

DR. SYEDA JENIFA ZAHAN

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:

April 2020 – Present: Postdoctoral Researcher on the project “Governing the ungovernable: Understanding the space-violence relationship through an interrogation of municipal and police functioning” at Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, Nepal; Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK; and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, UK

RESEARCH EXPERTIES:

Feminist Urban Geography; Violence and Urban Socio-cultural Geographies; Gender and Development; and Inclusive Urban Development.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

2015-2020: Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Thesis Title: Re-constructing gender and space: Single women’s access to and experience of public spaces in the metropolitan city of Delhi, India.

2009 – 2011: Master of Philosophy, National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA, Deemed university), India, Thesis Title: Education Policy and Gender Inequality: A Comparative Study of India and Australia

2007 – 2009: MA in Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi, India, Thesis Title: Re-institutionalizing Gender through State Policy: A Study of the *Stree Shakti* and the *Ladli* schemes of the Government of Delhi.

2003-2006: BA in Geography (honours), Dibrugarh University, Assam, India. Awarded the Best Graduate in Arts and Social Sciences

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION:

2009: UGC-National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professorship in Geography, India

2012: Advanced Certificate Course in Gender Studies, Women’s Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi, India

TEACHING EXPERIENCES:

Teaching Assistant, Geography, National University of Singapore, August- December 2019. Modules taught:

🚩 GE4233: Geographies of the Contemporary World (year 4 undergraduate module);

🚩 GEK2001/SSA2202/GES1003: Changing Landscapes of Singapore (Year 1 and 2 undergraduate module)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Geography, National University of Singapore, 2015-2018. Modules taught:

- 🚩 GE3241: Geographies of Social Life (Year-3 undergraduate module) August-December 2015 and August- December 2016
- 🚩 GEK2001/SSA2202/GES1003: Changing Landscapes of Singapore (Year 1 and 2 undergraduate module): January-May 2016 and January-May 2018

PUBLICATIONS:

In Process:

Zahan, SJ “‘Delhi is a hopeful place for me!’: Young women’s discursive and embodied claims to the city” to be submitted to Gender, Place and Culture

Zahan, SJ “Violence of ‘normal’ times: A relational analysis of everyday gender-based violence in Delhi, India” to be submitted to Gender, Place and Culture.

Zahan, SJ “Thinking relationally: Reimagining feminist urban geographies in the Global South” to be submitted to the Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers (co-authored with Tracey Skelton)

Peer Reviewed Journals:

Zahan, SJ (2020) “Feminist politicisation of the urban: Young female students challenging spatial patriarchies”, *Space and Polity*, 24(1), 45-59.

Zahan, SJ (2013) “Higher Education: Revisiting the Rural India”. University News: Special Issue on Research in Higher Education Institutes for Sustainable Development, 51 (17), 17-25. (co-authored with A. Srivastava)

Book Chapters:

Zahan, SJ (2012). “Education, empowerment, and Gender: The missing links”. In Atima Sharma & Monica Sharma (Eds.) Mahatma Gandhi: The Champion Crusader, Gandhian Studies Centre, Chandigarh: Punjab University Press, (co-authored with A. Srivastava)

Blogs and Policy Briefs:

Zahan, SJ (2020). Of race, religion and a pandemic: Understanding Islamophobia in Assam, 21 April, 2020, <https://thebastion.co.in/ideas/of-race-religion-and-a-pandemic-understanding-islamophobia-in-assam/>

Zahan, SJ (2017) “Public spaces and everyday narratives of violence amongst vulnerable gender groups: towards inclusive policy frameworks”, Institute of Social Studies Trust and Heinrich Boll Stiftung, India

Zahan, SJ (2014) “Report on ‘Social diversity and learning achievement The Status of Primary Education in Rural Bihar”, Deshkal Society Publications, (capacity: Research Member).

Zahan, SJ (2013) “Growth and Inclusive development through skills: Closing the Skills gap in India”, *The Global Analyst*, with A. Srivastava and A. Rao.

CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:

Conference presentation (*forthcoming*) at Urban Religion, Gender and the Body, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 25-26 January 2021. Title: *The*

young Muslim women's city at the intersections of gendered religious practices in India.

Invited panelist on "Gender and Sexuality", Deans Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 15 November 2019.

