmental Politics
School of International Service

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (January 2011 – August 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

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, PhD (December 2010)
Energy and Resources Group
Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies
Thesis: *Fluid Hegemony: A Political Ecology of Water, Market Rule, and Insurgency at Bangalore's Frontier*

Dissertation Committee:

Ananya Roy, City and Regional Planning (Chair)
Isha Ray, Energy and Resources Group
Peter Evans, Sociology

University of California, Berkeley, MS (2005)
Energy and Resources Group

Bard College, BA (2001)
Chemistry (Minor in Environmental Science)

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Chancellor's Dissertation-Year Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, awarded annually to one student per department across campus, UC Berkeley (2009-2010)
- John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies, UC Berkeley (2007–2008)
- American Institute of Indian Studies Dissertation Fellowship (2007–2008)
- Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, "Energy and Society" Course (2006)
- Center for South Asian Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2006)
- Center for Human Rights Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2005)
- Center for African Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2005)
- United Nations *Bridging the Divide* Research Fellowship (2004)
- E8 Sustainable Energy Development Full Tuition Graduate Scholarship (2004-2005)
- Distinguished Scientist Four-Year Full Tuition Undergraduate Scholarship, Bard College (1997–2001)

SPONSORED RESEARCH

- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Geography and Spatial Sciences Program, Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (2007–2009)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Ranganathan, M and C Balazs. Accepted and Forthcoming (2015). “Water Marginalization at the Urban Fringe: Environmental Justice and Political Ecology Across the North-South Divide”, *Urban Geography*.
- Ranganathan, M. Revised and Resubmitted. “Stormwater Drains as Assemblages: A Political Ecology of Flooding in Bangalore”, *Antipode*.
- 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.
- Ranganathan, M. 2014. “Mafias in the Waterscape: Informality and Everyday Public Authority in Bangalore”, *Water Alternatives* 7 (1): 89-105.
- Ranganathan, M, L Kamath and V Baidur. 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.
- 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.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

- Ranganathan, M. 2013. “Financialized and Insurgent: The Dialectics of Participation in Bangalore’s Neoliberal Water Reforms” 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” 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” in J Anjaria and C McFarlane (Eds), *Urban Navigations: Politics, Space, and the City in South Asia*. Routledge: Abingdon and New Delhi.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- “Governing Through Difference: Water, State Formation, and the Legacy of ‘City Improvement’ in Post-Colonial Bangalore”, *Environment and Planning: D*.
- “Towards a Critical Geography of Corruption and Urban Environmental Justice” (with Sapana Doshi), *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.

TEACHING

SIS 620: Urban Political Ecology (Every Spring, American University)
Assistant Professor, School of International Service

SIS 349: Global Cities, Justice, and the Environment (Starting Spring 2015, American University)
Assistant Professor, School of International Service

SIS 250: Environmental Sustainability and Global Health (Every Fall)
Assistant Professor, School of International Service

GEOG 410: Geography of Development and Underdevelopment (Fall 2012, UIUC)
Guest Lecturer, Department of Geography

GEOG 496: Climate Change and Social Vulnerability (Fall 2011, UIUC)
Guest Lecturer, Department of Geography

HDES 595: Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (Spring 2011, UIUC)
Co-Instructor, Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems Program

ER 175: Water and Development (Fall 2008, UC Berkeley)
Graduate Student Instructor, Energy and Resources Group

CP 290: Global Metropolitan Studies: Theories of the North and South (Spring 2006, UCB)
Graduate Student Organizer, Department of City and Regional Planning

ER 100: Energy and Society (Fall 2005, UCB)
Graduate Student Instructor, Energy and Resources Group

INVITED TALKS

“Drains of Labor: Filth, Commodification, and Risk in Bangalore’s Wetland Assemblage”. Invited to Speak at New York University’s Gallatin School, December 10, 2014.

“(Emancipatory) Urban Politics Through the Everyday Sate: Improvisations and Translations at the Frontlines”. Invited to speak at the African Center for Cities, University of Cape Town, October 23-24, 2014.

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

“Improv Cities: Urban Peripheries and the Future”. Selected to speak at TEDx American University, April 26, 2014.

“Beyond the ‘Slum’: Urban Informality as the New Normal in Millennial Capitalism“. Invited for *Cities at the Center of the World Conference*, George Mason University’s Center for Global Studies and Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, April 22, 2014.

