

PRANATHI DIWAKAR

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EDUCATION

- 2015-Present PhD Candidate, Sociology, University of Chicago (expected 2021-22)
- 2017 MA Sociology, University of Chicago
Qualifying Paper: "A Recipe for Disaster: Framing risk and vulnerability in slum relocation policies in Chennai, India"
- 2010 – 2015 MA (Integrated) Development Studies, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race, ethnicity, caste; cultural sociology; urban sociology; social change; inequality and stratification; social movements; qualitative methods; theory; social mobility.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "Spaces at Risk: Urban Politics and Slum Relocation in Chennai" in eds. Jacob A.C. Remes, Andy Horowitz. *Critical Disaster Studies*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. 97-115.
- 2021 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "City Music: A Reprise." *Contexts* 20(1): 63-64.
- 2021 **Diwakar, Pranathi** and Joshua Babcock. "Legacies and Remnants of the Chicago School: Lineage-Making and Interdisciplinary Urban Research at the University of Chicago" in eds. Anthony M. Orum et al. *Companion to Urban and Regional Studies, First Edition*. Wiley-Blackwell. 172-191.
- 2019 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "A Recipe for Disaster: Framing risk and vulnerability in slum relocation policies in Chennai, India". *City and Community* 18(4): 1314-1337.
- 2019 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "Notes from the Field: Cultural Distances, Boundaries, and Urban Ethnography". *Sectors, Newsletter of Sociology of Development* 6(2): 28.
- 2019 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "The Other City" in *Postscript, Economic and Political Weekly* 55(4): 63-64.
- 2019 **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "Anatomy of a Protest" in *Postscript, Economic and Political Weekly* 54(51): 61-62.
- Under review* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "Musical Politics: Caste, Urban Segregation, and Boundary-Making in Chennai." *Social Forces*.
- Under review* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** "Digital Self-Expression, Youth Culture, and Anti-Caste Defiance in Gaana Music." Special Issue, "Digital Self-Expression". *Convergence: The International Journal of Research Into New Media Technologies*.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

- 2021-22 Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago.
- 2021-22 The University of Chicago Social Sciences Division (SSD) Dissertation Completion Fellowship. (Declined)
- 2020 Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize for Visual Sociology, second place, for the photograph, "Writing on the Wall". Cash prize of \$1500, awarded by the Research Committee on Visual Sociology of the International Sociological Association.
- 2020 Henderson Research Grant from the University of Chicago's Department of Sociology, supported by the Charles Henderson Endowment.
- 2019-20 Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship (SSRC IDRF), funded by the Mellon Foundation for a year of international fieldwork.
- 2019 Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph Field Research Grant awarded by University of Chicago's Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR).
- 2018 Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS) Graduate Student Fellowship for pre-dissertation fieldwork.
- 2017-18 Urban Doctoral Fellow, awarded by University of Chicago's Urban Network. Chicago, IL.
- 2016-20 Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago's Social Sciences Division. Chicago, IL.
- 2015-16 Lalitha Chandrashekhar Fellowship, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

Unequal Music: Caste, City, Culture.

- 2021 Invited guest lecture. University of Chicago course, "Anthropology of Caste", instructors: Constantine V. Nakassis and Shubham Shivang. March 2nd.
- 2021 Invited guest lecture. University of North Carolina course, "Emotions and Society", instructor: Anusha Hariharan. April 6th. Virtual lecture.
- 2021 Presentation at the University of Chicago's "Speaking of Art Workshop". February 18th. Virtual lecture.
- 2019 Presentation at Stanford University's "Qualitative Methods" Workshop. May 16th. Palo Alto, CA.
- 2018 Presentation in panel, "Urban Inequality: Historical and Ethnographic Perspectives" at 43rd Annual Social Science History Association (SSHA) Meeting. November 8th-11th. Phoenix, AZ.

Devon Avenue in Chicago: A History of South Asian Migration.

2019. Invited talk at the SRTP MMUF undergraduate fellowship, followed by a guided walking tour of Devon Avenue (July 27th). Chicago, IL.

A Recipe for Disaster: Framing Risk and Vulnerability in Slum Relocation Policies in Chennai, India.

- 2018 Invited talk and presentation at Critical Disaster Studies Conference, New York University (NYU). September 21st. New York City, NY.
- 2017 Presentation at graduate student conference, "Global Urban Scholars Exchange" between Hong Kong University and University of Chicago. December 18th. Hong Kong.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Lecturer. "Culture and Politics in Asia". School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Social Sciences. Designed original syllabus and teaching virtually using asynchronous and synchronous methods.
- 2019 Instructor and preceptor of Research Design course in the undergraduate Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) at the University of Chicago for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF). Designed original syllabus and taught own class. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Co-taught for spring quarter, Stanford University. Professor: Forrest Stuart. "The Social Life of Neighborhoods". Assisted in syllabus development. Palo Alto, CA.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant for fall quarter, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Professor: Kristen Schilt. "Sociology of Deviant Behavior." Chicago, IL.
- 2017-18 GIS Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Professor: Marco Garrido. Chicago, IL. Developed maps of slums and enclaves in Metro Manila, Philippines using survey data.

SERVICE

- 2021 Organized a virtual event with Chennai-based musician Arivu at the Committee on Southern Asian Studies, "*In Concert and Conversation with Arivu*".
- 2020-21 Public practice intern at the Smart Museum of Art, the University of Chicago's campus museum. Co-organized public virtual events for the museum such as an event imagining futures free of lead poisoning with artist and 2019 MacArthur Fellow Mel Chin. Also co-organized a day-long event with a series of reflections on gestures of care called, "*Take Care, Be Well*" in which I worked with artists and musicians like Angel Bat Dawid to organize a day of virtual programming.
- 2020 Volunteer at the Chennai Street Arts Festival, or the Chennai *Kalai Theru Vizha*, an arts festival with the aim of equalizing arts, artists, and spaces in the city of Chennai. Chennai, India.
- 2018-19 Urban Network Representative, Social Science History Association (SSHA) Conference. Phoenix, AZ in 2018. Chicago, IL in 2019.
- 2017-19 Member of the American Journal of Sociology (AJS) Book Review Board, involved in finding reviewers for new publications in Sociology.
- 2018 Co-organizer, Chicago Ethnography Conference 2018. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 Organizer, Hyde Park Audio Walking Tour to engage in a public history and sociology project documenting historical narratives from the neighborhood, with the Urban Workshop (in production, expected to release as a publicly available audio tour in 2019). Chicago, IL.
- 2017-18 Co-organizer of the University of Chicago's Urban Workshop, under the aegis of the Council for Advanced Studies, organizing weekly presentations by graduate students and professors on urban research.
- 2011-12 English teacher to tenth graders at orphanage, Avvai Home as part of the National Service Scheme. Chennai, India.

SKILLS

Languages: English, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit, French (A2 level). Software: ArcGIS.