

Curriculum Vitae

SOLOMON J BENJAMIN

Qualifications

- 1996 Ph.D. Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Doctoral Committee: Prof. Lisa Peattie (DUSP MIT), Prof. Bishwapriya Sanyal (DUSP MIT), Prof. William Doebele (Harvard)
- 1985 M. S. Arch. S. Master Science in Architectural Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Massachusetts
- 1982 B.Arch. School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi (First class First)

Academic Positions

- 2013 Associate Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT-Madras
- Research Positions: a) 2012-13 Fellow Lichtenberg Kolleg, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany (Nov. 2012-June 2013); b) 2011-2012, Senior research associate with the French Institute Pondicherry (IFP)
- 2012 Professor of Architecture and Planning at the Manipal School of Architecture and Planning (MSAP) Manipal University
- 2009 - 2012 Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Urban Research and Policy Program, School of Social Sciences National Institute of Advanced Studies
- 2006-2009: Assistant Professor, Inter-disciplinary hire for Urban Studies at the Dept. of Political Science University of Toronto, Canada.
- 1998 to 2003: Visiting faculty at National Law School of India University, Bangalore: Course on Law and Urban Development.
- 1991-1993: Faculty Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI), HUDCO New Delhi Teaching and Research on Housing and Land
- 1985-86: Visiting Faculty School of Planning & Architecture: co-lead on course: *Housing Dynamics*

Academic Achievements

Significant Contribution to International Refereed Literature: ‘Occupancy Urbanism’ (Benjamin 2008; 2014; 2015)

Academic position

- Editorial board, *Antipode (a journal of critical studies)* Past (till 2014));
- Steering committee of the International Critical Geography Group (ICGG) 2015-onwards
- Reviewer for articles submitted to the top ranking International Journals & Grade I University Presses:
 - International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR)*
 - Antipode*
 - Urban Studies*
 - World Development*
 - GeoForum*
 - Environment and Planning A*
 - IJURR*
 - Cambridge University Press Book Manuscripts*

Select Publications

Contribution to Discipline International Publishers 'Handbook' hosting State of Art Concepts

- a) 2014 'Occupancy Urbanism as Political Practice', Ch. 27 in S. Parnell and S. Oldfield (eds.) A Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South. London: Routledge
- b) 2016 'Conceptualising Indian-Chinese Urbans beyond the Nation State' Invited contribution to: Research Handbook on Asian Cities, to be published by Edward Elgar UK Editors of the Handbook, Xiangming Chen (Trinity College, Connecticut), Sarah Moser (McGill University), and Ratoola Kundu (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai)
- c) 2016 Invited Contribution to The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies Edited by Anthony M. Orum University of Illinois at Chicago: Occupancy Urbanism: Framing Land, Economy, & Local Government to conceptualize India's and CHina's co-produced urbanism.
- d) 2015 (Forthcoming, review stage) South Canara Urbanism's diverse logics Ch.8 in Part II: Land, Society, Belonging in 'Subaltern Urbanization in India: An introduction to ordinary towns' dynamics (Editors: Eric Denis and Marie – Hélène Zérah) Springer

Significant International Conferences including keynotes:

- 2015 Nehru Memorial Library Public Lecture: Rethinking the Urban: Framing Land, Economy, & Local Government to conceptualize India's and CHina's co-produced urbanism in their series: Cities in History Friday 16th October
- 2014 "Governing urban expansion in India and China" in the session 'Governing Land: Managing Urban Expansion' Urban Age Governing Urban Futures conference by LSE - Alfred Herrhausen Society, the International Forum of Deutsche Bank 14-15 Nov. New Delhi Member of main panel: <http://delhi2014.lsecities.net/video/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPGECvScEfs&t=43m35s> Chairs: Reuben Abraham, Chief Executive Officer and Senior Fellow, IDFC Institute; Michael Cohen, Professor of International Affairs, The New School; Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics, Columbia University; Karen C. Seto, Professor of Geography and Urbanization, Yale University; Ananya Roy, Professor of Urban Planning, University of California, Berkeley; Solomon Benjamin, Associate Professor, IIT Madras
- 2011 Panel 5: The Politics and Economics of Land and Housing in The 21st Century Indian City: Developing an Agenda for Urbanization in India University of California, Berkeley <http://indiancities.berkeley.edu/2011/speakers.html> and http://indiancities.berkeley.edu/2011/speaker_content/panel_docs/Panel%205-Solly%20Benjamin.ppt
- 2002 Member of the Keynote panel and presentation at the inaugural symposium on Urban Poverty, The World Bank, Washington DC: Fellow panelist include Prof. Jeffrey Sachs Colombia University, See PP at: http://www.powershow.com/view/39958-YWFkM/Dr_Solomon_Benjamin_powerpoint_ppt_presentation and <http://go.worldbank.org/MKQKXEE5N0>

Internationally Peer Reviewed Journal articles & Chapters in top ranking International Publishing Academic Houses

