

Shruti Syal

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EDUCATION

PhD, Regional Planning | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA | May 2019

Workshops: Critical Physical Geography | Baltimore, MD | Spring 2019

Journal of Planning Education & Research Summer Writing | New Brunswick, NJ | Summer 2018

Comparative Urban & Regional Research | Bangalore, INDIA | Summer 2014

MSc, Environmental Studies | The Energy & Resources Institute, INDIA | July 2013

BSc, Biology | McGill University, CANADA | May 2009

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Visiting Assistant Professor

Department of Urban and Regional Planning | University of Colorado, Denver | January-June 2020

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- **Gill-Chin Lim Award for Best Dissertation on International Planning** | Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) | August 2019
- **Gill-Chin Lim Student Travel Award** | ACSP | August 2018
- **Graduate College Conference Travel Award** | University of Illinois | Spring 2018
- **Lewis & Susan Hopkins Planning Fellowship** | University of Illinois | Fall 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018
- **University Fellowship** | University of Illinois | Spring 2017
- **Campus Research Board Grant** | University of Illinois | May 2014-2015
- **National Student Challenge Grant** | Indian Institute for Human Settlements | November 2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

A social-ecological systems perspective to planning for informality: the case of Delhi's drain-adjacent 'slums' | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | August 2013 – December 2018

Adviser: Daniel Schneider | *Committee:* Arnab Chakraborty, Faranak Miraftab, Trevor Birkenholtz

My dissertation is an interdisciplinary, mixed methods study establishing stormwater drain-adjacent 'slums' in Delhi as social-ecological systems, and uses the SES Framework to determine which forms of infrastructure and service provision maintains socio-ecological sustainability in this SES. Juxtaposing plan analysis, water quality tests, land use analysis, ethnographic work, and institutional analysis, I show how the complex dynamics between drainage flow, waste management, land development, and the institutions managing them are integrated. I built a repository of basin, city, and settlement-scale spatial data on ArcGIS from ~200 secondary sources, ~100 IRB-approved interviews with settlement residents, NGOs, and municipal agency officials, and ~100 primary data points for drain water quality.

Bedbug Municipal Code | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | August – December 2016

Governance of Urban National Parks | University of Toronto | January – May 2013

Animal Physiology | Sultan Qaboos University | January – July 2010

Metapopulation Ecology | McGill University | January – August 2009

Protein Biology | McGill University | October 2008 – April 2009

Freshwater Ecology | McGill University | August – October 2008

I worked as a Research Assistant on various projects: computing biodiversity indices for freshwater lakes, sequencing and expression of plant secretion proteins, designing microscopic landscapes to study dispersal & population survival of protozoa, studying physiological responses to chemical predation cues in tadpoles, delineating the stakeholder network for Canada's first urban national park, and studying how municipal codes of the worst-affected US cities impact bedbug infestations.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Barry, M.J., and Syal, S. (2012). Metabolic Responses of Tadpoles to Chemical Predation Cues. *Hydrobiologia*. DOI: 10.1007/s10750-012-1236-4

[forthcoming] Rishi, S. & Syal, S. (2020). Megacities and informal settlements: learning from Delhi's experience. In Rukmana, D. (Ed.). *Planning Megacities in the Global South*. Routledge.

Manuscripts in Preparation & Journals Targeted for Submission (2020)

Syal, S. (Unprivileged) Polluter Pays: the biophysical impact of waste disposal in Delhi's drain-adjacent 'slums' | *International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*

Syal, S. Overregulated and Underserved: how regulatory overlap in infrastructure & service provision creates "nuisance" in urban informal settlements | *Habitat International*

Syal, S. Power, Development, and the Environment: an institutional analysis of formal & quasi-formal waste management in Delhi's drain-adjacent 'slums' | *Urban Studies*

Syal, S. Pipelines or pipe dreams? How Delhi's planned drainage and sewerage infrastructure is poised to flounder by neglecting drain-adjacent 'slums' | *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management OR Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*

Work in progress (2021)

Syal, S. Planning for Informality: reimagining planners as regulators, coordinators, and institution-builders | *Journal for Planning Education & Research*

Syal, S. A framework to study the social-ecological system of drain-adjacent urban 'slums' | *Ecology and Society*

Syal, S. Socio-ecological sustainability of infrastructure and service provision in urban 'slums' | *Annals of Geography*

Upcoming Collaborations (2021)

