

ELIZABETH DEAN HERMANN, Ph.D.

ehermann@risd.edu

ACADEMIC

1994 - Present

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Teaching and research focus: urbanism; urban hydrology; landscape architecture; architecture; systems thinking and design; sustainable design; climate adaptation in coastal communities; gender, poverty and the natural and built environment; design and social justice; displacement; cultural history of South Asia; history of architecture and urbanism in the pre-modern Muslim world.

Full Professor w/tenure (critical review) (since 2004)

Chair, Faculty Steering Committee (2019-2020)

Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture (1994-2004)

Department Head, Landscape Architecture (1998-1999)

Founder/Director, DESINE Lab @ RISD (formerly ISUS, 1998-2016)

(applied research lab founded by faculty, students and alumni at RISD and Brown University that partners with environmentally-vulnerable, under-resourced, post-disaster and post-conflict communities around the world to create strategic impact-driven design-based and educational infrastructure)

Coordinator, Nature/Culture/Sustainability Studies Concentration (2018-2022)

(undergraduate students frame their individual disciplinary path with a study of sustainable design, environmental social sciences, environmental humanities, social and environmental justice, climate change, and emerging technologies)

Committee Service (1994-Present)

Admissions Committee (undergrad and grad); President's Advisor Board on Community Engagement; Faculty Steering Committee (Chair); Committee on Faculty Appointments; Research Committee; Instruction Committee; Global Programs Committee; Library Committee; Search Committees (Director of International Programs, Faculty in Architecture; Interior Architecture; Industrial Design; Landscape Architecture); Dean of Architecture and Design)

2015; 1999

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Aga Khan Visiting Professor, Department of Architecture (2015)

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Architecture (1999)

2006-ongoing

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Affiliated Faculty, South Asian Studies (2016 on)

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, Watson Institute for International Studies (2016 on)

Lecturer, BIARI Institute, Watson Institute for International Studies

Integrating Community Perspectives and Gender into Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Philippines (2018)

Ethical Issues at the Intersection of Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance (2014)

Engineering as Design: The Role of Water Infrastructure in Rethinking the South Asian City (2013)

Research Faculty, Watson International Scholars of the Environment (WISE), Watson Institute for International Studies (2005-2009)

1994-1998

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Adjunct Associate Professor, Graduate School of Design
Landscape Architecture and Urban Design ; Landscape and Urban History

EDUCATION

1996

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Ph.D in Islamic Urban History

Interdisciplinary between the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, History of Science (medicine), and Middle Eastern Studies. Dissertation on the Black Death and the Muslim World – contagion theories and changes to the urban built environment driven by medical, Islamic doctrinal and political responses to pandemic disease and associated environmental upheaval.

Committee: Mirka Beneš, Gülru Necipoğlu, Jerrilynn Dodds

1983

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), College of Architecture, Art & Planning

1977-1979

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Graduate Studies in Tropical Diseases and Medicine: Chagas Disease in Latin America (focus on disease and the built environment)

1977

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Botany/Biology and Environmental Science

FELLOWSHIPS / HONORS / AWARDS

2017-2018

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)

Hosted by Swami Vipulananda Institute for Aesthetic Studies (SVIAS), Eastern University. Research on community-driven post-conflict reconstruction and development, creativity and conflict, and the preservation of cultural identity

2014 - on

RESEARCH FELLOW, COLLABORATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE URBANISM, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

- 2014 **COLOMBIAN DIASPORA ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN AWARDS (SCANY/PAD)**
Honorable mention for WE'VE Place Plaza, DESINE Lab community collaboration in Central Falls, RI
- 2013 **PROFESSIONAL FELLOW, US STATE DEPARTMENT**
Economic Empowerment Exchange Program (w/Colombia)
- 2011-12 **SOCIAL INNOVATOR IN RESIDENCE, SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB, BABSON COLLEGE**
focus on women's empowerment initiatives in underserved communities in the United States and South Asia
- 2010-11 **VISITING SCHOLAR, BLANK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BABSON COLLEGE**
focus on resilience within organizational structures and cooperative business models in South Asia and, and how these can be scaled, expanded and diversified as part of a combined strategy aimed at social and economic empowerment
- 2004-05 **VISITING SCHOLAR, WATSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BROWN UNIVERSITY**
Global Environment Program – focus on megacities of the Bengal Delta, with particular focus on rapid urban growth, urban poverty, and the social and environmental implications of short and long-term climate change
- 2002-03 **SPURS FELLOW, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**
urban and regional studies, focusing on the intersection of poverty, land-use and urban flooding in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1999 **H.W.S. CLEVELAND SCHOLAR, COLLEGE OF DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**
- 1995-96 **JUNIOR FELLOW, DUMBARTON OAKS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY (Washington, DC)**
- 1986-87 **ROME PRIZE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME**
Visual and spatial interpretations of the landscapes (real and implied) in La Divina Commedia by Dante Alighieri

