

MALINI RANGANATHAN

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American University, School of International Service
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2013-present Assistant Professor of Global Environmental Politics (Tenure Track)
School of International Service
Faculty Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Center, School of Public Affairs
Faculty Co-Director, Urban Studies Working Group, Humanities Lab
American University, Washington, DC
- 2011-2013 Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Social Dimensions of Environmental Policy
Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science &
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

EDUCATION

- November 2010 PhD, Energy and Resources Group | Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies
University of California, Berkeley
Fluid Hegemony: A Political Ecology of Water, Market Rule, and Insurgency at Bangalore's Frontier
Committee: Ananya Roy (Chair, Professor, Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA); Isha Ray (Associate Professor, Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley); Peter Evans (Professor Emeritus, Sociology, UC Berkeley)
- May 2005 Master of Science, Energy and Resources Group
University of California, Berkeley
- May 2001 Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry (Minor in Environmental Science)
Bard College, NY

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Water and land in postcolonial cities
- Urban flood risk
- Corruption discourse and state formation
- Climate change vulnerability
- Race and environmental justice in the US
- Urban political ecology
- Ethnographic, historical, and spatial analysis
- Critical social and political theory

SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPACT: HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 articles published in peer-reviewed journals with an average **2015 Thomson-Reuters JCR Impact Factor (IF) of 1.817**
- 1 article published in a top-10 Urban Studies journal and 2 published in top-20 Geography journals since 2013
- Elected to serve as officer for two American Association of Geographers (AAG) specialty groups with membership of ~2,000 each (2015-17)
- Editorial Board Member, *Annals of the AAG IF 2.291* (2016-19)

[Google Scholar Citation Indices](#)

	All	Since 2011
Citations	301	208
h-index	7	6
i10-index	5	3

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- In preparation Ranganathan, M. Principal Investigator
Co-Investigator: S Doshi, University of Arizona, Tucson
Narrating Corruption in the Postcolonial City
Andrew Mellon American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Collaborative Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Requested budget: \$100,000
- 2007-2009 Roy, A, University of California, Berkeley, Principal Investigator
Co-Investigator: M Ranganathan, University of California, Berkeley
Seeing Like a Citizen: Technologies of Governance and Urban Service Delivery in Bangalore
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Geography and Spatial Sciences Program. Amount: \$8,140

INTERNAL GRANTS

- 2016-2017 Ranganathan, M. Principal Investigator
Urban Revolution? Anti-Corruption and Environmental Justice in India.
American University Faculty Research Support Grant. Amount: \$5,000
- 2015-2016 Ranganathan, M. Principal Investigator
Co-Investigator: E Bratman, American University
Tackling Urban Vulnerability: Lessons for Building Community Resilience and Climate Justice in Washington, DC
American University Metropolitan Policy Center Faculty Research Grant.
Amount: \$10,000

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015 Certificate of Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing for *Geoforum* (Elsevier) (**IF 1.759**)
- 2009 Chancellor's Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, UC Berkeley
- 2007 John L. Simpson Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies, UC Berkeley
- 2007 American Institute of Indian Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2006 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
- 2006 Center for South Asian Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2005 Center for Human Rights Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2005 Center for African Studies Summer Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2004 United Nations *Bridging the Divide* Research Fellowship
- 2004 E8 Sustainable Energy Development Full Tuition Graduate Scholarship, UC Berkeley
- 1997-2001 Distinguished Scientist Full Tuition Undergraduate Scholarship, Bard College, NY

