

APARAJITA DE

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PRESENT STATUS

January 2020 – till today

Professor at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi,
Delhi – 110007.

POSITIONS HELD

Joint Editor, Annals of the National Association of Geographers India (NAGI)

Member, Editorial Board of **Annals** of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)

Member, Working Group on Cultural Geography, Asian Geographer's Association

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

January 2017 to December 2020

Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

January 2014 to December 2017

Assistant Professor (Stage III/Reader) at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

January 2009 to December 2013

Assistant Professor (Senior scale) at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

January 2005 to December 2008

Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

2006-2008

Guest Lecturer at the Centre for Environmental Studies, Delhi University.

November 2002 – December 2004.

Assistant Professor at the Centre for Social Studies, South Gujarat University Campus, Udhna Magdalla Road, Surat 395007.

October 2002 – November 2002

Guest lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo to conduct a course work on "Ethnic Segregation and Conflicts".

RESEARCH INTERESTS / SPECIALIZATION

1. Media studies
2. Urban studies
3. Historical geography
4. Landscape studies

COURSES TAUGHT

Masters Courses

1. Geography of Thought (2005-2011, 2017)
2. Human Geography (2006 onwards)
3. Geography of Settlement Systems (2006 onwards)
4. Geography of Landscape (2006 onwards)
5. Social Perspectives on Environment in M.A./M.Sc. programme in Environmental Studies, School of Environmental Studies, Delhi University. (2006-2008)

M.Phil/PhD Courses

6. Qualitative Methodologies (M.Phil Course 2: Research Methods, Geography; 2005 onwards)
7. Politics of space (M. Phil, Course 3, Geography; 2005 onwards)
8. Research Methodology (Ph.D. Coursework)
9. Interdisciplinary M.Phil Course on Caste (Popular Media and Caste, 2012 Delhi University)

SUPERVISION

M.Phil Supervision

- Degree awarded: Twelve (12) scholars
- Currently supervising: One (1) scholar

Ph.D. Supervision.

- Degree awarded: Five (5) scholars
- Currently supervising: Eight (8) Scholars

ACADEMIC

- **2002 Ph.D.** from Department of Geography, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. Ph.D. thesis was on "*Spatial Structure and Social Interaction in Core Areas of Indian Cities: A Case Study of Ahmedabad*".
- **1998 Masters** in Geography from Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. (Ranked First)
- **1996 Bachelors of Science** (with Honours) in Geography from Presidency College, Calcutta University, Kolkata.

PUBLICATIONS

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- *Digital Geographies: Methods, Issues and Trends*, Special Issue editor, Annals of NAGI
- *Public Heritage: New media and the making of digital heritage and affect*, Annals of NAGI
- *Maps as affect: Imagining, Drawing and Feeling the Kot*, in S. Benjamin (ed) Cities from the Ground, Columbia University Press: U.S.

- The making of heritage-scapes: The sacred and the secular in the Durga Puja of Kolkata, in R. P. B. Singh (ed) Handbook of Heritage-scapes in India, Routledge:London and New York.

Special Journal Issue

- Guest editor of Special Issue on Conversations with the Modern Indian City: Questioning the Regimes of Modernity and Development Journal of Social Science and Humanity Research, An interdisciplinary Peer reviewed journal), Vol. 3 No. 1 January– June 2015 ISSN: 2321-8908

Books/Monographs

- ***Imagined Geographies: Geographical knowledge of self and others in everyday life, the case of Ahmedabad*** – [Research Monograph] 2004 CSDS, Delhi and CSS, Surat.
- ***Hindu Muslim Relations in Post Godhra Gujarat, A Case Study of Vadodara and Surat*** – (Research Monograph; jointly with Dr. Kiran Desai) 2003 Centre for Studies in Secularism, Mumbai and CSS, Surat.

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

- *Reorienting Evaluator Competencies: Learnings from Evaluation Practise during the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation, Western Michigan University
- *“History at the margins: Koch-Rajbanshis and their politics of resistance and rewriting of the past”*, Bangabidya, International Journal of Bengal Studies 10 (2018) 253 -259.
- *“Spatialisation of selves: Religion and liveable spaces among Hindus and Muslims in the walled city of Ahmedabad, India”*, City Culture and Society 7 (2016)149-154.
- *“Conversations with the Modern Indian City: An Introduction”*, Special Issue on Conversations with the Modern Indian City: Questioning the Regimes of Modernity and Development. Journal of Social Science and Humanity Research, An interdisciplinary Peer reviewed journal), Vol. 3 No. 1 January – June 2015, 1-4.
- *“Reimagining Impossible World: Beyond Circumcised Geographical Imaginations: A Play in Many Acts”*, Progress in Human Geography 2008, 32:603-612. (co-authored with A. Datta)
- *“Communal Confrontations and Changing Social Space in Indian Cities: Case of Ahmedabad”* – (co-authored with A. P. Desai) Published in *Ekistics*, Athens in the special issue on Architecture & Features II, 2002.