- 2015 ‘Cities within and beyond the plan: re-reading Bangalore's multiple contesting terrains’ chapter in City in South Asia (edt. Minoru Mio and Crispin Bates) Routledge – 2015 – 416 pages Series: Routledge New Horizons in South Asian Studies Taylor and Francis
- 2012 ‘The Eleventh City: Practice As Politics’ in ‘Cybermohalla Hub’ Edited by □ Nikolaus Hirsch and Shveta Sarda Sternberg Press Berlin.
- 2011 ‘Arguments for the Imperfect City’ in ‘The City as Studio’ (Edition 1) RAQs Cyber Mohalla Press. The book is available for free download as a PDF at the Sarai website. (www.sarai.net) July
- 2011 (with Bhuvanewari Raman) 'Illegible Claims, Legal Titles, and the Worlding of Bangalore' in Tiers Monde (Revue). Institut D'etude Du Developpement Economique Et Social De Paris. July
- 2011 January ‘Commoning contests the ‘Urban Commons’: Some thoughts on the de-commoning of Bengaluru’ Section 4, Ch. 43 (P. 295 to 312) in Vocabulary of Commons Foundation for Ecological Security at WQ Judge Press, Bangalore, India.
- 2010 ‘Aesthetic(s) of ‘The Ground Up’ City: Some Insights from Bangalore’ in Seminar issue # 612, August on ‘Karnataka: Vignettes: a symposium on emerging trends in contemporary Karnataka’
- 2010 ‘The Nomadic City Appropriates the Street’ in an online journal Cluster 2010 (Text built on earlier 2008 essay in Post IT cities cited below)
- 2010: ‘Manufacturing Neoliberalism: Lifestyling Indian Urbanity’ Chapter- 4 in Accumulation by Dispossession: Transformative Cities in the New Global Order Edited by Swapna Banerjee-Guha Sage, New Delhi, India
- 2008 ‘Inclusive or Contested? Conceptualizing A Globalized Bangalore’ in Mahadevia D (edt) Inside the Transforming Urban Asia – Policies, Processes, and Public Action Concept, New Delhi
- 2008 (with) Bhuvanewari R, Rajan P., & Manjunath R., 2008 ‘Fractured’ Terrain, Spaces left over, or Contested? - A Closer Look at the IT-dominated Territories in East and South Bangalore’ in Darshini Mahadevia (edt) Inside the Transforming Urban Asia – Policies, Processes, and Public Action Concept, New Delhi
- 2008 ‘Milieux d’affaires, société civile & politiques anti-pauvres’ (in French) (Revitalizing the Indian city: The business community, civil society & anti-poor policies) in Agone 38 and 39 – Issue on ‘Cities and social resistance’ (<http://atheles.org/agone/revueagone/agone38et39/>)
- 2008 ‘Occupancy Urbanism: Radicalizing Politics and Economy beyond Policy and Programs’

- 2008 'Transformative Urbanisms: Walter Benjamin strolls through Occupant Cites' A traveling exhibition on Urbanism (Original in Catalan & Spanish) in CCCB POST IT Edited by: CCCB i Direcció de Comunicació de la Diputació de Barcelona Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona along with the Communication Direction of the Diputació de Barcelona Languages: catalan, spanish, english ISBN: 978-84-9803-275-8
- 2007 'Occupancy Urbanism: Ten Theses' pg 538 in Sarai Reader 07: Frontiers New Delhi
- 2007 'Okkupativer Urbanisms: die Stadt der Nutzer' (in German) (with Bhuvanewari R.,) in Indischer Inselurbanismus ArchPlus 185 Berlin November 2007
- 2006 (with R. Bhuvanewari) 'Urban futures of poor groups in Chennai and Bangalore: How these are shaped by the relationship between Parastatal and Local Bodies' Ch. 10 in Local Governance in India: Decentralization and Beyond by Niraja Jayal, Amit Prakash, Pradeep Sharma (edt.) Oxford University Press New Delhi
- 2005 "*Un-planned, Illegal, Non-conforming*": *An emerging subversive of Touts, Pirates, and the Ghosts*" in "*Bare Act*" Sarai Reader 05 February Sarai –CSDS
- 2004 Remembering act Review of Book Landscapes of Urban Memory: The Sacred and the Civic in India's High-Tech City by Smriti Srinivas In *Down To Earth*, Issue: Sep 30, 2004
- 2004 'Urban land transformation for pro-poor economies' Geoforum, Volume 35, Issue 2, March (pp. 177-187)
- 2003 *From Income to urban contest in global settings: Chronic Poverty in Bangalore* Ch. 6 in Chronic Poverty in India published by the Chronic Poverty Reseach Centre, University of Manchester and the Indian Institute of Public Administration. (also working paper #4 in the same series)
- 2001 *Politics by Stealth?* in Insights Development Research (# 38 November) ID21 at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex
- 2001 (with Bhuvanewari, R) 'Democracy, Inclusive Governance and Poverty in Bangalore' The University Of Birmingham Urban Governance, Partnership and Poverty Working Paper 26, May; Accessible at:
- 2000 (with Gururaja Budhya) *The Politics of sustainable cities: The case of Bengare, Mangalore in Coastal India* in Environment and Urbanization Volume 12, #2 October
- 2000 *Governance, Economic Settings, And Poverty In Bangalore, India* Environment and Urbanization Vol. 12 No. 1 April
- 1998 (With Bengani N.) '*The Civic politics of industrial districts in Delhi*' Chapter 12 in Holmstrom M. & Cardenne P. (Ed's.) *Decentralized Production in India: Industrial Districts, Flexible Specialization, and Employment*' Sage New Delhi

- 1993 *Urban productivity from the grassroots*, article in a special issue of the Third World Planning Review on 'Urban Productivity' Vol.15 no. 2, May
- 1992 With Krishnamurty A.K. '*Community Development: The Indian Experience*' in Proceedings of the Third HABINET International Seminar CEHAP, National University, Medellin, Colombia
- 1989 'Understanding household productivity within the framework of urban structuring in Housing and Income' in Mulkh Raj and Nientied P. (eds.) *Third World Urban Development* Oxford University Press New Delhi
- 1989 'Understanding household productivity within the framework of urban structuring in Housing and Income' in Mulkh Raj and Nientied P. (eds.) *Third World Urban Development* Oxford University Press New Delhi
- 1985 With Hua Z. 'Low-rise, High-density developmental possibilities for the Golden Triangle area in down town Kaula Lumpur' in *Implications of high-rise high- density Development in Kaula Lumpur*. Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), Kuala Lumpur
- 1985 '*Informal Vs Formal Housing in Delhi, India*' in 'Third World Housing' *Architecture Review*, London, August

