

Institute of Development Studies  
Library Road  
Brighton  
BN1 9RE  
UK

E: [n.nampoothiri2@ids.ac.uk](mailto:n.nampoothiri2@ids.ac.uk)  
W: [www.ids.ac.uk](http://www.ids.ac.uk)

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Institute of Development Studies

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 28-03-1995

**NATIONALITY:** Indian

**LANGUAGES:** English, Hindi, Malayalam

**THEMATIC EXPERTISE:** Transparency and Accountability, Citizen-state relations, Decentralisation and Local Governance; Contentious politics; Social protection

**GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE:** Global, with a particular focus on South Asia; India, Pakistan, Bangladesh

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## OVERVIEW

Niranjan J. Nampoothiri is a Research Officer in the Power and Popular Politics cluster. He works across a portfolio that explores themes of collective action, citizenship, authoritarianism, transparency and accountability, and political socialization. He is also a course facilitator for the Rethinking Accountability Strategies for a Changing World short course. Niranjan worked on the FCDO-funded 'Action for Accountability and Empowerment' (A4EA) programme and ESRC-funded 'Learning on the Street' project at IDS. He is currently working on projects related to governance and social protection in Bangladesh, education advocacy in challenging contexts, and citizen action to improve condition of racialised minorities in UK, Brazil and Canada. His research interests include understanding citizen-state relations, advocacy and collective action for government and corporate accountability. Before joining IDS, Niranjan worked on rights-based advocacy for health and education with grassroots organisations in India.

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## EDUCATION

2019 – 2020 **MA Governance, Development and Public Policy**, University of Sussex  
Thesis: 'Why did the Right to Healthcare Movement in India not lead to a Right to Health Act?'

2013 – 2017 **B.A (Liberal Arts) Political Science and Public Policy**, Symbiosis International University  
Thesis: 'Understanding the Benefits of MGNREGA Through the Rawlsian Lens: An Argument for the Continued Implementation of MGNREGA'.

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## RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2021 – Present **Research Officer**, Institute of Development Studies, UK  
Working as a Research Officer in the Power and Popular Politics Cluster at IDS. I'm coordinating and researching on a portfolio of projects and programmes including 'Action for Empowerment and Accountability', 'Building Back Better from Below', 'Participedia', 'Education Out Loud', and 'CLEAR'.

- 2020 – 2021            **Overseas Consultant**, London School of Economics and Politics, UK  
Built and analysed a library of two hundred case studies of emergent agency LSE-Oxfam GB project 'Emergent Agency in the Time of Covid-19', and held webinars on the subject
- 2020-2021            **Research Assistant**, Institute of Development Studies, UK  
Worked on two different projects, one on closing civic space in Mozambique, Nigeria and Pakistan and another on informal settlements in Ghana.
- 2017-2019            **Program Associate**, National Centre for Advocacy Studies, India  
Managed a project on health budget transparency in Maharashtra, India; facilitated community scorecards to increase social accountability on nutrition programs in tribal-dominated villages; conducted a national study of inequality in the implementation of Right to Education policy; held advocacy training programs in colleges.

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Nampoothiri, N. J., & Artuso, F. (2021). 'Civil Society's Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019: Patterns from Two Hundred Case Studies of Emergent Agency': *Journal of Creative Communications*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/09732586211015057> (open access)

Anderson, C.; Gaventa, J.; Edwards, J.; Joshi, A.; Nampoothiri, N.J. and Wilson, E. (2022) 'Against the Odds: Action for Empowerment and Accountability in Challenging Contexts', A4EA Policy and Practice Paper, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies

Anderson, C.; McGee, R.; Nampoothiri, N.J. and Gaventa, J. with Forquilha, S.; Ibeh, Z.; Ibezim-Ohaeri, V.; Jawed, A.; Khan, A.; Pereira, C. and Shankland, A. (2021) 'Navigating Civic Space in a Time of Covid: Synthesis Report', Brighton: Institute of Development Studies

Newell P, Gaventa J, McGee R, Scott-Villiers P, Nampoothiri, N.J et al. Making space for dialogue on a just transition in Africa's oil and gas producing areas. British Academy. <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/programmes/just-transitions/sectors-and-industries-globally/making-space-dialogue-africa-oil-gas-regions>