Articles in Edited Books

- ***“Nationalism on(the)line: New Media and the Fanning of Fear and Xenophobia”***, in R. Bhattacharya (ed) Genocides and Xenophobia in South Asia and Beyond, Routledge:London and New York, 2023.
- ***“Practicing Geography in the post COVID World and Beyond: Digital Geography and its Methods”***, in F Begum (ed) Methodological Approaches in Geography, Springer Nature, Netherlands, 2022.
- ***“Sarani to Dharani: Street Life and the Re-Making of Kolkata’s Pasts”***, in G. Bhatt and S. Jha (eds) The Social Life of Streets, Bloomsbury, U.K, 2022.
- ***“From Religious Festival to Cultural Carnival: Durga Puja and the City Branding of Kolkata”***, in W. Cudney (ed) Place Event Marketing in the Asia-Pacific Region: Branding and Promotion in Cities, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- ***“Convivial Spaces: The Art of Being Together and Separate in the Multi-Religious City of Ahmedabad”***, in S. Chaudhuri (ed) Religion in the City, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- ***“Urban Restructuring, Forced Evictions and Transition of the Welfare City into***

- Entrepreneurial City: The Case Study of Bawana Resettlement Colony, Delhi*** (co-authored with J. Rai), in S. Nath and D Bhattacharya (eds) *Theory, Policy, Practice: Development and Discontents in India*, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- ***“Whats(up) with Hinduism? Digital culture and religion among Bengali Hindus”*** in X. Zeiler (ed) *Digital Hinduism*, Routledge: London and New York, 2020.
 - ***“Beyond Cinemas: Scripting the Indian Heroine in Bollywood and Popular Film Magazines”*** in A. Chatterjee (ed) *Historicizing Gendered Modernities in India*, Primus Books: Delhi, 2020.
 - ***“Negotiating Womanhood and South Asian Nationalisms: Blurring Borders and Identities in South Asia”*** in May Friedman and Silvia Schultersmandl (eds) *Click and Kin: Transnational Identity and Quick Media*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2016.
 - ***“Divisions of Space among Hindus and Muslims: Making of Everyday Borders and Identities in the World City of Ahmedabad”***, in Sanjay K Roy and R.S. Mukhopadhyay eds. *Ethnicity In The East And North-East India*, Gyan Publications, Delhi, 2015
 - ***“The Silence of the Lambs: Re-negotiating the Bollywood Heroine in Public”***, in Amitava Chatterjee ed. *Gender and Modernity*, Setu Publications, Kolkata 2014.
 - ***“Sex, Lies and Films: Desire and Erotica in Indian Films”*** in Anindita Datta (ed) *Reorienting gender: Geographies of Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia*, R.K Books, Delhi, 2014.
 - ***“Encountering Reservation and The Reimagining of Caste”*** (2011) in Ashok Dutt et. al. eds. *Facets of Social Geography: International and Indian Perspectives*, Cambridge University Press, U.K.
 - ***“Indian Cities In Cultural Perspective: Case of Ahmedabad”***, (Co Authored) Published In Ranjan Basu, Sukla Bhaduri (Eds.) *Society Development And Environment: Prof. Sunil Kumar Munsri Felicitation Volume*, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2
 - ***“Spatial Structure and Migratory Social Space: Case of Ahmedabad City”***, (co authored) published in S. Banerjee-Guha (ed.) *Space, Society and Geography*, Jaipur: Rawat, 2004

Articles in other publications

- Tasting Home. *Art East Journal* (2017), 34-36.
- Religion as the Modern Other? In Exploring Development, (<https://expldev.wordpress.com/2016/02/25/religion-as-the-modern-other-aparajita-de/>), 2016
- Contributor in P.L. Knox and S.A. Marston, *Human Geography Places and Regions in Global Context*, Global Edition(7th Edition), Pearsons, Prentice Hall, 2015.
- *Bridging Texts and Experience - Of Mediated Knowledge and Use of Media as a Pedagogic Tool in School Education*, Use of Media as a Pedagogic tool in School Education, OUP Newsletter, 2015
- *Interpreting landscapes*, Teacher Plus: Facets of Geography, 2014

Other articles in journals

- ***“Caste as Non-Western Civil Society: Narratives from Ahmedabad”***, *Occasional Papers, Bombay Geographical Association*, Issue No. 3, 2008 Mumbai.