Book

Jobs, land and urban development: The economic of success of small manufacturers in East Delhi, 1991 India. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Book Manuscripts under preparation: a) Neighborhood as Factory: How land embeds politics to shape most city economy, (under invitation, Routledge City Series India: b) Constructing Bangalore's Poor: Politics, land, and Economy' (with Raman B.,) under invitation from Francis & Taylor, New Delhi

International Conferences / Workshops and Lectures

- 2015 Invitee to Workshop on 'Unlocking Land for Urban Growth' Hosted by NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad In collaboration with the World Bank (July 9-10)
- 2015 Discussant in 'Capital, urbanization and land in India and China' IFP, Pondicherry 17-18 July Finurbasia project, French National Agency for Research
- 2015 Presenter 'Land versus Housing as Political Space' in RETHINKING PRECARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS works, paths and interventions AFC, LAVUE (CNRS) UMR, Centre SUD 8-9 June Paris
- 2015 "Urban Local Government roles in Emerging Trans-national Economy In India and China" *in session*: State rescaling and the politics of producing competitive urban spaces" in symposium Comparing urban dynamics in China and India. CNRS' labs, le Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud et le Centre d'études sur la Chine moderne et contemporaine. and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Paris, March 18th and 19th
- 2015 "Opaque" Life World In Urban Spaces: Framing Perspectives, Elements, and Ideas Of Politics in Urban 'present' and Urban 'future': Building accountable governance for inclusive spaces and shared wellbeing in India, Ford Foundation, Delhi, 9 & 10 January

- 2014 “Materialised Uncertainty” as Political Spaces in Urban Futures in an international workshop by the LSE Cities Group at the London School of Economics and Political Science “Asian Century”: Uncertainty, Speculation, Experimentation in New Delhi, Max Muller Bhavan on Thursday, 13 November
- 2014 Cities beyond the logic of the Plan: Some reflections problematising ‘Informality’ at an international workshop Sept. 09 to Sept. 12, at the International Graduate Program Berlin - New York - Toronto Center for Metropolitan Studies TU Berlin.
- 2014 “The Right to Occupy: An alternative view of Economy” Oral and Paper presentation in Session titled “Social Justice and the City in East Asia” and Chair of session: Territory Migration, Citizenship and Justice; both at the 7th East Asian Regional Conference in Alternative Geography (EARCAG) “The Right to Inhabit; the Asian Challenges” Osaka, Japan for 23-28 July 2014.
- 2014 Spatializing contests over land and water via the frame of Legal Pluralism and Occupancy Urbanism March in ‘Governing Land and Water Resources The Demise of the Collective Voice’ Columbia’s Global Center South Asia & Center on Global Legal Transformation in Mumbai March
- 2014 Re-embedding Economy in a Small Town Large Context in ‘Subaltern Urbanization in India’ A Research Programme funded by CNRS 2011-2014 coordinated by CHS Delhi, IFP Pondicherry, CPR Delhi.
- 2013 Everyday Occupancies and the Practice of Social Justice In Social Justice, an international workshop organised by the Dept of Geography, Critical Geography Group, HKBU Hong Kong December 03
- 2013 Occupied and Possessed Cities: Territoriality, Information, and Techno-Managerial Politics In The Social and Cultural Life of Information at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi November
- 2013 Two sessions in an international conference ‘The suburban revolution?’ as part of the int. research project: Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land and Infrastructure in the 21st Century The City Institute at York University held at York University September 25-28; Session 1: 2013 September *Conceptualizing land as contested territory in the South* in Panel #29: “Formal/informal development” (Land and Housing Markets Group) Saturday 28th ; Session 2: Member of panel presentation: *New Geographies of Urban Theory: Where Exactly is Global?* Speakers: Roger Keil (York University), Shubhra Gururani (York University), Alan Mabin (University of the Witwatersrand), Ananya Roy (University of California, Berkeley), Solomon Benjamin (India Institute of Technology), Fulong Wu (University College London), Stefan Kipfer (York University), Linda Peake (York University) Friday 27th.
- 2013 *Occupancy Urbanism as a way to expand the 'South' of 'Southern Cities'* at Univ. of Toronto Scarborough's Geography 30th Sept
- 2013 Discussant and Session Chair at *One Day International Workshop On Legal Issues Relating To Service Delivery In Informal Settlements*, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 25th June.
- 2013 Discussant to papers by Sanjay Srivastava and Thomas Blom Hansen in "In the name of the ordinary" CeMIS workshop June 11-12, Göttingen, Germany.
- 2013 ‘*Periurbanization as a Political Project*’ for a panel: ‘Informality, Irregular Settlements, Occupancy Urbanism’ in the conference, ‘The Politics Of Periurbanization in Asia’ held between June 7-9 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
- 2013 ‘*Urban Practice as Critical Theory*’ in ‘Urban Practices, Legal Encounters: Intersects beyond the grid and the survey’ Urban Worlds Seminar Series by the Ligi - Comparative Urban Studies Network and the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Univ. of

