

# PRANATHI DIWAKAR

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## EDUCATION

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- Present* Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago  
*2022* PhD Sociology, University of Chicago  
*Dissertation:* “Resounding Caste: Practices of Distinction, Urban Segregation, and Musical Politics in Chennai, India”
- 2017* MA Sociology, University of Chicago  
*2010 – 2015* MA (Integrated) Development Studies, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Cultural sociology; urban sociology; caste, race, and gender; ethnography; interviewing and qualitative methods; performance in south India and South Asia diaspora; musical and cultural politics; music and urbanism; social movements; migration; globalization.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2022* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “Placing Caste: Spatialization, Urban Segregation, and Musical Boundary-Making”. *Social Forces*.
- 2021* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “Spaces at Risk: Urban Politics and Slum Relocation in Chennai” in eds. Jacob A.C. Remes, Andy Horowitz. *Critical Disaster Studies*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. 97-115.
- 2022* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** *Book Review.* “Governing the urban in China and India: Land grabs, slum clearance, and the war on air pollution, Xuefei Ren Princeton University Press, 2020. 188 pp. \$29.95/£25.00. *The British Journal of Sociology*.
- 2021* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “City Music: A Reprise.” *Contexts* 20(1): 63-64.
- 2021* **Diwakar, Pranathi** and Joshua Babcock. “Legacies and Remnants of the Chicago School: Lineage-Making and Interdisciplinary Urban Research at the University of Chicago” in eds. Anthony M. Orum et al. *Companion to Urban and Regional Studies, First Edition*. Wiley-Blackwell. 172-191.
- 2019* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “A Recipe for Disaster: Framing risk and vulnerability in slum relocation policies in Chennai, India”. *City and Community* 18(4): 1314-1337.
- 2019* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “Notes from the Field: Cultural Distances, Boundaries, and Urban Ethnography”. *Sectors, Newsletter of Sociology of Development* 6(2): 28.
- 2019* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “The Other City” in Postscript, *Economic and Political Weekly* 55(4): 63-64.
- 2019* **Diwakar, Pranathi.** “Anatomy of a Protest” in Postscript, *Economic and Political Weekly* 54(51): 61-62.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

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- 2021-22 Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago.
- 2021-22 The University of Chicago Social Sciences Division (SSD) Dissertation Completion Fellowship. (Declined)
- 2020 Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize for Visual Sociology, second place, for the photograph, “Writing on the Wall”. Cash prize of \$1500, awarded by the Research Committee on Visual Sociology of the International Sociological Association.
- 2020 Henderson Research Grant from the University of Chicago’s Department of Sociology, supported by the Charles Henderson Endowment.
- 2019-20 Social Science Research Council’s International Dissertation Research Fellowship (SSRC IDRf), funded by the Mellon Foundation for a year of international fieldwork.
- 2019 Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph Field Research Grant awarded by University of Chicago’s Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR).
- 2018 Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS) Graduate Student Fellowship for pre-dissertation fieldwork.
- 2017-18 Urban Doctoral Fellow, awarded by University of Chicago’s Urban Network. Chicago, IL.
- 2016-20 Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago’s Social Sciences Division. Chicago, IL.
- 2015-16 Lalitha Chandrashekar Fellowship, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

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- 2022 “Making Music “Mobile”: The Reconciliations of “Local” and “Global” Aesthetics in Carnatic and Gaana Musical Genres.” Presentation at “Caste, Community, Capital.” Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. September 9th-10th, 2022. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 “Saffron and Blue: Brahminical Hindutva Cultural Politics and the Dalit Anti-Caste Movement in Chennai, India”. Presentation at “Emerging Scholarship on the Performing Arts of South India”, graduate student workshop at the University of Pennsylvania. February 19th-20th, 2021. Philadelphia, PA.

### *Unequal Music: Caste, City, Culture.*

- 2021 Invited guest lecture. University of Chicago course, “Anthropology of Caste”, instructors: Constantine V. Nakassis and Shubham Shivang. March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2021 Invited guest lecture. University of North Carolina course, “Emotions and Society”, instructor: Anusha Hariharan. April 6<sup>th</sup>. Virtual lecture.
- 2021 Presentation at the University of Chicago’s “Speaking of Art Workshop”. February 18<sup>th</sup>. Virtual lecture.
- 2019 Presentation at Stanford University’s “Qualitative Methods” Workshop. May 16th. Palo Alto, CA.
- 2018 Presentation in panel, “Urban Inequality: Historical and Ethnographic Perspectives” at 43rd Annual Social Science History Association (SSHA) Meeting. November 8th-11th. Phoenix, AZ.