SEMINAR/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Art in Public: Urban Representation and Artopia of Durga Puja in Kolkata at the 35th International Geographical Union, Dublin Ireland, 23 - 30th August, 2024.
- Polyvocal and Convivial Digital Spaces: Listening, Sharing and Learning from the Many Stories of Development, Keynote address at ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on Geography of Polyvocality: The (Un)heard voices in Sustainability, Department of Geography, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, 8-9 April, 2023.
- Digital Geographies: Space and Spatiality in the Digital Era, Keynote address at 44th Indian National Congress, held at Department of Studies and Research in Geography, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, 19-21 December, 2022.
- Walking down and scrolling through Purono (Old) Kolkata: Travel and affect in the digital world, Special Lecture at Miranda House, University of Delhi, 6 March 2022
- “Convivial Spaces: Negotiating Divisive Spatialities and Religious Identities in the Walled City of Ahmedabad”, online keynote address at 10th Annual Academic Conference on Spatiality, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, 11 April, 2021.
- “Geography in the post-COVID world: Digital Geographies and its Practices, Possibilities and Challenges”, International Webinar on Contemporary Issues in Geography, Challenges and Management, Department of Geography, Bidhannagar College, University of Calcutta, 10-11 September, 2020.
- “Public Heritage: New Media and the Making of Digital Heritage and Consciousness”, International Conference on Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, 6-8 December, 2019.
- “The World in a City: Middle-class and the construct of Global-ness in Delhi”, International Conference on Locating Neighbourhood in the Global South, Department of Sociology, Tejpur University, 25 – 27 September, 2019
- “I Map, You Map, We Map” Experimental Cartography and Everything-o-graphy”, Chitpur Revisited 6, Mapping Matters, Humdasti, Kolkata held on 15 September, 2019.
- “Working and Living in Academia: A Gendered Perspective”, Plenary session, International PhD workshop, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, held on 10 January, 2018.
- “Introducing Media as Innovative Pedagogy in Masters’ Curriculum”, International PhD workshop, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, held on 10 January, 2018.
- “Digital Cartographies and the Metaphysics of Encounter and Experience of the City”, presented at City and Technology, UrbanARC2018, IHS Bangalore, 11-13 January, 2018.
- “Place-(in’) New Cultural Geographies in the Digital Age”, presented at National Seminar on Contemporary Human Geography in Indian Context, Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, 22 -24 September, 2017
- “Post-Colonial Knowledge and City Building in Asia”, presented at RGS – IBG Annual International Conference, 2017, held at Royal Geographical Society, London, 29 August, 2017- 1 September, 2017.
- “Kolkata in Calcutta: The Post-colonial Knowing of the Colonial Past”, presented at 6th French Network for Asian Studies International Conference, held at Sciences Po, 26 - 28 June, 2017, Paris France.
- “Mapping Fear and Violence in Public Spaces”, presented at Public Spaces and Everyday Narratives of Violence amongst Vulnerable Gender Groups: Towards Inclusive Policy Frameworks, Gender and Economic Policy Forum organized by ISST and Heinrich Boll Foundation held at India Habitat Centre, 2 May, 2017.
- “Securing Food or (In)Securing Food? Understanding Issues of Food Security in India”, lecture at UGC sponsored National Seminar on Spatio-food security vulnerability: Economics and Politics held at Panchakot Mahavidyalaya, Purulia, 16-17 March 2017.