- British Columbia, June 3rd 2013 (Panel: Solomon Benjamin, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras; Renisa Mawani, Department of Sociology, UBC, Nicholas Blomley, Simon Fraser University) June
- 2013 *Neighborhoods as Factories: ways to think about Land, Politics as these co-produce economy in most Indian and some Chinese cities* May 28th Public Lecture at the Lichtenberg Kolleg, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany May
- 2013 *Economy from territorial histories and logics* talk at the Dept. of Geography, University of Lausanne Switzerland May
- 2013 'Urban Contests' Talk at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland May
- 2013 *Land and governance in the periphery of Indian metropolitan areas: the example of Bangalore* IGCS workshop on urban sustainability held in Chennai India. IIT-M, Chennai. February
- 2013 'Territories Possessed and Globalized: The Contemporary Making of South Canara, Coastal South India' January 16, CEMIS Colloquium Gottingen January
- 2012 'Co-Produced "Innovation": Embedding in Politicized Institutions and Land' at 'Low Tech/High Tech: For a New Mapping of Assembly Methods' International Workshop URMIS IRD, Paris Diderot, LESC CNRS Paris December 17-19th Paris December
- 2012, Discussant in the workshop, *EXTRAPOLITICS Indian Democracy and the Political "Outside"* Dec. 5-7, 2012 December
- 2012 *Progressive Possibilities in Occupant Urbanism's Contesting Properties* Talk at the UCLA International Institute & Center for India and South Asia March 13
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/calendar/showevent.asp?eventid=9335>
- 2012 *Fearing the 'Opaque' City: Urban Renewal, Transparency, and Participation* Talk at the Center for South Asia, Stanford University March 07
http://southasia.stanford.edu/events/fearing_the_opaque_city_urban_renewal_transparency_and
- 2012 "Occupancy Urbanism's Radicalization of Property in Land and Economy" Paper at the international conf. 'Property Rights and the Human Rights Agenda' March 1-2, 2012, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas School of Law.
- 2012 *"The 'Opaque' City: Some Thoughts About the Practice of Planning"* Talk at the South Asia Institute and Community and Regional Planning Program, UTSOA University of Texas Austin March 01 <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/southasia/events/22329>
- 2012 Panel Discussant for the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Platinum Jubilee Conference On Globalization and Social Transformation: The Indian Experience, 17th to 19th February
- 2011 "Researching Indian-Chinese Urbanisms: Some empirical and conceptual issues" in an Rethinking Asia in the Age of Globalisation Dec 01-02, 2011 HK Baptist University
- 2011 Occupancy Urbanism as Transcendent Practice: Some narratives beyond 'resistance' in Transcendence and Control in a Global City TISS October 3-5, 2011
- 2011 'The invisibilities of cities and Policy' Modern South Asia International Workshop, 'The Politics of Poverty and the Politics of the Poor' at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Goettingen, Germany, 6-July 24th
- 2011 *Urban Utopianism: Some thoughts from the Imperfect City* In 'Urban Utopianism' An International Workshop Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University and Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong 12-14 May, 2011

- 2011 '*Fearing the Unruly City*' Presentation at the panel 'The Politics and Economics of Land' conference *The 21st Century Indian City: Developing and Agenda for Urbanization in India* International Conference by the Center for South Asian Studies, International and Area Studies, University of California Berkeley March 23rd to 25th 2011, New Delhi
- 2011 Presentation at the conference on India and China Rising Powers: Oxford University's compass Group, GoldSmith College London, CSDS in Delhi. February:
- 2010 '*Urban Planning: Contested Governance, Development and Poverty in Bangalore*' Keynote Presentation on panel on Urban Governance in 'Infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation, and Urban Planning' International Conference at CiSTUP, IISc November
- 2010 '*Dissent, Debate, (and Disconnected?)* in the City Panel of the 'The Delhi Platform' CHS-SARAI-CPR Public discussion series November
- 2010 *Intersects between Indian and Chinese Vernacular Urbanisms* at the MPI MMG Institute Colloquium paper presentation MPI-MMG September
<http://www.mmg.mpg.de/special-output/on-line-lectures/solomon-benjamin-national-institute-for-advanced-study-bangalore/> .
- 2010 '*Subaltern*' *Globalization: Intersects between Indian and Chinese Urbanisms* Wednesday Lecture Series NIAS August
- 2010 Paper presentation: '*Cities within and beyond the plan: reading Bangalore's multiple contesting terrains*' in *The City in South Asia*, 'Minipaku' National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka Japan, July 18th -20th
- 2010 An Urban Geography of Fear: Planners, Squatters, Hawkers, and Occupiers in 'Emotion and Space', NIAS Bangalore June
- 2010 Paper presentation: 'Panoptic desires confront an unruly poor' in the National Conference: '*Power In Modern India*' 25-27 March 2010 Centre for Political Studies JNU
- 2010 Discussant in for panel: 'The Civic and the Public in Urban Environmental Conflicts' in the international conference: "*Urban Ecologies in Asia*" March 12-14, 2010 The University of Hong Kong
- 2010 Discussant in the international workshop '*Contesting The Indian City: State, Space, And Citizenship In The Global Era*' co-sponsored by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the Centre for Studies in the Social Sciences, Calcutta and March 5 and 6
- 2010 Key note Presentation: 'Re-Politicizing Bangalore's Governance' at the "*National Seminar on the Urban Growth of Bangalore with special reference to Bangalore cantonment*" (1809-2009)" Christ University, Bangalore, 18th -20th February 2010 funded by the Indian Council for Historical Research and Christ University.
- 2010 Presentation: 'Bangalore IT and other economies' at the City Planning Institute Guangzhou, Guangzhou China March 12th
- 2010 Paper presented: 'Subaltern' Globalism: Thinking beyond the 'Designed City' at the international conference "Making Global Cities and the World Economic Crisis" University of Minnesota and Beijing University Shenzhen, Shenzhen China January
- 2010 'Master Planning and its discontents' presentation at NIAS interdisciplinary symposium on 'Structure and its Discontents, February 26th
- 2009 "Thinking City Politics 'Ground up'" at the symposium "*The Un-disciplined City*" at the City Centre for Policy Research New Delhi December
- 2009 'Participatory environmental planning' Presentation at the *Community Based Urban Design and Planning* Annual conference of the Southern Chapter of the Indian Institute of Urban Designers (IUDI) in Ernakulam, Kerala in October 2009
- 2009 'Cities from the Ground up: Embedded Urbanism in Land, Economy, and Politics' Lecture series of the SPURS Program, Dept of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT, February