### *Devon Avenue in Chicago: A History of South Asian Migration.*

2019. Invited talk at the SRTP MMUF undergraduate fellowship, followed by a guided walking tour of Devon Avenue (July 27th). Chicago, IL.

### *A Recipe for Disaster: Framing Risk and Vulnerability in Slum Relocation Policies in Chennai, India.*

- 2018 Invited talk and presentation at Critical Disaster Studies Conference, New York University (NYU). September 21<sup>st</sup>. New York City, NY.

2017 Presentation at graduate student conference, “Global Urban Scholars Exchange” between Hong Kong University and University of Chicago. December 18<sup>th</sup>. Hong Kong.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2022 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow. University of Chicago. Designing a new B.A. Internship curriculum for seniors in the Sociology program; teaching a self-designed undergraduate in Spring 2023 entitled, “Music, Society, and Politics.”
- 2021 Lecturer. “Culture and Politics in Asia”. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Social Sciences. Designed original syllabus and teaching virtually using asynchronous and synchronous methods.
- 2019 Instructor and preceptor of Research Design course in the undergraduate Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) at the University of Chicago for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF). Designed original syllabus and taught own class. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Co-taught for spring quarter, Stanford University. Professor: Forrest Stuart. “The Social Life of Neighborhoods”. Assisted in syllabus development. Palo Alto, CA.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant for fall quarter, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Professor: Kristen Schilt. “Sociology of Deviant Behavior.” Chicago, IL.
- 2017-18 GIS Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Professor: Marco Garrido. Chicago, IL. Developed maps of slums and enclaves in Metro Manila, Philippines using survey data.

## SERVICE & COMMUNITY WORK

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- 2022 Facilitator of “starlight” (September-October 2022). Supported by Northwestern University’s Race, Caste and Colorism Project, *starlight* was a two-month pop up community arts space in Chicago’s “Devon” area that houses a sizeable South Asian population.
- Organized and gave a workshop on race, caste, colorism; organized and co-lead a protest music listening party; curated a listening station with records and playlists highlighting protest music and Afro-South Asian collaborations presented in a take-home zine. Organized various events as part of a five-member team, including concerts, film screenings and workshops on topics of race, caste, and colorism. Details: [spaceshiftcollective.com/starlight](https://spaceshiftcollective.com/starlight)
- 2022 Researcher at New York Public Radio’s WQXR-hosted “Every Voice” podcast on the use of blackface in opera.
- 2020-21 Creator, curator, and organizer of *Notes on Notes*, a monthly listening exchange series between a playlist-maker and a responder that offers a non-musical pairing. Details: <https://notesonnotesonnotesonnotes.medium.com/>
- 2021 Organized a virtual musical event with Chennai-based musician, performer, and rapper Arivu at the University of Chicago’s Committee on Southern Asian Studies, “*In Concert and Conversation with Arivu*”.
- 2020-21 Public practice intern at the Smart Museum of Art, the University of Chicago’s campus museum. Co-organized public virtual events for the museum such as an event imagining futures free of lead poisoning with artist and 2019 MacArthur Fellow Mel Chin. Also co-organized a day-long event with a series of reflections on gestures of care called, “*Take Care, Be Well*” in which I worked with artists and musicians like Angel Bat Dawid to organize a day of virtual programming.

- 2020 Volunteer at the Chennai Street Arts Festival, or the Chennai *Kalai Theru Vizha*, an arts festival with the aim of equalizing arts, artists, and spaces in the city of Chennai. Chennai, India.
- 2018-19 Urban Network Representative, Social Science History Association (SSHA) Conference. Phoenix, AZ in 2018. Chicago, IL in 2019.
- 2017-19 Member of the American Journal of Sociology (AJS) Book Review Board, involved in finding reviewers for new publications in Sociology.
- 2018 Co-organizer, Chicago Ethnography Conference 2018. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 Organizer, Hyde Park Audio Walking Tour to engage in a public history and sociology project documenting historical narratives from the neighborhood, with the Urban Workshop (in production, expected to release as a publicly available audio tour in 2019). Chicago, IL.
- 2017-18 Co-organizer of the University of Chicago's Urban Workshop, under the aegis of the Council for Advanced Studies, organizing weekly presentations by graduate students and professors on urban research.

## SKILLS

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Languages: English (fluent), Tamil (fluent), Kannada (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Sanskrit (high school level), French (A2 level)

Software: Reaper, ArcGIS, GeoDa, QGIS