- *Telling the Tale: The Use of Ethnographic Methods in Historical Research*, presented at the Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, 15 March, 2017
- *"Footprints of the Past: Reimagining Darjeeling through conversations with the Colonial Accounts"*, presented at the 33rd International Geographical Congress, Beijing, China on 21-25 August, 2016.
- *"History at the Margins: Koch-Rajbanshis and their politics of resistance and rewriting their history and identity"*, presented at the 25th European Conference on South Asian Studies, held at University of Warsaw, 27-30 July 2016.
- *"Writing the Life of Thakur Panchanan Barma and Memorializing the Struggles for a space and identity of a Marginalized community"*, presented at the 25th European Conference on South Asian Studies, held at University of Warsaw, 27-30 July 2016.
- *"Curating the Past: Social Media and the Emergence of New Public Histories"*, at Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, 28 April 2016.
- *"Re-appropriating Urban Spaces: Colonial and Vernacular Darjeeling through Local Histories"*, at Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, 27 April 2016.
- *"History at the margins: Koch-Rajbanshis and their politics of resistance and rewriting of the past"* at 4th International Conference of Bengal Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo organized by the International Society of Bengal Studies on Dec 12- 13, 2015.
- *"Filmy Gupsup and the Singling Out of Bollywood Heroines"*, at the Solo-Cities: Representations of the 'Single' in Urban Spaces, Goethe Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi organized by Humanities in European Research Area on 7 October, 2015.
- *"Dialogues between the Past and Present: The Reconstruction of Colonial and Local Darjeeling"* at the Histories of North East India: New Perspective Lecture series, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on 26 October, 2015.
- *Mapping Fear and Violence in Public Spaces*, at Transnational Workshop on Women without Fear: Gender based Violence, Urban Transport and Public Space in Metropolitan India, at Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Australia, June 2-4, 2015.
- *Reconstructing the Past: The Making of Darjeeling through Colonial and Local Narratives*, At the Colonial Northeast India: Local Histories, Regional Cultures, Global Connections Conference, Asia History Hub, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia; University of Toronto; Delhi University, December 2014.
- *Re-Negotiating the Women in Public: Media and the Writing of the Actress in Hindi Film Industry beyond the Celluloid*, at GDS/SERD, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, 12 November, 2015.
- *Translating at the Margins: Colonial Ethnography and Revival of Ethnic Questions*, The Sixth Asian Translation Traditions Conference (ATT6), at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, October 2014.
- *"In Search of Modern Indian City: Transformative Practices and Indigenous Urbanisms in the Walled City of Ahmedabad"*, paper presented in the National Seminar on Contemporary Urban System: Challenges and Opportunities, Organized by the Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Beneras Hindu University, Varanasi, 10-13 Feb. 2013.
- *"Divisions of Space among Hindus and Muslims: Making of Everyday Borders and Identities in the World City of Ahmedabad"*, paper presented in the National Seminar on Modes of Ethnic Identity Construction in India, organized by the Department of Sociology, University of North Bengal. March 10-11, 2012.
- *"The Growth Story of Gurgaon: A Small City within the Millenium City"*, paper presented in the National Seminar on Small Cities and Towns in Global Era: Emerging Changes and Perspectives, organized by the /centre for Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. August 29-30, 2011.
- *"Reading Mumbai and Bollywood: The City of Films and the Filmy City Juxtaposed"* paper presented at the Workshop entitled, Reading City, held on 22 February, 2011 at University

of Delhi.

- *“Bubbly, Sexy, Tragic: the Good girls and Bad girls in Bollywood”* paper presented at International Seminar on Contextualizing Geographical Approaches to Studying Gender in Asia, March 3rd to 5th, 2010, Delhi University.
- *“De-politicizing Backwardness: Setting the Agenda for Discussion”* was jointly presented with H. Ramachandran at Round Table on “De-politicizing Backwardness – Alternative Approaches”, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. 29-30 August, 2006
- *“Reconceptualizing Civil Society in the Non-western Cultural Context: Narratives from Ahmedabad”*, – Paper presented at Second International Conference on State, Civil Society and Citizenship: Revisiting the Relationship, organized by PRIA at Hyderabad, 19-21 February, 2004.
- *“Religion and Culture: The Origin and Dynamics of Divided Space and People. The case of Gujarat”*- Paper presented at the International Seminar on Segregated City organized by Habitat, Norge, Oslo on October 7, 2002 and published by Habitat, Norge.
- *“Cultural Conflicts in the Process of Globalization: Role of Islamic Women in Changing Cultural World”* – Paper presented at the National Seminar Shakti on December 24, 2001 at Gujarat University.
- *“Spatial Structure and Migratory Social Space: Case of Ahmedabad City”* – Paper presented at the national seminar on Indian Social Geography in the 21st Century held on March 22-23, 2000 at Mumbai University.

