

# SAYAK ROY

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Curriculum Vitae | May 2023

Department of Geography & GIS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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## **A bit more about my scholarly formations**

I am an urban cultural geographer, and I position my research orientations with a commitment to postcolonial urban theory, southern urbanism, new assemblage urbanism, and everyday geographies. My research has focused on the ethnographic reading of urban transformations, aesthetics, everyday and 'everynight' geographies, sensuous geographies, cities' symbolic and cultural production, and generating urban theories from small Indian cities. Being a knowledge seeker and trained in interdisciplinary footing, I have drawn my theoretical and methodological inspirations from different disciplinary domains, like - geography, planning, architecture, sociology, and knowledge that exists beyond academic life.

## **Education**

2021-Now	Ph.D. in Geography, Department of Geography & GIS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
2021	Post-Graduate Certificate course in Editing and Publishing, School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University.
2020	M.Phil. in Urban Studies, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Dissertation: Navigating Bhubaneswar Offline: making sense of shifting sense in an Emerging Indian smart city under the supervision of Professor Sophie Oldfield and Dr. Laura Nkula-Wenz.
2019	Critical Urban Theory Block Course Taught by Professor. Ananya Roy (UCLA) at the University of Basel, Switzerland.
2017	M.A., Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India.
2015	B.A. (First Honors and Distinctions), Department of Geography, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, India.

## **Professional Qualifications**

University Grants Commission (UGC) – NET Geography (Qualified in 2017): Test to determine the eligibility of Indian nationals for 'Assistant Professor' in Indian universities and colleges.

## **Publications**

### Dissertations

'Navigating Bhubaneswar offline: Making sense of Shifting senses in an emerging Indian Smart city.'  
Thesis Adviser: Dr Laura Nkula-Wenz and Professor Sophie Oldfield, African Centre for Cities (ACC), University of Cape Town.

'Urban Gentrification and Aesthetical Transformation in Delhi: A case study of Hudson Lane Neighborhood (2017).' Dissertation Adviser: Assistant Professor Dr. Kiran Bhairannavar, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics.

## **Awards and Grants**

- 2022 Humanities Research Institute (HRI) Interseminar Graduate Fellowships. (Theme: Improvise and intervene)
- 2021 Departmental Fellowships at The Department of Landscape Architecture, UIUC.
- 2019 African Centre for Cities (ACC) travel grants (2019) to attend the Urban Theory Block course by Professor Ananya Roy at the University of Basel, Switzerland.
- 2019 Faculty of Science International Student Bursary; of 28,000 ZAR at the University of Cape Town, For Pursuing M.Phil. in Urban studies at the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018 Faculty of Science International Student Bursary; Financial Award of 28,000 ZAR, University of Cape Town. For Pursuing M.Phil. in Urban Studies at the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018 Andrew Mellon Fellowships (2018); Financial award of 95,000 ZAR (South- African Rand). For pursuing M.Phil. in Urban Studies at the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, African Center for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

## **Presentations and Conferences**

- 2023 "Conceptualizing 'Everynight' Geographies from a Southern Urbanism Perspective: Everyday(night) Life of Urban Informality in India" Presented at International Conference on Night Studies (ICNS.LX), Lisbon, November 2023.
- 2023 "Conceptualizing and situating the notion of "everyday" in South Asian Urbanism" Presented at Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 2023.
- 2023 "Nocturnal Paradox & Emerging 'Everynight' practices in India's Tech-Smart city Discourse" Presented at RGS (With IBG) Annual International Conference, London, August 2023.
- 2022 "Love, Loss, and the City: Emotional Geographies of Break-Up" RGS (with IBG) Annual International Conference, New Castle, August 2022, Co-presented with Dr. Kiran Bhairannavar (University of Delhi).

2020 "Smart City Aesthetics and Everyday Geographies of South Asian Countries" presented at International Young Scholars Summit 2020, NEPAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ORGANIZATION (NIICE), September 2020.

2017 "Symbolic Gentrifications and Aesthetics in Delhi" presented at urban geography sections of Indian Institute of Geographers (IIG) conference, Cuttack, India, December., 2017.

### **Teaching Experiences**

2021- 2022 (Spring semester) Islamic Gardens & Architecture (LA 222/ARCH 222/ARTH 219) - worked as Teaching Assistant for Two sections. (Over 26 sections at each section).

2020 (University of Delhi) As a Teaching Assistant of Dr. Kiran Bhairannavar, Department of Geography- I have been engaging with the courses such as Everyday Geographies (122902202), Sexuality and Space(GEOG3E14), and guiding students during the city lab-based fieldwork.

2019 Teaching Assistant, University of Cape Town, Environmental and Geographical Science (EGS), Tutoring for the Geographical Thought course: covered section on Feminist Theory and Cultural Geography.

2018 Teaching Assistant, University of Cape Town, Environmental and Geographical Science (EGS), Tutoring for the Geographical Thought course: covered section on Critical Social theory and food geographies.

### **Affiliations**

Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Royal Geographical Society (RGS)

Indian Institute of Geographer (IIG)

### **References**

Professor Sophie Oldfield  
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Cornell University  
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Professor Asef Bayat  
Department of Sociology  
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