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Ranganathan, M. **Under review** "Thinking with Flint: Racial Liberalism and the Roots of an American Water Tragedy", *Capitalism Nature Socialism*.
- Kiefer, K and M Ranganathan. **Under review**. "Productive Tension in Inclusive Planning: The Politics of Participation in Cape Town's Slum Upgrading". *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. **IF 1.196**.
- Ranganathan, M. **Under review**. "Producing Race, Class, and Difference: A Genealogy of Urban "Improvement", *Environment and Planning: A*. **IF 1.604**.
- Doshi, S and M Ranganathan. **Revise and resubmit**. "Dispossession, Inequality, and the Uses of Corruption Talk in Urban India", *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. **IF 2.291**.
- Ranganathan, M. 2015. "Storm Drains as Assemblages: The Political Ecology of Flood Risk in Postcolonial Bangalore", *Antipode* 47 (5): 1300-1320. Video abstract: <http://antipodefoundation.org/2015/06/03/storm-drains-as-assemblages/>. **IF 2.104**.
- Ranganathan, M and C Balazs. 2015. "Water Marginalization at the Urban Fringe: Environmental Justice and Urban Political Ecology Across the North-South Divide", *Urban Geography* 36 (3): 403-423. **IF 1.355**.
- Ranganathan, M. 2014. "Paying for Water, Claiming Citizenship: Political Agency and Water Reforms at the Urban Periphery", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38 (2): 590-608. **IF 1.672**.
- Ranganathan, M. 2014. "Mafias in the Waterscape: Urban Informality and Everyday Public Authority in Bangalore", *Water Alternatives* 7 (1): 89-105.
- Ranganathan, M, L Kamath and V Baindur. 2009. "Piped Water Supply to Greater Bangalore: Putting the Cart Before the Horse?", *Economic and Political Weekly* 44 (33): 53-62.
- Haya, B, M Ranganathan, and S Kirpekar. 2009. "Barriers to Sugar Mill Cogeneration in India: Insights into the Structure of Post-2012 Climate Financing Instruments", *Climate and Development* 1 (1): 66-81. **IF 1.379**.
- Chaurey, A, M Ranganathan, and P Mohanty. 2004. "Electricity Access For Geographically Disadvantaged Rural Communities—Technology And Policy Insights", *Energy Policy* (32) 15: 1693-1705. **IF 2.575**.
- Prasad, R., M Ranganathan, P B Singh, and I H Rehman. 2003. "How Community Participation Can Integrate Energy Transitions Into Rural Development—The Experience Of Four North Indian Villages". *The Journal of Energy and Development* (28) 2.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS

- Ranganathan, M. **In preparation**. "Liberal Land Fictions: Urban Improvement and Social Difference in the Post-Colony" in A Ghertner and R Lake (Eds), *Land Fictions: Commodification in Country and City*. Cornell University Press: Ithaca and New York.
- Ranganathan, M and S Doshi. **In preparation**. "Ecological Dispossession in the Anthropocene: Corruption Politics and Land Grabs in Urban India" in H Ernstson and E Swyngedouw (Eds), *Interrupting the Anthro-Obscene: Political possibilities of planetary urbanization*. Press TBD.
- Ranganathan, M. **Under review**. "Hydraulic Politics in/beyond the World-Class City". Review Forum with Andrew Barry, Colin McFarlane, John Harriss, and Michael Leaf for Bjorkman. L. 2015. *Pipe Politics, Contested*

Waters: Embedded Infrastructures of Millennial Mumbai. Duke University Press: Durham. *Dialogues in Human Geography*.

Ranganathan, M. Forthcoming (2016). "Rethinking Urban Water Informality" in K Conca and E Weinthal (Eds), *Oxford Handbook on Water Politics and Policy*. Oxford University Press: Oxford and New York.

Ranganathan, M. 2013. "Financialized and Insurgent: The Dialectics of Participation in Bangalore's Neoliberal Water Reforms", pp 65-88 in K Coelho, L Kamath, and M Vijayabaskar (Eds), *Participolis: Consent and Contention in India's Neoliberal Urban Governance*. Routledge: Abingdon and New Delhi.

Ranganathan, M. 2012. "Reengineering Citizenship: Municipal Reforms and the Politics of 'e-Grievance Redressal' in Karnataka's Cities", pp 109-132 in R Desai and R Sanyal (Eds), *Urbanizing Citizenship: Contested Spaces in Indian Cities*. Sage: Thousand Oaks and New Delhi.

Ranganathan, M. 2011. "The Embeddedness of Cost Recovery: Water Reforms and Associationism at Bangalore's Fringes", pp 165-190 in J Anjaria and C McFarlane (Eds), *Urban Navigations: Politics, Space, and the City in South Asia*. Routledge: Abingdon and New Delhi.