- 2009 “Occupancy Urbanism: unexpected contestations to Indian Mega Globalization” in the lecture series, “State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian Cities in the Global Era?” Center for South Asian Studies University of Michigan January
- 2008 ‘Indian & Chinese Occupancy Urbanism: Disrupting the Nation State & appropriating High Modernism’ at the DeBallie symposium By-Pass, an international symposium about urban culture and everyday life in the rapidly transforming mega cities of India and China. Nov.
- 2008 Invited Presentation ‘Holding Spaces in Contested City Terrains’ at an international workshop on Globalizing Cities in the South at the Institute of Global Cities, University of Minnesota May 14th -17th
- 2007 August Paper presentation in panel on mini publics: ‘Remaking Politics: Mini-Publics to Globalize Indian Metros?’ & Poster presentation ‘The Persistence of Politics: Conflictual Urbanism in the Global South’ at American Political Scientist Association (APSA) Chicago.
- 2007 Paper Presentation ‘Geographies of New Capitalism in Metro India’ paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers San Francisco April
- 2006 ‘*Politics of Land Titling – insights from the new economy in Metro India*’ presentation at the international workshop ‘Social and economic impacts of land titling in urban and peri-urban areas’ Oxfordshire England December
- 2006 ‘*Politics of Occupancy*’ paper presented at a national workshop ‘Metrolog(ue)’ by SARAI and CRIT, Bombay December
- 2006 ‘*Claiming the City: Beyond Social Movements*’ Lecture at a lecture series ‘Claiming Political Space’ by the Dept. of Geography and the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota November
- 2006 ‘*Urbanism via De-facto Materiality*’: Paper presented at the International conference: ‘Accumulation, Dispossession and Transformation in Mega Cities of the New Global Order’ University of Bombay October
- 2005 Comments on research papers on Delhi and Bangalore in an advisory meeting of the IDS research project, “*Rights, Representation, and the Poor: Latin America and India*”, 21 to 22 July 2005, at Bellagio Conference Centre, Bellagio Italy.
- 2004 ‘*Innovating Neighborhoods: Ethnographers and Anthropologists in a New War?*’ Presentation in *DOORs of Perception 05* Delhi March
- 2004 “*Non-conforming, Illegal, Un-planned, copy culture, Innovation: The multi-headed hydra of East Delhi*” in *Contested Commons/Trespassing Publics: A Conference on Inequalities, Conflicts and Intellectual Property* 6th - 8th January 2005 in New Delhi, India. Sarai/CSDS /Alternative Law Forum
- 2004 ‘*Flexible’ collaborations in building Radical theory*’ in *Networks And Collaborations* Alternative Law Forum Bangalore, November
- 2004 ‘The Vernacular and the Global in Emerging Urbanisms’ in *Emerging Urbanism: A Comparative Workshop* SPA-Sarai, CSDS New Delhi. 27-28 October
- 2004 ‘*Global – Local Contest in Small Town Regions in Coastal South India*’ paper presented at the Second Cities in a Global World at Cornell University May 7-8
- 2004 ‘*Neighborhood as Factory: The evolution of politicized societies in East Delhi*’ as part of lecture series ‘Urban Cultures & Politics, the Delhi series’ at Sarai, Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies Delhi
- 2003 ‘*Chronic poverty in Contested Settings: Case of Bangalore*’ Presentation on Chronic Poverty in Bangalore at the first Chronic Poverty conference at the Chronic Poverty Centre at the University of Manchester, UK

- 2003 *'Real estate issues in the peri-urban areas in Bangalore'*, Lecture series at the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Cambridge Massachusetts.
- 2003 Presentation at the Rural – Urban Symposium of the World Bank, Washington DC.
- 2002 Presentation on Bangalore as part of a Bangalore panel at the *City One* Sarai workshop held in Delhi
- 2001 "Poverty and Human Development Monitoring System" Workshop by the Planning Department, Government of Karnataka and the Institute of Social and Economic Change Bangalore
- 2000 Participant at the Salzburg Seminar session 378 "The Entrepreneurial City" at Salzburg Austria
- 2000 Panelist for the session on Housing, Infrastructure, Power supply in meeting to formulate an HDR for Tamil Nadu. State Planning Department Govt. of Tamil Nadu and the UNDP
- 1999 Lectures tour to the US: Dept. of Urban Studies, MIT, Cambridge Mass, Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Cambridge Mass, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley.
- 1999 Presentation of research findings from Bangalore in a workshop: 'Urban Governance, Partnership, and Poverty' at the School of Public Policy, The University of Birmingham.
- 1999 Presentation of paper 'Housing Transformation For Livelihood Generation' in *Transformation of Government Built Dwellings as Housing Supply* National Institute of Urban Affairs, and the Centre for Architectural Research and Development Overseas (CARDO), University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
- 1999 'Sustainable Urban Development: The case of Bangalore' A consultation workshop for stakeholders organized by the Sustainable Development Research Institute, University of British Columbia, Tata Energy Research Institute, Institute of Social and Economic Change, and TIDE funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Bangalore
- 1999 'UNDP India Poverty Consultation Workshop for the World Development Report on poverty 2000/1' New Delhi. *Discussant and Rapporteur for Session on the Urban Sector: 'Opening up Urban Poverty Issues'*
- 1998 Formulation of a National Urban Slum Policy -- Regional Expert Group Meeting organized by the Department for International Development, British High Commission, Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. Bombay. *Inputs on issues of urban land management, tenure to stimulate neighborhood economies.*
- 1998 Meeting on the 73rd. and 74th. Constitutional Amendments to decentralize governance. The Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) Bangalore *Presentation on the 74th. CA for urban local bodies: Their operational experiences*
- 1997 'Managing Local Economic Development: Skill Development and Capacity Building for Municipal Governments' a technical session in 'Training strategies for capacity Building of Municipal Governments' a policy workshop by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation New Delhi
Presentation of case material and discussions on implications for training policy
- 1997 'Operational lessons and research agendas from EU funding for urban poverty' in a workshop: 'Utilization of AID in Local Development' Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore
- 1996 Participation in 'Manufacturing Cities' an International Symposium held at Harvard University. Presentation of my dissertation research by Prof. Lisa Peattie
- 1995 'Channelization of the River Yamuna: Destruction through Development?' Paper presented at a seminar on 'Delhi's Water Problems & Alternatives' arranged by the

- Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage. India International Center New Delhi
- 1991 Co-author, and presented paper: '*Community Participation: The Indian Experience*' in the 3rd Habitat International Seminar on 'Community Participation' held at Medellin, Colombia
- 1988 Paper presented at an international conference, '*Income & Housing*' sponsored by Housing and Urban Development Corporation and Institute of Housing Studies Rotterdam, New Delhi
- 1987 Paper presented (with Prof. William Doebele) *Land Policy and Urban Productivity* in SIGUS (Special Interest Group for Urban Settlements) International Workshop: 'Housing & Urban Development', MIT Cambridge
- 1987 *Neighborhood Factories* Presentation (with Prof. William Doebele) in an international workshop on Urban Land Policy, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge
- 1985 International conference on High Density Urban Architecture, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia sponsored by the Malaysian Institute of Architects, and the Aga Khan Program at MIT and Harvard
- 1984 Display Panel Monastic Settlements in Ladakh (with Pratap Patrose) for Environment Design Research Association (EDRA) Conference, San Diego
- 1984 Paper on Informal Housing Transformations in Urban India presented at the 'Built Form & Culture Conference', Lawrence, Kansas

Significant Policy Documents

- 2015 'Reinforce, not relinquish, society's embedded energy' in State of Environment in India: 2015 CSE New Delhi.
- 2011 (with Bhuvaneshwari Raman) 'Claiming Land: Rights, Contestations and the Urban Poor in Globalized times' in Right to the City UNESCO – Most Policy Paper Series July
- 2004 Background paper on urban poverty and disparity for the Karnataka Human Development Report (KHDR-II) Planning Department, Government of Karnataka. Sponsored by the UNDP's HDR division (Coordinating a team of three researchers)

International Research Networks

Canadian Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land, and Infrastructure in 21st Century: Member of the fifteen 'co-applicants', this is part of a wider group of more than 40 collaborators in a long term international research collaborative funded \$3.5 million under the Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI), Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada). The Indian component looks at issues of the urban periphery in various thematic areas: Governance, Land, Everyday practices, Waste and Ecology.

HK and East Asia: Indian and Chinese Urbanisms: With Wing Shing Tang (Dept. of Geography at the Hong Kong Baptist University) CRIT Mumbai: P Shetty & R Gupte, B Raman Jindal Delhi. This networks works on the idea of 'Co-produced Urbanism. It re-thinks the urban not as bounded but inter-connected ideas and practices

French:

- a) (*Ongoing*) *Surburbin (Subaltern Urbanisation in India) Project* with the Urban Dynamics group of the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CHS), New Delhi. The

Programme focuses on a relatively untouched area of small town and large villages undergoing rapid urbanisation and transformation into urban regions.

- b) 'Low Tech/High Tech: New Mappings of Assembly Methods: Research Group on Innovation, Invention and Technological Change; Co-ordinated by Denis Vidal (IRD), Emmanuel Grimaud (CNRS), at the URMIS IRD, Paris Diderot, LESC CNRS Paris. This brings together inventors, academics in a series of workshops (2012, 2011) that work through these binaries by focusing on actual practices and processes.

UK: Rising Powers: India and China's City relations in the post 2008 financial crises: With Michael Keith, Oxford University's Compass Group, and John Lash, Abdou Malik Simone this explores new ways conceptualizing frame new ways of understanding transformations in city spaces: political, institutional, and physical territorialization; conceptualize increasing linkages between cities in India, China, and Africa.

Doctoral Supervision and Review Committee

Since June 2013 Guide for Research Scholar at HSS, *IIT-M*:

- a) Gajendran V, (2nd Year into the PhD)
- b) Needesh M (2015 January onwards)
- c) Vishal Dubey (2015 January onwards)

Committee member at *University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver*: Rohit Mazumdar (with Prof. Leonie Sandercock as chair and Prof. John Friedman as co-members)

External reader and examiner for doctoral dissertations at:

- a) JNU: Ms Shruti Duby (with Prof. Gopal Guru, and Prof. Rajarshi Dasgupta) Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences;
- b) Univ. of Hyderabad Sudarshan P. (with Prof. K. Laxmi Narayana, Prof. G. Nancharaiah)'s Department of Sociology;
- c) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai: Rebecca Mamen (Swapna Banerjee Guha), School of Social Sciences;

Doctoral, Graduate & Undergrad Teaching

- a) At Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Humanities and Social Sciences:
 - HS 5076 Urbanisation and Development
 - HS 5040 Built Environment and Society
 - HS 7006 Urban Futures: Indian and Chinese interconnected Urbans
 - 6008 Demography, Infrastructure and Housing
 - HS 3024 Research Methods and Project Evaluation (Co-taught with Prof. Muraleedharan)
- b) As faculty at NIAS's School of Social Sciences:
 - Co-anchored across schools, NIAS's Doctoral Foundation Program and Foundation Course Lecture: Introducing the Urban;
 - Lecture inputs into the School of Social Science's foundation course via four thematic lectures;
 - Inputs into Doctoral course Research Methodology on Qualitative Research.
 - URPP seminar course 'Reading Cities from the Grassroots': Participants included two doctoral students and six others: an activist, two journalists, one architect, one planner, and one sociologist. The emphasis in this approach was to mobilize the *City As Lab*, to

