

## Dr. Debapriya Ganguly

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### Research Interests

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Urban Studies

Social Theory

Sociology of Education

Popular Culture

Digital Populism

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### Education

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- 2019 – PhD awarded by the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, for the thesis, *Development, Local State and Labouring Poor: A Study of Urban Processes in Visakhapatnam*.
- 2013 – M.Phil. awarded by the Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad, for the dissertation, *'Free Nagas' and the Paradox of Development*.
- 2011 – M. A. in Sociology from the University of Hyderabad.
- 2009 - B. A. (with Honours) in Sociology from St. Xavier's College (Autonomous under the University of Calcutta).

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### Work History

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- **Assistant Professor, Sociology**  
[January 2026-present]  
Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune
- **Assistant Professor**  
[August 2019 –December 2025]  
Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University
- **Partner**  
[2021-2025]  
In the International Collaborative Project titled Social Justice and Culture: Sustainable Social Welfare in Neoliberal Times (SOJUCU) between the University of South Eastern Norway and Savitribai Phule Pune University under the UTFORSK programme funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
- **Visiting Faculty**  
[September 2019 – December 2022]  
B.A. Liberal Arts, Interdisciplinary School of Science, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

- **Consultant**  
[August – November 2018]  
On a multi-city project for Citizens Rights Collective (CiRiC), funded by ActionAid, Karnataka.
- **Research Assistant**  
[January – March 2017]  
UGC-SAP DSA Phase II Project in the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad.

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## Publications

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### Books

(co-edited with Steffen F. Johannesson, Kjersti Røsvik, Ellen Schruppf, Shruti Tambe, and Hemantkumar Chouhan). *Making Social Justice*. 2026. Peter Lang. (forthcoming)

### Chapters

1. “Higher Education and Social Justice: Insights from a State University in India.” *The Pedagogy of Hope: Navigating Resilience and Social Justice in Indian Higher Education*. 2026, Routledge, (forthcoming)
2. “Revisiting Social Justice and the City: Exploring the politics of housing in India.” *Making Social Justice*. 2026, Peter Lang, (forthcoming).
3. “Remembering Rokeya: Mapping questions on gender and religion in colonial India”, *Women in Indian Thought*, 2026, Springer, (forthcoming).
4. “Rise of the 'City of Destiny': Mapping the urban past of Visakhapatnam”, *Visakhapatnam: The City that Was*. March 2026, Bloomsbury.
5. “Internet Activism and the Populist Agenda”, in Joseph Chacko Chennattuserry, Madhumati Deshpande, Paul Hong (ed.) *Encyclopaedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century*, Springer (Singapore), 2024.
6. [Co-Authored with Rakesh M Krishnan] “Class, Consumption and Culture: High Streets and the Neoliberal Imagination of the Indian Cities”, Sadan Jha and Gauri Bharat (eds.). *Social Life of Streets in India*, Bloomsbury (New Delhi), 2023.
7. “State, Governance and Urban Poor: Insights from Visakhapatnam City”, in Jenia Mukherjee (ed.) *Sustainable Urbanisation in India: Challenges and Opportunities*, Springer (Singapore), 2018.

### Journals

### Articles

1. [Co-Authored with Vishal Chaudhari] "Vulnerabilities of Private Healthcare Workers during COVID19 Pandemic" in *South Asia Research* (2026), Volume 45, No. 3.
2. [Co-Authored with Aaron Reudenbach] "Spa Tourism and Urban Transformation: The (re)imagination of Montecatini" in *Urbanities* (2025), Volume 15, Issue No.2.
3. "The right to sustainable urban life? Contextualising the Chipko March in Pune". (2025). *Urban Now, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.
4. "'Death' of a Teacher?: Pandemic, Pedagogy and Virtual Classrooms" in *Globalisation, Societies and Education* (2023), Volume 23, Issue 5.
5. "Free Nagas and the Indian State: Negotiations between a 'Nation' and a 'Region'" in *Man and Society: A Journal of North-East Studies* (2017), Volume XIV.
6. "Exploring the idea of 'Development' in a neoliberal state: Do the poor have the right to smart city?" in *Journal of Development, Management and Communication*, (2015) Volume II, No.3.

### Book Reviews

1. 'Organizing Anarchy: Anarchism in Action' by Jeff Shantz, *Comparative Sociology*, (2023), Volume 22, Issue 3.
2. 'Of Greater Dignity than Riches: Austerity and Housing Design in India' by Farhan Karim, *Urban Studies*, (2021), Volume 58, Issue 13.
3. 'Forgotten Founders and Other Neglected Social Theorists' edited by Christopher T. Conner, Nicholas M. Baxter and David R. Dickens, *Contemporary Sociology* (2021), Volume 50, Issue 4.

### Report

[Co-authored with Vinay Baindur and Richa Chandra], *Smart Cities and Urban Deprived Communities: A Study of Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar and Lucknow*, (2019) for **Action Aid Karnataka** and **Citizens' Rights Collective**.

### Essay

“A Smart Vizag for whom?” for the **Utopian Cities Project blog** hosted by the School of Geography, University of Leeds.