NON-PEER REVIEWED AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Ranganathan, M. December 10, 2015. "Why Bengaluru is not Immune to Floods: It's All About Land (and Money)", *Citizen Matters*. <http://bangalore.citizenmatters.in/articles/why-bengaluru-is-not-immune-to-floods-it-s-all-about-land-and-money>.

Ranganathan, M. 2014. "High Tech and the Monsoon" in R Burdett, P Rode, P Shankar, and S Vahidy (Eds), *Governing Urban Futures (Urban Age Series)*. London: London School of Economics and Political Science.

Ranganathan, M. 2008. "Grievance Redressal Mechanisms in Urban Service Delivery: How Effective Are They?" *Asian Development Bank Governance Brief 17*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

Ranganathan, M and E Reynaers. 2003. "Enabling Environments for Technology Transfer". Technical paper commissioned by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn.

Ranganathan, M, R Prasad and P B Singh. 2003. "Participatory approach for linking rural energy transitions and developmental needs in Uttar Pradesh, India", *Boiling Point*, 49: 15-17.

INVITED TALKS

Water, Property, and the Politics of Subaltern Belonging. Earth Day Symposium on Water and Class Struggle, invited by Ruth Wilson Gilmore, **State University of New York, Purchase College**, April 22, 2016.

Race, Class, and the Legacies of Colonial Urban 'Improvement'. AU Conference on Critical Approaches to Race, Class, and Gender, invited by Senior Vice-Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs Mary Clark, **American University**, February 24, 2016.

The Performativity of Urban Anti-Corruption Politics. Environmental Humanities Laboratory, *Rupturing the Anthropocene! The Political Promises of Planetary Urban Ecologies*, invited by Henrik Ernstson and Erik Swyngedouw, **KTH Royal Institute for Technology, Stockholm, Sweden**, September 16-17, 2015.

Registering Urban Inequality in the Post-Colony. *Urban Beyond Measure: Registering Urban Environments in the Global South*, invited by Henrik Ernstson and Jia Ching Chen, **Stanford University**, May 8-9, 2015.

- Is the Right to the City an Effective Framework for Advancing Environmental Justice? *Class, Race, and the Environment: Impacts on People of Color and Lower-Income Communities*, Earth Justice Week. Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs Program, American University, Washington, DC, April 14, 2015
- Drains of Labor: Filth, Commodification, and Risk in Bangalore's Wetland Assemblage. *Infrastructures of Labor*, invited by Rosalind Fredericks, **New York University**, December 10, 2014.
- The Everyday Life of Reforms: Urban Struggles for Water, Citizenship, and Sustainability in Millennial Bangalore, **University of California, Santa Cruz**, December 4, 2014.
- (Wet)Land Grabs, Capital Flows, and the Politics of Flood Risk in Millennial Bangalore. Center for Health, Risk, and Society, **American University**, November 5, 2014.
- Emancipatory Urban Politics Through the Everyday State: Improvisations and Translations at the Frontlines. *Radical Incrementalism: Theories/Practices of Emancipatory Change*, invited by Henrik Enmston and Edgar Pieterse, **African Center for Cities, University of Cape Town**, October 23-24, 2014.
- Beyond the 'Slum': Urban Informality in the Global South. International Development Program Student Association, Weekly Colloquium Series, SIS, **American University**, September 22, 2014.
- Stormwater Drains, (Wet)land Grabs, and the Assembling of Flood Risk in Bangalore. School of Habitat Studies, invited by Lalitha Kamath, **Tata Institute for Social Sciences, Mumbai**, July 21, 2014.
- Urban Informality as the New Normal in Millennial Capitalism. *Cities at the Center of the World*, Center for Global Studies, **George Mason University** and **Woodrow Wilson Center**, Washington, DC, April 22, 2014.
- Stormwater Drains as Assemblages: The Geography of Flooding in Bangalore. *The Future of Water and Waste in South Asia*, invited by Trevor Birkenholtz, **Rutgers University**, February 7-9, 2013.
- Financing Infrastructure in India's Slums: Rajeev Gandhi Awas Yojana's Prospects and the Political Economy of Urban Reforms. *The 21st Century Indian City: Working Towards Being Slum Free?*, **University of California, Berkeley**, April 27, 2012.
- Invited discussant and panelist at *Representing Vulnerability: Maps, Narratives, and Political Action*, **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**, September 23-24, 2011.
- Informal Water, the State, and the Peripheralized Middle Class. *Urban India: Historical Processes and Contemporary Experiences Conference*, invited by K Sivaramakrishnan, **Yale University**, April 30, 2011.
- Governing an Urban Water 'Crisis': Political Ecological Insights from India. Environmental and Urban Studies weekly colloquium series, invited by Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria, **Bard College**, May 3, 2011.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