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

“Financing Infrastructure in India’s Slums: Rajeev Gandhi Awas Yojana’s Prospects and the Political Economy of Urban Reforms”. Invited for *The 21st Century Indian City: Working Towards Being Slum Free? Conference*, University of California, Berkeley, April 27, 2012.

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

“Informal Water, the State, and the Peripheralized Middle Class”. Invited for *Urban India: Historical Processes and Contemporary Experiences Conference*, Yale University MacMillan Center, April 30, 2011.

“Governing an Urban Water ‘Crisis’: Political Ecological Insights from India”. Invited to the Environmental and Urban Studies weekly colloquium series, Bard College, May 3, 2011.

“Political Ecological Perspectives on Urban Water Governance”. Invited for *Interdisciplinary Research, Teaching, and Outreach for Global Safe Water Conference*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 4, 2011.

“Water in the History of Post-War International ‘Development’: Influential Discourses and Practices”. Invited for *International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research Workshop on Social Science Methods*, UC Berkeley, September 3, 2009.

“Energy and Development in a Climate-Constrained World: Overview of Major Themes”. Invited for *Fulbright Visiting Scholars Conference*, University of California, Davis, November 21, 2008.

“Municipal Water and State-Society Relations at the Periphery: Examining the Implications of Reforms in Greater Bangalore”. Invited by the National Institute for Advanced Studies, Bangalore, December 17, 2007.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Ethical City? Critical Geographies of Corruption and Accountability in Urban India”. Panel co-organizer and co-presenter (with Sapana Doshi) at session on *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”. UNESCO-IHE Conference *Informal Space in the Urban Waterscape*, 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 *Scales, Frameworks and Metrics*, 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”. Presenter at session on *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.” Initiative for Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences (ICARUS) annual conference *Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation: Marginal Peoples and Environments*, 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 at session on *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”. Presenter at session on *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.

ADVISING

- Capstone Research Project Advisor for Evan Anderson, BA in International Studies: “The Politics of Urban Redevelopment in Turkey” (2013-2014)
- Thesis Advisor for Brianna Suarez, MA in Peace and Conflict Resolution: “The Struggle Continues: Mexico’s Neoliberal Environmental Policies and Rural Indigenous Water Rights” (2013-2014)
- Substantial Research Project Advisor for Averelle Talbott, MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development: “Race and Rooftop Farming in New York City” (2013-2014)
- Substantial Research Project Advisor for Jackson Stubbs, MA in Global Environmental Politics: “Achieving Zero Waste in Washington, DC” (2013-2014)

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat
Consultant, Berkeley, CA (2008-2009)

- Performance Indicators to Evaluate Implementation of Article 4.5 of the UNFCCC

South Asia Urban Development Division, Asian Development Bank

Intern, Manila, Philippines (2007)

- Citizen Engagement and Grievance Redress in Manila and Bangalore’s Water Sectors

Urban Sustainability Initiative, Berkeley Institute for the Environment

Graduate Student Researcher, Berkeley, CA (2005)

- Urban Sustainability Indicators and Best Practices

China Energy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Graduate Student Researcher, Berkeley, CA (2005)

- India-China Comparisons in the Context of “China’s Energy Future to 2020”

Energy Program, ENDA-Tiers Monde

Intern, Dakar, Senegal (2005)

- Electricity Reforms and West Africa’s Urban Poor

Low Income Energy Programs, California Public Utilities Commission

Intern, San Francisco, CA (2004)

- Effectiveness of Low-income Residential Energy Programs in California

Renewable Energy Technology Applications, The Energy and Resources Institute Research

Associate, New Delhi, India (2001–2003)

- Numerous projects on: renewable energy, biomass energy, rural electrification, electricity sector reforms, and development in western India

INTERNAL SERVICE

- Undergraduate Thematic Area Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability and Global Health, March 1, 2014 – ongoing
- Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Global Urban Studies, July 1, 2014-ongoing
- Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Quantitative Methods, September 1, 2013-December 15, 2013

EXTERNAL SERVICE

- Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences Program Proposal (November 2013) and CAREER proposal (November 2014)
- Peer Reviewer for journals *Environment and Planning: A* and *Water Alternatives*