- generate new and locally useful contextual theory based on four field locations in Bangalore
- Advanced 'reading the city' reading course for doctoral level students
- c) As faculty at the Dept. of Political Science University of Toronto, Canada: Responsibility for two full time courses on Urban Studies and occasional graduate seminars:
- *Globalization and Urban Politics*
 - *Politics and Third World City Planning*
 - Graduate seminars at the South Asia center; Lectures at the Department.
- d) Curriculum Development and Research Projects for the *Program On Land Markets* at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge Massachusetts 1999
- e) As visiting faculty at National Law School of India University, Bangalore: Use of role playing game: 'The Politics of Urban Law: Urban Politics Game'

Critical Pedagogy

This is mobilized via media (Film, internet), collaborations with new media artists, and using 'role playing games' both as an independent scholar and as faculty in research institute and university settings:

- i) Invited residency Summer 2016 at the Asia Art Archive's '15 Invitations' (Hong Kong) to creative practitioners to look within and beyond the organisation as an archive, a collection of material, a digital platform, and a node in a wider collective network. Other participants include Zoe Butt of Sàn Art in Ho Chi Minh City; Hong Kong-based curator Inti Guerrero; Hu Fang and Zhang Wei of Vitamin Creative Space in Guangzhou/Beijing; past artist residents Marysia Lewandowska and Walid Raad; as well as artists Rashid Rana; Samson Young; and AAA team members among others.
- ii) Mentor to the City as Studio program of the SARAI- Cybermohalla's group of media artists, writers, dancers, and filmmakers exploring Delhi's emerging and past urbanism by way of city walks. See: *City-as-Studio: Process as Frame* <http://interventionsjournal.net/2011/09/07/city-as-studio-process-as-frame/> ; City as Studio 2010 <http://www.sarai.net/publications/occasional/city-as-studio-2010> ; and, City as Studio 02 <http://www.sarai.net/practices/media-forms/city-as-studio-edition-2> <http://www.sarai.net/practices/media-forms/city-as-studio-exb> See my essay, 'Arguments for the Imperfect City' in the program's publication, 'The City as Studio' (Edition 1) RAQs Cyber Mohalla Press. (<http://www.sarai.net/publications/occasional/city-as-studio-2010> July 2011.
- iii) RAQs media collective's film of Benjamin's lecture for an exhibition at the Kunstverein Stuttgart. See: *City Guide I* Lecture performance/Video, 17 min. - Solomon Benjamin - (1960) Production year: 2005 Sarai Media Lab at: Building Sight: Curatorial Project for On Difference #2 City Guide I <http://www.sarai.net/practices/media-forms/city-guide-i> See also, 'Building Sight: Curatorial Project by Raqs Media Collective <http://www.wkv-stuttgart.de/en/program/2006/exhibitions/on-difference-2/curators-sections/raqs/>
- iv) A critical look at Bangalore's IT and social development at 'Future Non-Stop' at: <http://future-nonstop.org/c/178e77b9f3cbaf9a460e654a692b67ec> and in online essays by the Raqs Media Collective: 'Stammer, Mumble, Sweat, Scrawl, and Tic' E-Flux at <http://www.e-flux.com/journal/view/14>
- v) On Indian and Chinese urbanism at *By-Pass*, an international symposium about urban culture and everyday life in the rapidly transforming mega cities of India and China. 15th Nov 2008 at the DeBallie symposium: http://www.debalie.nl/player/playmovie_v2.jsp?movieid=310981&videofragmentsi

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- vi) *'The Locality of Politics: As faculty at the Dept. of Political Science University of Toronto, Canada. Benjamin first invented this game by drawing on a real case of an Asian Development Bank loan to the towns in Coastal Karnataka, and with a project team organized this in local colleges there in 2001. Over 2006-09, Dr, Benjamin further developed this game to include mega project interventions to 'globalize' the case town; This was also used in his teaching at the National Law School, Bangalore, as a gaming session, 'The Politics of Urban Law: Urban Politics Game'.*
 - vii) 2012 *On ways to see the city: Seeing the city beyond cartography*, Keynote Speaker in opening night 'SEE' of the series 'Talk of the Town' Symposium by MOD Institute Berlin Bangalore & Goethe Institute, Bangalore 9th Feb.

Development Industry Experience

- 2003-2004 Senior economic advisor to the SCE – Creocan (India) Pvt. Ltd on the Metropolitan Spatial Data Infrastructure Project (MSDI) for the proposed Comprehensive Development Plan for the Bangalore metropolitan area. Responsible to co-ordinate and lead research studies on Bangalore's economies (IT, Garments, Silk) and their links to infrastructure, regulations, and forms of governance (Coordinating, with the DELPHI director, their team of six researchers)
- 2004 "Women in the Informal Economy in Bangalore" for the IIST, ILO seminar on 'Decent Employment for Women in India'
- 2003-2005 Principal researcher for the Bangalore case: *'Landing the IT: The Emerging Political Economy of Bangalore's peripheral land'* for 'Inclusive Mega Cities in Globalising Asia' IDPAD research project coordinated by the Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad. (Coordinating a team of four researchers).
- 2004-06 Advisor to Action Aid India on removal of chronic poverty and improving livelihoods in a critique of the Kolkata Urban Services Program (KUSP), Kolkata (Calcutta);
- 2002-2003 Sector leader Economic and Livelihood Development for the Kolkata (Calcutta) Urban Services Program, Design phase (KUSP) funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), British High Commission. Economic strategy developed with elected councils of 41 urban local bodies in the Kolkata metro area with advise on their economic mapping
- 2002-2003 Principal researcher for Bangalore's chronic poverty as part of an international research project on Chronic Poverty for the Chronic Poverty Research Centre at the University of Manchester UK (Coordinating a team of three researchers)
- 2000-2002 'Urban Governance, Partnership, and Poverty.' Principal researcher for the case of Bangalore. Commissioned by ESCOR, Department For International Development, British High Commission. A collaborative research in Asia, Africa, and Latin America with the Development Administration Group of the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham UK. (Coordinating a team of six researchers)
- 1999 -2000 Consultant `Study of Bangalore's Machine Tool Industry Cluster' (with DELPHI Research Pvt. Ltd) for the UNIDO and Indian Machine Tool Association (IMTMA).
- 1999-2000 `Study of the Silk Weaving Cluster at Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu for the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) Bangalore. Principal consultant to DELPHI Research Services Pvt. Ltd.
- 1999 The 74th. Ca From A Livelihood & Developmental Perspective,' Background paper for the UNDP on the 74th. Constitutional Amendment for the India Development Forum 2000 meeting.