- Radical Crosscurrents: EJ, Political Ecology, and Traveling Theory* (Organizer, introducer, panelist), American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 1, 2016.
- Infrastructural Engagements and Urban Re-Imaginations in the Global South 2 (Invited discussant), American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 1, 2016.
- Middle Class Cities of the Global South? 3: Inhabiting the Middle (Invited discussant), American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, March 30, 2016.

- Urban India's New Anti-Corruption Politics: Unsettling State, Capital, and Land in Bangalore, Methodological Innovation in Urban Political Research in the Developing World, American University, October 30, 2015.
- Contesting (Wet)Land Grabs: The Politics of "Elite" Urban Informality and Anti-Corruption Discourse in Bangalore, Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 23, 2015.
- Conjuring Land from Water: Law, Materiality, and Discursive Politics in Urban Wetland Redevelopment (paper competitively selected). *Land Fictions: The Commodification of Land in City and Country*, The 8th Biennial McGrann Conference, Rutgers University, Department of Geography, May 1-2, 2015.
- Assembling Flood Risk in Postcolonial Bangalore (Invited presenter). *STS and Urban Infrastructure in the Global South*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 24, 2015.
- Doing Urban Political Ecology: Fieldwork Methods and Ethical Concerns (Invited panelist), American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 23, 2015.
- The Ethical City? Critical Geographies of Corruption and Accountability in Urban India (Panel co-organizer and co-presenter with Sapana Doshi), *Critical Geographies of Corruption and Accountability*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Tampa, April 8-12, 2014.
- Pluralizing 'the State' in Urban Political Ecology: State Formation and Water Politics in Bangalore, India, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, February 27-29, 2014.
- Mafias in the Waterscape: Public Authority and Informality in Bangalore (paper competitively selected). *Informal Space in the Urban Waterscape*, UNESCO Conference Delft, December 4-6, 2012.
- The Production of Everyday Flood Risk and the Politics of Blame at the Urban Periphery. Initiative for Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences (ICARUS) Annual Conference Columbia University, New York City, May 16-19, 2012.
- A Spatial History of Bangalore's Waters. Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 13-15, 2012.
- Prone to Floods: A Political Ecology of Everyday Risk at the Urban Frontier. *Risky Endeavors*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New York City, February 24, 2012.
- Peri-Urban Flood Vulnerability: Evolving a Political Ecological Agenda through Insights from Bangalore. *Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation: Marginal Peoples and Environments*, ICARUS Annual Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 6, 2011.
- Banking on Water: Debt, Discipline, and the Financialization of Policy Expertise in Bangalore. (Co-organizer with Erica Kohl-Arenas and presenter). *Politics of Expertise in Urban and Regional Development*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle, April 16, 2011.
- Capitalizing on Water: The Techno-Politics of Greater Bangalore's Piped Water Supply Project. *Water Resource Technologies and Politics*, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington DC, April 18, 2010.
- The Right to Water as the Right to the City (paper competitively selected). Right to Water Conference, Syracuse University, March 9, 2010.