PUBLIC TALK / PANEL DISCUSSION

- *“Contested Homelands: Politics of Space and Identity”*, online panel discussion at Centre for Development Policy and Practice, Hyderabad, held on 30 March, 2021.
- *“Digital Media and Celebration of Durga Puja among Bengali Diaspora”*, online Lecture at Department of South Asian Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland, held on 5 September, 2020.
- *“How do I know my world? Ways of seeing in the sciences”*, panel discussion at South Asian University, November, 2016.
- *“‘Rav de Bana di Jodi’. Writing Methodology, your research and You”*, lecture in Geo-Research Forum, Department of Geography, October, 2016.
- Participated at the academic symposium on “Social Transformations, Cultural Expressions, Cross-cultural Connections and Dialogues” organized by EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of the United Kingdom, held 28-29 June, 2016.
- Choice Based Credit System and Teaching-Learning Environments, conducted a workshop on CBCS with Principals and faculty members of Kazi Nazrul University, 29 April 2016.
- Panelist on the panel discussion on Development, at National Conference on ICSSR Research Survey and Explorations in Economic Geography, JNU, 22-23 March, 2016.
- *“Students Demonstration and the Pinjra Tod Movement, Sverige Radio, Swedish Broadcasting, 2016.*
(<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=1646&artikel=6384275>)
- *“Global Village versus Desi Village”*, participated at a Panel discussion on All India Radio, New Delhi, 13 January, 2016.
- *“Transforming Information into Knowledge: Introducing Critical Thinking in Classroom Teaching”* conducted a training session for the higher secondary teachers at Bal Bharati School Training Institute, Pitampura. Organized by Bal Bharati School, New Delhi on 31 August, 2013
- Participated as a presenter in a panel discussion on Future of Geography, organized by

Kalindi College, Delhi University. March 2013.

- Participated as a presenter in a panel discussion on Contemporary Education System, organized by Hindu College, Delhi University. February 2013.
- “Bursting at the Seams: India’s Urbanization Story”, participated at a Panel discussion on All India Radio, New Delhi, 25 October, 2011.
- “*Reading Mumbai and Bollywood: The City of Films and the Filmy City Juxtaposed*” paper presented at the Workshop entitled, Reading City, held on 22 February, 2011 at University of Delhi

PUBLIC SERVICE / UNIVERSITY SERVICE / CONSULTING ACTIVITY

- Organized a panel on Public art and Collaborative practices at the 35th International Geographical Union, Dublin Ireland, 23 - 30th August, 2024.
- Organized a three-day online International Conference on Geography and the Digital: Intersections and Conflations, held 23-25 May, 2022 at University of Delhi.
- Organized a three-day National Online Teaching Geography Workshop, held 15-17 December, 2021 for geography teachers in HEI in non-metropolitan India
- Developing MOOC lecture for Department of Culture & Asian Studies, University of Helsinki on the Intersections of Digital Media and Practices of Religion in India, November 2020.
- Member of textbook development committee for textbook in Geography for Class X, NCERT, 2006
- Resident Tutor in Ambedkar Ganguly Hostel for Women, University of Delhi, May 2005 to June 2006
- Member, Board of Research Studies for Social Sciences, Delhi University, 2006-2009.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES MEMBERSHIPS

- Life member of AGS (Delhi Geographical Association)
- Member of European Association for South Asian Studies
- Member of Asian Translation Tradition
- Member of International Geographical Union

PROJECTS /RESEARCH GRANTS

- “Popular Imaginaries and Discourses on Politics in India: Exploring Cultural Narratives as Sites of Knowledge Construction” Research Grant Received from ICCSR from 2017 to 2019.
- “*The Spatial Politics of the Real and the Imagined: Studying Geographies of Mumbai through Media*” Research grant received in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-14 from Delhi University
- “*Culture, Space and Identity: A Geographical analysis of Bollywood through Media*” Research Grant received in 2009-10 and 2010-11 from Delhi University.
- “*Imagined Geographies*” Received CSDS-Sarai Independent Fellowship, 2004.
- “Hindu Muslim Relations in post-Godhra Gujarat” Research grant received from Centre for the Studies in Secularism, 2003.

OTHER

- Principal Investigator to the collaborative project 'Women without Fear: Gender based Violence, Urban Transport and Public Space in Metropolitan India' with Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Australia,
- Academic advisor to the project "Blended value? Negotiating social and commercial goals in India's social economy" conducted by Shari Daya, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town
- Convener of Media Lab and Digital Library, Dept. of Geography, Delhi University.
- Editor of an academic blog page: Cultural Cartographies of Media: Exploring Media Spaces and Media Culture. (www.mltspace.blogpost.in)
- Computer Skills: Proficient in Windows, Microsoft Office, web applications.
- Languages Known: English, Gujarati, Bengali, Hindi

PERSONAL

- Date of Birth: 09 December, 1974
- Sex: Female
- Marital Status: Married
- Address: C – 909 B, Gaur Valerio, Ahinsa Khand – II, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad – 201014, U.P. India.