Conference presentation at Royal Geographic Society- Institute of British Geographers Conference, Cardiff University, 28-31 August 2018. Title: *Violence, public space, and young middle- class women's politics in Delhi, India.*

Conference presentation at New Zealand Geographical Society-Institute of Australian Geographers joint conference, 11-14 July 2018, University of Auckland, New Zealand. Title: *Gendered precarity and production of neoliberal 'safety' among middle class young in Delhi, India.*

Paper presented at International Workshop on Migrants in Global Cities: Experiences from Asia, the Middle East and Europe, Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS and University of Sorbonne, Paris (USPC), 30-31 October 2017. Title: *Living the possibilities: North-east Indian women's experiences in Delhi.*

Invited Panelist on "Public space and the Everyday Narratives of Violence among Vulnerable Gender Groups: Towards Inclusive Policy Frameworks". Organised by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Delhi, India, 2 May 2017. Title: *Young single women and urban public spaces in Delhi: Some policy implications.*(see https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender_brouchure_xxii_02_may_2017.pdf)

Invited Lecture at National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, 13 September 2017. Title: *Doing qualitative fieldwork and its challenges: Reflections from fieldwork in Delhi.*

Graduate Research Seminar (GRS), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, April 2016.

Presented at International workshop "Solo cities: Representations of 'Single' in urban spaces. Organised by HERA project 'SINGLE' (<http://www.hera-single.de>) in conjunction with the Goethe Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan, 6-8 October 2015. Title: *Being Single: Experiences of young single women from North-East India living in Delhi.*

Paper presented at Social Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2015. Title: *Northeast Indian migrant women's experiences of urban public spaces in Delhi.*

Paper Presented at 5th CESI International Conference, Delhi, 16-18 November 2014. Title: *Re-Reading Education Policies in India: Learning from Australia.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES:

Research Assistant, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 6 November 2017 to 28 December 2017, PI: Assoc. Prof. Tracey Skelton. Duties:

- ✚ Literature research and summary writing; analysis for thematic areas; updating of existing data base and administrative duties.

Researcher, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 1 September 2015 to 31 March 2016. Project title: *Emotional exchanges: Research and teaching at the intersection of pain and privilege*. PI: Sr. Lecturer Kamalini Ramdas, NUS. Duties:

- ✚ Library research, data collection using in-depth interviews, analysis, and administrative duties.

Programme Manager, Deshkal Society, 2013-2015. Duties:

- ✚ Data collection, analysis and writing of the report *Social Assessment Study on Teacher Education in Bihar*. Funded by the World Bank, 2013;
- ✚ Data collection and writing of the report *Right to Homestead land in Rural Bihar: A Study of its Status, Issues, and Challenges in implementation of Policies and Provisions*. Commissioned by the Planning Commission of India, 2014;
- ✚ Data collection, analysis of data and report writing on *Social Diversity and Learning Achievement: The Status of Primary Education in Rural Bihar, 2014*

Research Associate, NUEPA, November 2012-January 2013. PI: Associate Professor Aarti Srivastava. Duties:

- ✚ Writing of the research report on Skills Development in India;
- ✚ Data collection, analysis and report writing for the research on *Model Colleges in India*. It was an evaluation of the status of model colleges in India and was assigned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

Research Assistant, Hindu College, University of Delhi, April-October 2012. PI: Dr. Chandan Singha. Duties:

- ✚ Completed the pilot study, data collection for the project *Revisiting Valuation of Soil Conservation Benefit of a Watershed in Darjeeling, India* funded by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics.

Research Associate, Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi, October 2011-March 2012. Duties:

- ✚ Worked on the Project *Marriage, autonomy and engendered Violence: A study of North West India*, 2011. PI: Assistant Professor Manjeet Bhatia. I collected case studies from survivors of honour killings, families of honour killing victims, community members, village heads and state police personnel in four states of India namely, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.
- ✚ Worked on the project *Gender and Decision Making in public sector undertaking companies in India and Sri Lanka*, funded by Indo-Sri Lanka

Foundation, 2011. PI: Dr. Shelly Tara. I collected data from women in decision making position in public sector undertaking companies in India through in-depth interviews.

Research Investigator, Population Council, May-August 2011. Duties:

- ✚ Data collection and behavioural analysis of risks among Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) and resultant exposure to HIV-AIDS.

Field Investigator, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence, India, December 2010. Duties:

- ✚ Data collection on changes in the socioeconomic status of slum dwellers before and after their relocation from the city center of Delhi to Savda Ghevra (periphery)

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS/GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS:

NUS Research Scholarship for PhD (stipend and tuition fee), National University of Singapore, 2015-2019.

Conference funding from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, RGS-IBG conference, August 2018.

Funding for PhD fieldwork, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2016-2017.

Best Geography Graduate Award from North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS), Assam, India, 2006.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:

Panelist Graduate Students' Teaching Seminar, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2018

Organiser, graduate student research meeting for Social Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2016

Organiser, Graduate Research Seminar (GRS), Department of Geography, National university of Singapore, April 2016.

Organiser, Asia Regional Skills Symposium in partnership with R4D, Washington D.C., January 2013.

RESEARCH ANALYTICAL SOFTWARE SKILLS:

ATLAS.ti 8; NVivo (used extensively for qualitative data analysis for PhD thesis); SPSS; ArcGIS, QGIS (GIS analytical software used to make maps for research)