ONLINE NEWS MEDIA AND VIDEO

May 2014	Improv Cities: Urban Peripheries and the Future , American University TEDx Talk
January 2015	Obama's visit to India includes climate change talks by David Jackson, <i>USA Today</i>
September 2014	Africa's Population Will Quadruple by 2100. What Does That Mean for its Cities? by Sam Sturgis, <i>Atlantic Cities</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008-2009	Consultant	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat
2005	Intern	Urban Sustainability Initiative, Berkeley Institute for the Environment
2005	Intern	China Energy Group, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
2005	Intern	Programme Energie, ENDA-Tiers Monde, Senegal
2004	Intern	Low Income Energy Programs, California Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco
2001-2003	Research Associate	Renewable Energy Technology Applications, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

COURSES TAUGHT AND INSTRUCTOR RATINGS

Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014 (2 sections), Fall 2015 (2 sections)	SISU 250: Environmental Sustainability and Global Health, overall instructor ratings 6.14/7, 6.73/7, 6.72/7, 6.67/7, 6.73/7, 6.75/7
Spring 2014, Spring 2015	SIS 620: Urban Political Ecology, overall instructor ratings, 6.75/7, 6.36/7
Spring 2015	SISU 349: Global Cities, Justice, and the Environment, overall instructor rating 6.48/7
Fall 2011, UIUC	GEOG 496: Climate Change and Social Vulnerability (Lecturer)
Spring 2011, UIUC	HDES 595: Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems (Co-Instructor), no rating available
Fall 2008, UC Berkeley	ER 175: Water and Development (Graduate Student Instructor), overall instructor rating 6.12/7
Spring 2006, UC Berkeley	CP 270: Global Metropolitan Studies: Theories of the North and South (Graduate Student Co-Organizer), no rating available
Fall 2005, UC Berkeley	ER 100: Energy and Society (Graduate Student Instructor), overall instructor rating 6/7

THESIS ADVISING

2014 – current	Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Abby Lindsay, PhD in International Relations: “Water Governance and Scalar Conflict in Latin America”
2015 – current	Thesis Advisor for Tayeba Batool, MA in International Affairs: “Remodeling Identity in Lahore”

2015 – current	Honors Capstone Research Project Advisor for Christine Chipko, BA in International Studies: “Unmasking the Gendered Approach to Conditional Cash Transfers”
2014-15	Substantial Research Project Advisor for Karly Kiefer, MA in International Affairs: “Partnership in Tension: Negotiating Citizen-State Engagement in Cape Town’s Slum Upgrading”
2013-14	Honors Capstone Research Project Advisor for Evan Anderson, BA in International Studies: “Tarlabasi's Renewal: A Case of Urban Transformation in 21st Century Turkey”
2013-14	Thesis Advisor for Brianna Suarez, MA in International Affairs: “The Struggle Continues: Mexico’s Neoliberal Policies and Rural Indigenous Water Rights”
2013-14	Substantial Research Project Advisor for Averelle Talbott, MA International Affairs: “Race, Public Housing, and Rooftop Farming in New York City”
2013-14	Substantial Research Project Advisor for Jackson Stubbs, MA in International Affairs: “Achieving Zero Waste in Washington, DC”

INTERNAL SERVICE

2016-2017	Elected Member, Faculty Actions Committee, SIS
2015-2016	Elected Member, Task Force on Restructuring of MA Programs, SIS
2013–2015	Undergraduate Thematic Area Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability and Global Health, SIS
Fall 2014	Undergraduate Mentor, SIS

Fall 2014	Member, Search Committee for Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Global Urban Studies, SIS
Fall 2013	Member, Search Committee for Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Quantitative Methods, SIS

EXTERNAL SERVICE

Ongoing	Peer Reviewer for journals <i>Urban Geography</i> (1, 2016), <i>Antipode</i> (1, 2015; 1, 2016), <i>Geoforum</i> (1, 2014; 1, 2015), <i>Climate and Development</i> (1, 2015), <i>Environment and Planning: A</i> (1, 2013; 1, 2015), <i>Journal of Material Culture</i> (1, 2015)
2016-2019	Editorial Board Member, <i>Annals of the American Association of Geographers</i> (People, Place, and Region Section) IF 2.291
2015-2017	Editorial Board Member, <i>Geography Compass</i> (Urban Section)
2015-2017	Elected Officer-at-Large, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers
2015-2017	Elected Board Member, Urban Geography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers
2015-2016	External Evaluator, PhD Thesis "Altering Urban Ecology of Bangalore: Politics of Land and Water Resources", CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India
2014	Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation CAREER Proposal
2013	Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation Geography and Spatial Sciences Program Proposal