

# ANANT MARINGANTI

## CONTACT



## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PhD in Geography, Environment and Society 2003-2007

Committee: Profs Eric S Sheppard, (Co-chair), Richa Nagar (Co-chair), Helga Leitner (Member) and John Archer (Member)

MA in Geography, Environment and Society 2000-2003

Advisor: Profs Eric S Sheppard  
Committee: Profs. Vinay Gidwani, Helga Leitner, and John Archer

### OSMANIA UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Engineering 1979-1983

## SKILLS

- Academic Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Program Management
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Resource Mobilisation

## ABOUT ME

Since 2012, I have led several interdisciplinary research and urban intervention initiatives with a strong commitment to social justice in rapidly urbanising global south. I have contributed to urban studies and social justice through deeply collaborative projects, publications, and the development of innovative educational programs. I have designed and implemented curriculum tailored for students and early career professionals and scholars. My experience includes teaching, PhD supervision, grant writing, developing leadership in international collaborations and mentoring young scholars. I am committed to fostering enabling conditions for visionary and collective leadership that can work across boundaries between disciplines and between theory and practice.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### FOUNDER DIRECTOR

Hyderabad Urban Lab Foundation 2012-Present

Built an interdisciplinary research and intervention initiative focused on urban research and education in India. Secured grants under severe constraints and navigated the institution through turbulent post covid economy. Today, Hyderabad Urban Lab (HUL) is supported by UNICEF and WIPRO Foundation among other grant making agencies. Over the years, I have mentored over 50 young scholars and graduate students both from the global south and the north. Provided strategic leadership and operational oversight for collaborative research and mentoring projects with scholars from Centre for Policy Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, National Law School of India

### MANAGING DIRECTOR

Street Wise Learning Solutions ([2024] - Present)

With a mission to bring learning material from the rapidly changing world of practice, I am nurturing a team of educators to develop and deliver short courses tailored for graduate students and working professionals. Since inception in May, the team has already delivered 90 hours of instruction on diverse subjects such as spatial analysis for public policy, governing environmental risk and writing to influence. More than 80 graduate students from the School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai enrolled in and completed these courses. The team is rapidly expanding this portfolio and reaching out to more universities.

## **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE / CONSULTANT**

Over the years, I have worked with many institutes in the capacity of research consultant and in advisory role. The following is a list of some of my engagements!

- Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. 2012-2013 Road Safety Political Mapping in India. Supported by Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer.
- Society for Promotion of Waste Land Development 2013-2014 Analysis of Financial Regulations governing corporate investments involving Land Acquisition in India.
- Initial Assessment of Indian Investments Abroad – Africa. With Society for Promotion of Waste Land Development.
- Center for Policy Research 2011-2012 Redesigning Mega city Governance: Providing methodological support to Center for Policy Research, Delhi on a comparative study of regional governance in the five metropolitan centers of India, led by K. C. Sivaramakrishna, Research Professor, Center for Policy Research.
- Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research and National Institute of Advanced Studies, India 2010-2011 Provincial Globalisation: Impact of Reverse Transnational Flows.

## **RESEARCH LEADERSHIP**

I played a key role in fostering a number of networks of interdisciplinary research. The following is a list of some.

### **COOL INFRASTRUCTURES RESEARCH NETWORK 2020-2023**

In June 2019, as director of Hyderabad Urban Lab, I began working with the Liberal Arts Department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad and University of Edinburgh to develop an international research network proposal. The proposal titled Cool Infrastructures: Life With Heat in the Off Grid City won £1,777,882 UK Research and Innovation Grant. Located in Hyderabad, I played a dual role in this programme, 1) Providing support for comparative research methodologies and developing data protocols for the same 2) Building a multi disciplinary team in Hyderabad to bring together building sciences experts and social scientists and climate scientists together. The results of this work are at <https://heatingcities.in/>

### **TACIT URBAN KNOWLEDGE RESEARCH NETWORK 2017-2020**

In June 2016, I was instrumental in building a research and practice network titled Tacit Urban Knowledge Research Network (TURN). This was a collaborative network of four leading urban research centres in India – Center for Policy Research, Delhi, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad Urban Lab Foundation, Hyderabad. In 2017, this network won a multi-year \$ 135,0000 research grant from Ford Foundation. The network was an ambitious attempt to retheorise urban informality from the perspective of knowledge theory. The research network was anchored and overseen by four lead researchers (including me) each representing one of the four participating institutions. In the course of the programme, it involved 15 early career researchers, six senior researchers and 50 graduate students. The network formed through this work is a durable institutional framework engaged in long term multimethod studies in multiple sites across four cities in India.