<https://utopiancities.wordpress.com/2016/08/18/a-smart-vizag-for-whom-by-debapriya-ganguly/>

### Self-Learning Materials

Prepared 4 Units on Sociological Thinkers – *Claude Levis Strauss, George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer & Erving Goffman* for **Netaji Subhas Open University**, West Bengal.

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### International Academic Engagements

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20 July-28 July 2025: Participant at the **Urban Research and Field Training School** organised by the International Urban Symposium, Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy

24 August - 2 September 2023: **Guest Scholar** at the Department of Health and Social Welfare Studies of the University of South Eastern Norway

10-20 August 2022: **Guest Scholar** at the Department of Health and Social Welfare Studies, University of South Eastern Norway.

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### Invited Lectures/Resource Person

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21.02.2026- Guest Lecture on *Public Culture*, at the **Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University**

07.02.2026- Guest Lecture on *Approaches to the study of Popular Culture*, at the **Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University**

30.12.2025- Panelist for the session on *Bots talking to Bots: Pedagogy in the times of AI* organized by **Adhoc RC 1 (Pedagogy, Teaching and Learning)** of the **Indian Sociological Society** at the **50th All India Sociological Conference**, SRM University, Andhra Pradesh

15.11.2025- Mentor for the session on *AI and Social Research*, for the capacity building workshop on issues related to Researching Marginalities, organised under the international research project 'Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences and Supporting the under-represented scholars of Asia' coordinated by **Association for Asian Studies (AAS)** and **Savitribai Phule Pune University**, and supported by the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**

12.11.2025- Guest Lecture on *Social Change by Piotr Stzompka*, at the **Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune**

- 10.11.2025- Guest Lectures on *Debunking the Green Revolution and School Class as a Social System by Talcott Parsons* at the **Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune**
- 11.10.2025- Panelist in the Online Discussion on *Teaching, Reading, and Writing Sociology in the Age of AI*, organised by AdHoc RC 1: of the **Indian Sociological Society**, and **AI and Society Research Lab, GITAM University**.
- 18.01.2025- Resource Person at the Workshop on *Next Gen Research: Innovation, tools and methodology*, **Yashwantrao Chavan Law College, Pune**.
- 16.05.2024 & 17.05.2024 - Discussant at the Online Workshop on the edited volume titled '*Transformations and the Politics of Environmental Change in India: Critical Engagement of Anthropocene*', **Routledge Explorations in Environmental Studies, UK**.
- 17.04.2024 - '*Revisiting Social Justice and the City*' at the School of Social Sciences and Languages, **Vellore Institute of Technology**.
- 12.03.2024 - '*Perspectives of Tagore on Religion*' at the **Department of Philosophy, Savitribai Phule Pune University**.
- 25.02.2024 - Chair at the Session on '*Social Marginalities in the City*', 3rd Students' Seminar on 'Researching Marginalities' organised by the **Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences (IDS- HSS), Savitribai Phule Pune University**.
- 09.03.2023 - '*Tagore's concept of Religion*' at the **Department of Philosophy, Savitribai Phule Pune University**.
- 21.04.2022 - '*Understanding Popular Culture from a Sociological Lens*' at the **Department of Sociology, Loreto College, Kolkata**.
- 07.04.2022 - '*Familiarising with the Unfamiliar: Facets of Urban Ethnographic Research*' at the **Department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata**.
- 18.11.2020 - '*Internet Activism and the Woke Culture*' for **Christ University Nodal Office, Thiruvananthapuram**.
- 29.01.2020 - '*Social Change in Colonial India: Ideas and Contributions of Raja Rammohan Roy*' for the **Department of Philosophy, Savitribai Phule Pune University**.

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#### Awards & Grants

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- **Research Grant** of the Interdisciplinary School of Science, Savitribai Phule Pune University, for the project titled, "Diseased City and Disaster Managers: A Study on the Health Care Workers in Pune." (September 2021- March 2022)

- **'International Travel Grant'** sanctioned under UPE II of the University of Hyderabad for presenting papers at the University of Leeds and the University of London (June-July 2016)
- Indian Council of Social Science Research **Doctoral Fellowship** (2015)

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#### Paper Presentations

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1. "Plastic Pollution and Climate Governance: Mapping the impact of urban living in an Indian City" in the **Research Seminar** organised by the International Urban Symposium at Montecatini Terme, Italy, on 27 July 2025.
2. "Did you sleep well? Understanding Nightmares as a subgenre in Horror Films" in the online **8th Trauma and Nightmare International Interdisciplinary Conference**, organised by the University of Gdańsk, Poland, and NTNU-Norwegian University of Science and Technology on 20-21 March 2025.
3. "Black Cat in Literature: An analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's Writing" in the online International Conference on **Domestic Cats in Literature**, organised by Troy University, Alabama, on 13-15 March 2025
4. "Higher Education and Social Justice: Insights from a Public University" in the International Workshop on **Education, Nation Building and Social Justice: A Study of Universities in India, South Africa, and the USA**, organized by the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad on 27-28 January 2025
5. "Politics of Othering in Digital Populism" in a Seminar on **Social Justice and Culture: Sustainable Welfare in Neoliberal Times**, organized by the Departments of HSK and ISRV, University of South Eastern Norway on 30 August 2023
6. "Resilience, Assertions, and Negotiations of the Urban Poor: Politics of Housing in Visakhapatnam City" in the National Conference on **Urban Marginality, Social Policy and Education in India**, organized by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi and the Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University on 27 and 28 March 2023
7. "Diseased City and Disaster Managers: A Study on the Health Care Workers in Pune, India" in the online International Conference on **Sociology of Pandemic. A Cross-Disciplinary Understanding**, organized by the University of South Florida, USA and University G. Marconi, Italy, with the support of the RC47 "Social Classes and Social Movements" of the International Sociological Association, on 30 September 2022.
8. "Looking back in time: Exploring the urban evolution of Visakhapatnam, India" in the **Postgraduate Conference on 'Cities @ SAS: New Researchers in Modern**

- Urban History*, organized by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, held at the Institute of Historical Research, London on 4 July, 2016.
9. "Making of a City: Exploring the Urban Growth of Visakhapatnam, India" in the *Conference on 'Utopian Urban Futures: Histories, Imaginations, Possibilities'* organized by the University of Leeds, held at the Headingley Enterprise & Arts Centre, Bennett Road, Leeds, on 27 and 28 June, 2016.
  10. "The Naga Identity and the Indian State: Negotiations between the Nation and a Region" in the *International Conference on 'Rethinking the Nagas in the Contemporary'*, organized by the Naga Scholars' Association and the Hao Research Institute, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 20 and 21 March 2015.
  11. "State and the Strategies of Governance: Looking at the Urban Poor in Visakhapatnam City" in the *Conference on 'Sustainable Urbanization in India: Challenges and Opportunities'*, organized by the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, in association with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, held at Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, on 15 and 16 January 2015.
  12. "Understanding the Developmental Paradox: Exploring the Naga Question" in the *39th All India Sociological Conference on Inequality, Social Justice, and Empowerment*, organized by the Indian Sociological Society, held at the Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, on 27-29 December 2013.
  13. "Development, State, and Structural Violence" in the "*Research Workshop on Social Science Approaches to Urban Studies*," organized by the Sociology Unit, Institute of Economic Growth, and sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, held at the International Centre, Goa, on 19-22 December 2013.
  14. "Paradox of Development: Contextualising Nagaland" in the *National Conference on Development, Disparity and Social Research*, organized by the Christ University Nodal Office, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, held on January 29-31, 2013.
  15. "Regions, Boundaries, Peripheries, Margins, Borderlands, Cul-de-sacs" in the *National Seminar on Conceptualising Regions: Re-thinking Methodologies*, organized by the Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad, held on 9 February 2012.

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#### Other Academic Activities

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1. Participant at the '**Confluence with Local Indian Sociologists**' at the 6<sup>th</sup> ISA Conference of the Council of National Associations, FLAME University, Pune, December 20, 2025.
2. Completed the Five-day online workshop on '**Academic Writing and Publication Skills**' organized by RCo3 - Economy and Society, Indian Sociological Society, from December 2 to 6, 2024.
3. Participated in the Workshop on '**Implementation of NEP 2020 at Universities and Colleges**' organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Savitribai Phule Pune University, on December 23, 2022.
4. Completed the workshop on **Indian-German cultural exchange**, organized by Namaste Plus Göttingen-India Higher Education Cooperation and funded by the BMBF and DAAD, between November 11th and 25th, 2021.
5. Was a part of the organizing committee in the International Conference cum Workshop on **Contemporary Populism in Germany and India: Issues and Perspectives** jointly conducted by the University of Gottingen, Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University and German Centre for Innovation and Research (DWIH), New Delhi on 15 and 16 November 2021.
6. Co-organized the Workshop titled "**Private Healthcare Sector in India: Overview, Challenges, and Way Forward**," by Savitribai Phule Pune University in collaboration with SATHI (Support for Advocacy and Training to Health) on April 7, 2021.
7. Participated in the Webinar on **Heritage and Growing up - Indian and Norwegian Perspectives**, organized by the University of South-Eastern Norway in collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University on November 19-20, 2020.
8. Completed the **Online Teaching Course** organized by the TLC-EMMRC-PUCD between September and October 2020.
9. Participated in the **Academic Writing Workshop**, organized by the Department of Sociology and the UGC SAP, held at the School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, from January 20 to 27, 2017.
10. Was part of the organizing committee in the Second National Young Researchers' Workshop on '**Researching the Lived Experience(s): Ethnography and Beyond**', conducted by the Research Scholars Forum, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the UGC-SAP, held on 4 and 5 March 2016.

11. Served as part of the organizing committee for the International Workshop on 'Health Care Studies in India,' held at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, and funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the David Lucile Packard Foundation, USA, on 6 and 7 March 2015.
12. Completed the course "**Researching the Contemporary**" at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, held in July-August 2014.

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### Professional Memberships

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1. Life Member, Indian Sociological Society
2. Member, International Sociological Association
3. Member, International Urban Symposium

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