Syal, S. & Alvarez, M.K. Political ecology in environmental planning: investigating environmentally-induced evictions across the world | *Urbanisation*

Syal, S. & Gandhi, N. DEWATS in Delhi: a proposal to revitalize drainage through community-managed green infrastructure at 'slums' | *EDRA Environment By Design*

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant | BADM 508: Leadership and Teams | Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant | BADM 509: Managing Organizations | Spring 2019

I supervised a small team of Teaching Assistants in generating questions and rubrics, and grading the discussion posts, term papers, and exams of over 1000 iMBA students. I used software and phone applications to manage the challenges of communicating entirely online, firmly maintained an adherence to schedules whilst trusting my team to complete their tasks, and fielded two crucial grading challenges in coordination with the other lead TAs and the professors.

Instructor | LA 446 / UP 446 / GEOG 446 / NRES 446: Sustainable Planning Seminar | Spring 2018

I fully developed and delivered this course— syllabus, lectures, workshops, and grading— for 18 undergraduate and graduate students from the Urban & Regional Planning, Geography, Landscape Architecture, and Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences departments. I led discussions on various sustainability problems— in the tradition of most courses on sustainability— during the first half of the semester, followed by workshops on human-centered design, policy analysis, plan analysis, environmental impact assessment, fiscal impact analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.

Teaching Assistant | UP 205: Applications of Ecology in Planning | Spring 2014, 2016, 2017

I conducted Discussion sections for 160 undergraduates, reviewing news articles, literature, and videos. I designed rubrics and graded their writing, presentations, quizzes, and papers.

Teaching Assistant | UP 185: Cities in a Global Perspective | Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant | NRES 101: Introduction to Natural Resources & Environmental Science | Fall 2015

I graded the work of over 100 undergraduates in each of these courses, running online discussions, designing rubrics, and grading quizzes, papers, story maps and literature reviews.

SELECTED CONFERENCES, PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, Geographies of Urban Water: Sustainable Transitions and Security session, Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting 2020

Presenter, Continuing Planning Challenges in Informal Settlements I session, 59th Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference

Presenter, Water Infrastructure Challenges session, 59th ACSP Annual Conference

Presenter, Urban climates: power, development and environment in South Asia session, AAG Annual Meeting 2019

Presenter, Infrastructure Planning in India & Brazil session, 58th ACSP Annual Conference

Presenter, Political Ecology of Flood Risk Management session, AAG Annual Meeting 2018

Presenter, Urban Water, Sanitation, and Wastewater: Emerging Issues and Future Directions I - Planning & Management session, 57th ACSP Annual Conference

Presenter, AAG Annual Meeting 2017

Team Leader (Proposal: Atlanta Midtown CIRCUIT), Urban Land Institute-Hines Competition 2016

Presenter, Institutions for Collaborative Governance and the Just City session, 55th ACSP Annual Conference

Speaker, Fall 2015 Brown Bag, University of Illinois Centre for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Participant, Urban Policy Dialogues 2015, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

Presenter, AAG Annual Meeting 2015

Panelist, Entrepreneurship Session, India Urban Conference 2013, IIHS

Panelist, Entrepreneurship Session, India Urban Conference 2012, IIHS

Participant, Acara Summer Institute for Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs, University of Minnesota

Delegate, Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2012

Delegate, India Urban Conference 2011, IIHS

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning | *Specialty Groups*: Global Planning Educators Interest Group, Faculty Women's Interest Group, Planners of Color Interest Group | 2015-2020
Service: **Committee member** | Gill-Chin Lim Student Travel Awards (GPEIG) | June 2019

American Association of Geographers | *Specialty Groups*: Landscape, Urban Geography, Water Resources, Applied Geography, Cultural & Political Ecology, Development Geographies, Regional Development and Planning, Human Dimensions of Global Change | 2015-2020

SKILLS

Proficient in MS Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Outlook; Prezi; IRB application; survey administration; interview techniques; participant observation; ethnography; dissolved oxygen, metal, heavy metal, ions, nitrogen, and phosphorus measurement in air, water, and soil samples; coliform detection; ecosystem valuation; institutional analysis; SES Framework Analysis; spatial data mining and mapping on ArcGIS.

Experience working with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign; respirometry; biodiversity indices; light microscopy; microbiology stains, culturing, and pathogen identification; nucleic acid and protein isolation, manipulation, and localization; calorimetry; chromatography; statistics.

Language Proficiency: Hindi (native), English (bilingual), Punjabi (conversational)