### **SPATIAL POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF WASTE 2013-2014**

In 2013, I built a small interdisciplinary team of researchers in Hyderabad to carry out collaborative research on titled Spatial Political Economies of Waste. This first project of the Hyderabad Urban Lab was supported by the first round of Scholar-Activist collaboration Grants from Antipode Foundation. It helped us build the foundation for harnessing digital technologies for curating spatial datasets in informal settings the insights from this work later shaped the coauthored essay with Vinay Gidwani (2016) The waste-value dialectic: Lumpen urbanization in contemporary India and also helped me develop a teaching case study "[How do we study urban markets spatially?](#)"

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Publications

- 2024 with Roy, Shamindra Nath. "We just gotta do meta! Notes on disciplinary anxieties in Geography in India." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 49, no. 2: e12605.
- 2023 with Kamath, Lalitha. "Unmuting the voice of caste in urban studies. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 58, Issue No. 52, 30
- 2016 with V.Gidwani. "The waste-value dialectic: Lumpen urbanization in contemporary India." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 36(1): 112-133.
- 2015 with E. Sheppard, V. Gidwani, M. Goldman, H. Leitner and A Roy "Introduction: Urban revolutions in the age of global urbanism." *Urban Studies*. 52 (11):1947-1961. 2015 with I. Jonnalagadda. Rent gap, fluid infrastructure and population excess in a gentrifying neighbourhood. *City*, 19(2-3), 365-374.
- 2015 with P. Mukhopadhyay. "Data, Urbanization and the city". *Economic and Political Weekly*. 50(22)
- 2014 "Telangana survey and the question of privacy". *Economic and Political Weekly*. 49(36)
- 2013 with Sheppard, Eric, Helga Leitner. "Provincializing global urbanism: A manifesto." *Urban Geography* 34, no. 7: 893-900.
2013. "Ordinary entanglements in the world city." *Environment and Planning A* 45, no. 10: 2314-2317
2010. with Bunnell, Tim. "Practising urban and regional research beyond metrocentricity." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 34, no. 2 (2010): 415-420.

### Book chapters

- 2018 "Overcoming the Urban Synecdoche", in H. Burte and A. Bhide (eds) *Urban Parallax*, Delhi: Yoda Press
- 2013 "Community Participation and Political Legitimacy: A Case Study from Hyderabad." In K. Coelho, V.Basker and L.Kamath (eds) *Participolis: Consent And Contention In Neoliberal Urban Governance*. Delhi: Routledge India
- 2012 "Rural youth as real estate agents in globalising Hyderabad" in T. Bunnell, D. Parthasarathy and E. C. Thomson (eds) *Cleavage, Connection and Conflict in Rural, Urban and Contemporary Asia*. Singapore: ARI-Springer Asia series.
- 2006 (with H. Leitner, E. Sheppard, and K. Sziarto) "Contesting urban futures: Decenteringneoliberalism" in H. Leitner, E. Sheppard and J. Peck (eds) *Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban frontiers*. London: Guilford Press.

## TEACHING & MENTORING

Since 2013, I have developed the curriculum for and delivered a number of specialized courses in different universities in India. The following is a select list of these courses.

- Engendering Right to the City: A semester long seminar course on reading the city through the lense of municipal and national laws in India with a focus on social justice. This course was developed and delivered in the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research 2013-2015.
- Systems Thinking and Housing Delivery: A semester long studio course in School of Social Design in Ambedkar University, Delhi 2022.
- Urbanization and economy in regional perspective: A semester long course developed and taught in Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad.

Since 2013, I have served on five PhD committees and mentored 20 PhD students through their field work in urban informalities. These students are from universities across North America, Europe and India.