

DR. SYEDA JENIFA ZAHAN

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RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Feminist urban geographies; gender-based violence; development and sustainability; gendered urban governance; urban security; urban public space; young people's geographies.

POSTDOCTORAL EXPERIENCE

April 2020 – Present: Postdoctoral Researcher on a collaborative project titled “Governing the ungovernable: Understanding the space-violence relationship through an interrogation of municipal and police functioning” undertaken by the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, Nepal and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2015-2020: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore. Thesis title: Re-constructing gender and space: single women's access to and experiences of public spaces in the metropolitan city of Delhi, India.

2009 – 2011: Master of Philosophy (MPhil), National Institute of Education Planning and Administration, India. Thesis title: Education policy and gender inequality: a comparative study of India and Australia.

2007 – 2009: Master of Arts (MA), Department of Geography, University of Delhi, India. Dissertation title: Re-institutionalising gender through state policy: a study of the Stree Shakti and the Ladli schemes of the Government of Delhi.

2003-2006: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Geography honours, Dibrugarh University, India, awarded the Best Graduate in the Arts and Social Sciences.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, August-December 2019.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 2015-2018.

SELECT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- Research Assistant (part-time and remote), University of Toronto, 1 November 2019 to 30 April 2020
- Researcher, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 1 September 2015 to 31 March 2016.
- Programme Manager, Deshkal Society, Delhi, 2013-2015.
- Research Associate, Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi, October 2011-March 2012.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

- Gupte, J and Zahan, SJ (2021) “Silent cities, silenced histories: Subaltern Experiences of Everyday Urban Violence during COVID-19”, *Journal of the British Academy*, 9(s3), 139-155.
- Zahan, SJ (2020) “Feminist politicization of the urban: Young female students challenging spatial patriarchies”, *Space and Polity*, 24(1), 45-59.

- Zahan, SJ (2020) "Of race, religion and a pandemic: understanding Islamophobia in Assam, India", *The Bastion*, 21 April, 2020, <https://thebastion.co.in/ideas/of-race-religion-and-a-pandemic-understanding-islamophobia-in-assam/>
- Srivastava A, Rao, A and Zahan, SJ (2013) "Growth and inclusive development through skills: closing the skills gap in India", *The Global Analyst* (ISSN 23205628), 2(4), 23-26.
- Srivastava, A and Zahan, SJ (2013) "Higher education: Revisiting rural India". *University News: Special Issue on Research in Higher Education Institutes for Sustainable Development* (ISSN- 0566-2257), 51 (17), 253-257.
- Srivastava, A and Zahan, SJ (2012). "Education, empowerment, and gender: the missing links". In A. Sharma and M. Sharma (Eds.) *Mahatma Gandhi: The Champion Crusader*, Gandhian Studies Centre, Chandigarh: Punjab University Press.

Journal papers under review

- Zahan, SJ (August 2020) "'Delhi is a hopeful place for me!': young women's discursive and embodied claims to the city", *Gender, Place and Culture*.
- Zahan, SJ, (January 2021) "The young Muslim woman's city at the intersections of gendered religious practices in India", submitted to a special issue proposal for *City, Culture, and Society*.

Conference/ Seminar/Workshops:

- "Feminist activism and solidarity: the case of young women's collective politics in India", panel presentation at *Beyond Borders: Women's Movements Around the World*, Wolfson College Gender Research Hub, University of Cambridge, 14 May 2021
- "The young Muslim woman's city at the intersections of gendered religious practices in India" at international conference (virtual) titled *Urban Religion, Gender and The Body* at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 25-27 January 2021.
- "Theorising gendered violence as plural and relational in Delhi", online webinar at the Cities Cluster, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, 24 July 2020.
- "Re-Constructing gender and space: a conceptual framework of relational plurality", invited lecture at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 15 November 2019.
- "Violence, public space, and young middle- class women's politics in Delhi, India", at the Royal Geographic Society-Institute of British Geographers Conference, Cardiff University, UK, 28-31 August 2018.
- "Gendered precarity and production of neoliberal 'safety' among middle-class young women in Delhi, India" at the New Zealand Geographical Society-Institute of Australian Geographers Joint Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 11-14 July 2018.

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS/GRANTS

- Funding from Asia Research Institute for presentation at the international conference titled, *Urban Religion, Gender and the Body*, 25-27 January 2021.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Germany through Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, Nepal, 2020-2021
- NUS Research Scholarship for PhD, National University of Singapore, 2015-2019.
- Conference funding (competitive), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2018.
- PhD fieldwork funding (competitive), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2016-2017.
- Best Geography Graduate Award from North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS), Assam, India, 2006.