- 1999 Evaluation of the 'Slum Networking' projects in Ahmedabad and Baroda. Assignment for the World Bank
- 1998 'Study of the Silk Reeling Cluster at Ramanagaram, Karnataka' for the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) Bangalore. Principal consultant to DELPHI Research Services Pvt. Ltd.
- 1998 'Re-framing Urban Poverty Questions', mimeo for the UNDP's *India Development Forum* meeting in Paris used in the UNDP paper 'Diversity and Disparities in Human Development' UNDP 1999
- 1997 Member of an International Research Team sponsored by the: 'A comparative Study of Aid to India from EU and selected EU donors and its relevance for Poverty Reduction'. Principal researcher for the urban component. Urban poverty programs in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala. European Union

National: Coordinator for CASUMM an independent research group & Development Consultant: GoI, GoK, NFI (Ford Foundation Funds)

- 2004 Principal researcher for 'Bhoomi in Bangalore Rural'; A program for digitization of 20 million land records in Karnataka, South India, as part of a research project on E-Governance Initiatives under the ICT4D project, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (Coordinating a team of 4 researchers).
- 1999 Principal researcher and team leader for a project 'Development Scheme for Basapura in South Bangalore: A proposal to limit land acquisition' for the Bangalore Development Authority. (Coordinating a team of three researchers)
- 1999-2003: Environmental Planning in coastal & central town wards of Udupi and Mangalore with their councilors and municipal councils. Engagement with the town's colleges and schools on environmental education. Technical Advice to the elected councils and civic groups on loans from the Asian Development Bank (Team of 10 researchers)
- 1998-2000 'The impact of the 74th. Indian Constitutional Amendment mandating decentralization of urban management on the local economy in seven cities and towns in Karnataka'. Research sponsored by the National Foundation for India to The Development Research Foundation of Technology Informatics Development Endeavor (TIDE). Principal Researcher, and consultant to TIDE, Bangalore.
- 1998-99 Training inputs of urban and land management to the Administrative Training Institute of the Government of Karnataka.

Funded Research

- 2013-14 *Transnational intersects and the production of contested urban space* 'Funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research in December 2013 this research explores 'China and Burma Bazaars' in Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore and Bombay. These sites have emerged in Indian towns and cities since the mid nineties, and constituted by mostly small Indian traders. They connect to small town manufacturing regions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen in Mainland China, as well as the small commodity retail locations in Hong Kong. The research covers new conceptual and empirical grounds as India and China are studied separately and post the 2008 financial crises, as emerging but competing power centers. It explores the material and spatial everyday practices of flows in bodies, ideas, finance and culture in shaping the constitution of economic, physical or political spaces of cities.
- 2012-13 *The Practice of Land Titling in Cities in Development: India, Ethiopia, Mauritania* An international research project with the French Institute Pondicherry, IFP, CNRS Paris

on Urban Land titling in India and West Africa. This looks at how real estate markets as part of a larger political economy shape urban poverty and contestations influenced by globalization.

2010-2014 SUBURBIN (Subaltern Urbanisation in India) funded by the 'ANR' French National Research Agency <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/SHSUK> . This project in collaboration with the CHS Delhi, CPR Delhi, IFP Pondicherry, analyses the logics of small town large village urban agglomerations. Benjamin researches these in South India's coastal South Canara, a 'high growth' region.

2009 – 2014 '*Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land, and Infrastructure in 21st Century*' funded under the Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI), Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada). As a co-applicant Benjamin supervises the research of Mathew Irdiculla who looks at contested sites in Bangalore's urban periphery.

As faculty at URPP, NIAS (2009 to June 2011 '*Urban Aspirations*': URPP with financial support from the Max Planck Institute (MPI-MMG) Gottingen Germany will manage a collaborative research program 'Urban Aspirations' that looks at new forms of religiosities as these shape urban identities.

Individual Grants, Awards, and Positions

2006-07 Connaught Startup grant University of Toronto, Application by U of T Political Science Dept. to the Canada Research Chair in Governance and Innovation, SSHRC

2004-05 Sarai Fellowship to develop a research program on Emerging Urbanism

2000 Fellow of the Salzburg Seminar

1999-2000 Grants by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy for documentation of the evolution of an industrial cluster and the role of land development on employment generation

1986,87 Grant by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy for documentation of land values and markets in a peripheral area of East Delhi

1985 Aga Khan travel grant to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend Workshop and Conference on High Density Urban Architecture

1985 Aga Khan travel grant to Ladakh to document High Altitude settlements.

1984 Grant from the Council for the Arts at MIT (with Pratap Patrose) for a multi-sensory presentation "A Sense of Place" on the Monastic environment in Ladakh.

1983 Inlaks scholar to MIT for excellence in academics

1982 First class First, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi