

Yugasha Bakshi

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EDUCATION

- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)** Virginia, USA
PhD Student - Planning, Governance and Globalization Fall 2021 – Present
(Urban, Environmental Design & Planning Track)
- CEPT University** Ahmedabad, India
Master's in Urban Management 2014 – 2016
(Thesis: *Creating cities within a city: A solution to India's urban problems? - A case of Ahmedabad, India*)
- Indian Institute of Management** Ahmedabad, India
Certificate Programme in Public Policy and Social Change Dec 2014
(Studied and analysed Government of India's housing policy - Basic Services for the Urban Poor in Ahmedabad)
- Faculty of Architecture, Uttar Pradesh Technical University** Lucknow, India
Bachelor's in Architecture 2009 – 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Office of Sustainability, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University** Virginia, USA
Graduate Assistant Aug 2021 – Present
- Collaborating with waste consultants to pursue a zero-waste campus by incorporating recycling and waste reduction efforts
 - Involved in the climate action commitment implementation task force for advancing sustainable campus culture, engagement, and sustainable choices
 - Built and executed Green Office Certification program to encourage sustainability practices at work
 - Designed actionable recommendations for advancing long-term sustainability on campus by initiating the eco-friendly reusable to-go container program for all dining halls at Virginia Tech
- Center for Water and Sanitation** Ahmedabad, India
Senior Research Associate Jul 2016 – Jun 2021
- Provided technical support to the State and Local Governments of Maharashtra in implementation of Indian Government's scheme Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Campaign)
 - Implemented Citywide Inclusive Sanitation principles in two cities of Maharashtra, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 - Co-led the planning and implementation of Deloitte-HSBC funded Corporate Social Responsibility activities enhancing public infrastructure investments in a city of Maharashtra – 72,000 residents including 5,000 slum-dwellers were the main beneficiaries
 - Led workshops of women self-help groups to mobilize toilet loan applications
 - Facilitated inclusion of women in the municipal services workforce
 - Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and reporting progress to donor/grant agencies
 - Developed and managed IT-enabled monitoring systems and analytical tools designed for carrying out citywide service delivery assessment to improve performance levels
 - Spearheaded data collection and analysis of basic urban services in 300+ cities in India
 - Led content development of capacity building workshops held for local government officials and academic institutes in the fields of water and sanitation
 - Documentation and dissemination of organization's research work in the form of structured presentations and video documentaries that helped glean actionable insights
 - Developed and managed collaborations with external consultants for implementation of project activities

- Conducted on-ground research and subsequent analysis for collaborative research with the University of Sheffield, U.K. on exploring multiple narratives of rivers as cities become increasingly urbanized. The riverfront development project in Ahmedabad was critically analysed from a placemaking lens.
- Facilitated meetings with stakeholders and focussed group discussions with the community
- Identified key issues and complexities in riverfront development as a catalyst for sustainable urban development
- Delivered research findings in the form of an art exhibition, research conference and a published research paper.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

International Water Association – Water and Development Congress Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Presented two papers on “Citywide inclusive sanitation in small towns in India” and “IT enabled systems for monitoring citywide faecal sludge and septage management services” to urban research practitioners from South Asian and African countries

Arts and Humanities Research Council – Mobilising Voices International Summit Conference Sheffield, UK

- Presented research findings on impact of rapid urbanisation in the urban rivers’ context, particularly the regeneration process of Sabarmati River and its role and meaning in rapidly urbanizing city of Ahmedabad.

Reflecting on the river in urbanising India, Case of Sabarmati River – Research and cultural conference Ahmedabad, India

- Organised workshop and presented on exploring multiple narratives of rivers as cities become increasingly urbanized – the case of Sabarmati Riverfront project exemplifying neoliberal transformation in Ahmedabad.

The Evolution of Housing from Shelter – Housing Research Studio Ahmedabad, India

- Analysis of Slum Upgradation Projects and Sites & Services Project in Ahmedabad on the basis of project purpose, affordability, process and results. The main areas to be addressed with respect to the policy and possible solutions for the same were explored.

PUBLICATIONS

- Dempsey, N., Martinez, C., Bakshi, Y., Samuel, M., Baradi, M. (2020). ‘From river to riverfront: how meanings and cultural heritage change. The case of the Sabarmati Riverfront Project, Ahmedabad, Gujarat’. *Town Planning Review*, 91(6). pp. 634-666. ISSN 0041-0020
- Guidelines for National and State Governments – Guidelines for Urban Local Bodies to implement Septage Management Plan; Guideline for private sector participation in faecal sludge and septage management

SCHOLARSHIPS/ RESEARCH AWARDS

- Ridenour Fellowship, Virginia Tech, USA
- Research Travel Grant, Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK
- Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Human Resources Development, India