GRANTS

- 2022 **RISD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
Support for ongoing research on climate impacts and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies in Bay of Bengal cities: Colombo, Dhaka, Kolkata, Chennai and Yangon, \$7100 (grant could not be utilized due to economic collapse in Sri Lanka and ongoing unrest)
- 2021 **AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKAN STUDIES/AISLS**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Funding to create an online teaching module on “Coastal Cities, Wetlands and Climate Change: Risk and Resilience in Sri Lanka's Capital City Colombo”

- 2021 **RI COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**
support for the Museum of Silenced Histories visual storytelling initiative and exhibition.
- 2017 **RISD FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
support for research in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka studying the activities of women impacted by three decades of conflict), and the emergence of creativity, entrepreneurial activities and reconfigurations of social support networks, \$2,225
- 2015 **RISD BRIDGE GRANT**
to continue work developing pedagogical objectives, curriculum and physical plans for a new Centre for Integrated Design and Development in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka (in partnership with the American Mission in Ceylon, establ. 1815) that addresses immediate and long-term needs of communities impacted by three decades of civil war, \$7,500
- 2014 **ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND KYOBO FUND GRANT**
Synergies of Intention: Behavioral Change, Health, Rights & Economics – two-term interdisciplinary course offerings focused on local and global health care delivery systems, \$25,000
- 2011 **RISD FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
Support for documentation of community-based entrepreneurship in India and Bangladesh, \$3,100
- 2008 **KYOBO FUND GRANT**
Rhode Island School of Design, (w/J. Highfield and N. DePace), support for collaborative teaching between Liberal Arts, Landscape Architecture and Architecture focusing on water issues and community development in West Bengal, \$20,000
- 2006 **KYOBO FUND GRANT**
Rhode Island School of Design, support for new course offering in the Division of Graduate Studies: Design for Development, focusing on the role artist/designers can play in addressing social and economic development issues in still-developing regions of the world, \$5000
- 2006 **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
Support for on-site mapping of urban settlement patterns along major rivers of the Bengal Delta, Rhode Island School of Design, \$3500
- 2003 **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
Rhode Island School of Design, support for a flood documentary in Bangladesh, \$3000
- 1997 **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT**
Rhode Island School of Design, support for architectural research in NE, \$1,500
- 1993 **DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT**
Real Colegio Complutense Universidad de Madrid
- 1993 **DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT**
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard and MIT

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- 2021–on **MUSEUM OF SILENCED HISTORIES** (Providence, RI)
Founding Board Member
A physical and digital place of storytelling, healing and reconciliation for those whose stories have been silenced in the past. It is an initiative of the Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability (CC4ES), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit grassroots organization for building sustainable and resilient communities with environmental, social, and economic justice and equity.
- 2021–on **MAP-COLLECTIVE FOUNDATION**
Board Member
A research and conservation-focused nonprofit focused on climate change and mapping the ongoing needs of the planet and humanity through the lenses of design, academia, and health.
- 2016–on **TAASI EAST** (Providence, RI and Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)
Founder/Co-Director
The Centre for Transformative Arts, Advocacy and Social Impact (TAASI East) is an independent non-profit applied research collective working with partners in South Asia to develop and implement multi-disciplinary and multi-scalar social, physical and economic strategies for under-resourced, post-conflict and post-disaster communities. The work covers the arenas of community-led development; environmental sustainability and regenerative practices; human capacity building; livelihood development; women’s empowerment; and education. TAASI East and its predecessors, DESINE Lab and ISUS have worked in Bangladesh, India, and in the post-conflict regions of Sri Lanka.
- focus areas:
- Centre for Environment & Design* (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)
TAASI East’s CE&D was founded as a post-graduate research and learning institution in Batticaloa, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka. It was closed in March 2019 due to local unrest following the Easter terrorist bombings. The Centre was founded in response to three main concerns: chronic underemployment and unemployment of university graduates in the country; the lack of local expertise in environmental planning and design; and the sustainable development needs in the Eastern Province – an area with high poverty rates, lack of opportunity, and general under-development of inland areas. TE/CE&D was being planned in affiliation with local universities, and was to operate on four levels: a lab of environment and design research; a post-graduate project-based educational institution; a center of innovation; and as a business incubator for the launching of environmental and social design practices that commit to the training and employment of the most vulnerable members of the region as a core component of their business strategies.
- Woven Wisdom/Rooted Lives: Sustainable Handloom Village* (Eastern Province, Sri Lanka)
A speculative project run as a year-long “pop-up” planning and design studio/office where faculty and students from RISD, Brown University, and Sri Lanka developed an off-the-grid sustainable village for families living in poverty in the country’s under-developed Eastern Province dry zone. Conceived as a model of sustainable

development and regenerative land use, the village was developed to support the region's low-income war-impacted population by creating a cooperative residential settlement; a place of healing and a refuge for vulnerable members of the population – in particular women and children; a resource and training center for handloom textile production as well as sustainable building practices, regenerative farming, water management practices, and low-tech energy systems; a textile production facility; and a place fostering community cooperation in living, governance, and business practices.

Visual Storytelling Project

As part of TAASI East's (and DESINE Lab's) work with local NGOs and community organizations, visual storytelling workshops are run to give vulnerable communities opportunities to share memories, envision hopeful futures, and heal. An evolving process keeps stories and their translations framed by individual's and communities' relationship to the land and to non-human nature.

Negotiated Terrain: Climate Change, Urbanization & Environment (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Part of a larger research effort focused on coastal cities of the Eastern Indian Ocean/Bay of Bengal region. The Colombo study focuses on urban hydrological infrastructure; urbanization processes and settlement patterns; space and resource inequities, and urban vulnerabilities and opportunities in the context of the climate crisis.

2008–2016

DESINE LAB (in affiliation with RISD)

Founder/ Director

Applied research lab working with environmentally-vulnerable, under-resourced, post-disaster and post-conflict communities around the world to create strategic impact-driven design-based and educational infrastructure

focus areas:

Post-Graduate Lab of Environment and Design (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)

Founded in 2017 with faculty from SVIAS, Eastern University Sri Lanka and Dr. Dushyantha Large, botanist, TAASI's LED was founded to address the lack of planning, rapid urbanization, and climate vulnerability by offering graduate level education in environmental planning and design in the post-conflict areas of Sri Lanka. While building skills missing in the country, the lab sought to bring together existing programs in geography, engineering and environmental sciences, while addressing as well the 70% unemployment rate for university graduates in the arts and humanities. The lab was forced to shut down in 2019 following the Easter bombings in the country and the anti-Muslim violence that followed.

Narrative Flows (Kolkata, India)

Applied research undertaken by DESINE Lab (work begun under former name ISUS) focusing on urbanization, poverty, environmental infrastructure, and urban vulnerabilities.

Northern Visions Sri Lanka /NVSL (Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka)

A reconstruction plan and the development of a Women's Development Centre for the Mahadeva Achchirama organization. Carried out in collaboration with local partners and NGOs, this was a multi-dimensional and multi-scalar effort to provide vision, support, and essential planning and action-taking tools for the physical rebuilding process and capacity building and livelihood development efforts within war-impacted Kilinochchi.

Banyan Grove (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)

A design-build effort for St. John's Boys Home of the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) involving students of the Rhode Island School of Design. Adaptive re-use and reconstruction of buildings and vacant neglected land that created a new space for community gathering, study, performance, recreation and cultivation. The built effort was in collaboration with faculty and students of the St. John's Vocational Training Center.

St. John's Design Centre (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)

The aim of the SJDC was to complement the larger ongoing social and economic recovery efforts in the region by offering educational and training programs in creativity and innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving and entrepreneurship. The target audience was local 'at-risk' communities including, high school drop-outs, vocational training school graduates, artisan communities, and economically and socially vulnerable women. Funding issues at CACM put this effort on hold.

Cultural and Environmental Study of Coastal Cities of the Bay of Bengal Region

Research on the role landscape, water systems, and climate have played in the histories, settlement patterns, economies, and cultural identities of the cities surrounding the Bay of Bengal and eastern Indian Ocean.

Landscape, Identity, and Narrative in Sri Lanka

On-going research project about the historic significance of landscape and water in the lives of Sri Lanka's many diverse communities.

Conflict and Creativity in War-Time Sri Lanka

A study of human resilience, adaptability, the reparation of disimagination, and the construction of meaning in times of uncertainty and extreme violence.

Rebuilding the Post-Industrial City (Central Falls, RI)

A three-year involvement with the City of Central Falls, the Office of Planning, and the city's citizens focused on re-imagining one of Rhode Island's most economically-stressed and under-resourced city's. Central Falls was the first city in the nation to declare bankruptcy in the 2008 recession. It is the state's most dense city urban area, and is primarily populated with Colombian immigrants who arrived for textile jobs that migrated out of the country as soon as they arrived. The effort involved creating the city's first physical master plan; design build efforts in collaboration with residents to create much-needed public open space; development plans for abandoned mill and factory sites that sought to build collaborations between the State, local universities, industry, and the medical institutions; and a business incubator and training center supported and staffed by the city, local universities, and local expertise.

2010-2011

TAMASSEE INSTITUTE (Tamassee, South Carolina)

Co-Director

Collaboration between faculty at RISD and Babson, Tamassee DAR School, Tri-County Technical College and local communities in the rural Appalachian region of South Carolina to foster community-led development and the growth of creative economies (now dissolved as local partner underwent a change of leadership and objectives).

- 1998–2008 **INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN SOCIETIES/ (ISUS)** (in affiliation with RISD)
Co-Founder and Director
International nonprofit research, education, design and advocacy alliance focusing on the intersection of urban poverty, environment and community-led development .
- focus areas:
- Sarasvati Environment + Design Education Initiative*
Research effort with universities in Bangladesh and India addressing the future of South Asia’s urban coastal cities in light of population increase, environmental degradation and sea-level rise.
- Traditional Water Management Systems of India*
Research on water harvesting, distribution, and flood management systems
- Urban Flooding and Poverty in Dhaka, Bangladesh*
Research on settlement trends and flooding issues in a rapidly developing capital city
- 2005 **AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK/IMARA** (Toronto, Canada)
Consultant
Planning process for new Islamic Cultural Center and Islamic Art Museum
- 2003–2005 **ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN SUPPORT FOUNDATION** (NYC/Bangladesh)
Senior Advisor for Planning, Design and Preliminary Curriculum Development
New university in Chittagong, Bangladesh to serve women from disadvantaged backgrounds in South, West and Southeast Asia. Effort grew out of the UNESCO/World Bank Task Force for Higher Education in the Developing World.
- 1984–91 **SASAKI ASSOCIATES** (Watertown, MA)
Associate, Designer and Project Manager (landscape architecture and urban design)
- 1983 **LOOMIS BOLTON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS** (St Louis, Missouri)
Designer

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

- 2019 **RACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM** (Providence, RI)
Sponsored by Nature/Culture/Sustainability Studies program at RISD. Offered a nuanced view of the nature-culture discourse while reframing generalizing assumptions about the human-nature relationship – assumptions which persist within western design professions, the environmental movement, and histories and theories of landscape and environmental placemaking.
- 2006 **URBAN WATERS/ALTERNATIVE FUTURES SYMPOSIUM / WORKSHOP** (New Orleans)
Co-sponsored by Brown’s Watson Institute, the Department of Landscape Architecture at RISD and ISUS. Focus on the impact of climate change on coastal and deltaic cities with case studies from Dhaka, Bangladesh and New Orleans, Louisiana. (cancelled last minute due to Hurricane Katrina)
- 2005 **SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN WATERS & WASTELANDS** (Dhaka Bangladesh)
Co-sponsored by ISUS, Presidency University Dhaka, and Interface Bangla Ltd.
Conference and workshops focusing on the environmental and social crises in Dhaka brought on by rapid unplanned urban growth.

- 2004 **YEAR/S OF WATER/S: WATER, LIFE AND DESIGN IN SOUTH Asia** (Providence, RI)
Sponsored by ISUS and the Department of Landscape Architecture, RISD.
- 1993 **WOMEN-LAND-DESIGN SYMPOSIUM** (Radcliffe College, Harvard University)
Co-Organizer

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (recent)

- 2021 **URBANISATION, CITIES AND FUTURE PLANNING THROUGH DESIGN**
World Humanitarian Forum (London/Virtual)
Speaker/Panelist
- 2020 **CITY AND RISK: ACHIEVEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**
INHAF Habitat Forum (India/virtual)
Speaker/Panelist
- 2020 **FUTURE OF URBAN DESIGN: A CONVERSATION ABOUT RESILIENCE AND REPAIR**
Institute of Urban Designers India/IUDI (India/virtual)
Speaker/Discussant
- 2019 **GLOBAL DIALOGUES: THE REPAIR OF PLACE**
Rhode Island School of Design Museum
Discussant with Mihir Bhatt, Director of All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute
- 2018 **INTANGIBILITY AND THE POLITICS OF RESISTANCE** (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)
SVIAS Eastern University International Conference: Importance of Mainstreaming Local
Knowledge Systems and Intangible Cultural Heritages
Keynote speaker
- 2017 **THE ARTS IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACEBUILDING** (Jaffna, Sri Lanka)
Archive of Contemporary Art, Architecture & Design
Speaker
- 2017 **THE ARTS IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACEBUILDING** (Colombo, Sri Lanka)
US-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission
Speaker
- 2017 **THE HUMAN FIGURE IN ISLAMIC ART** (Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)
Swami Vipulananda Institute, Eastern University
Speaker
- 2017 **HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND PLACE: TAPPING INTO THE SILVER ECONOMY**
(Providence, RI)
Co-sponsored by Partnership for Greater Providence and Social Enterprise Greenhouse
Panel Moderator
- 2016 **RETHINKING URBANISM IN LIGHT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND
RECENT CONFLICT IN A SRI LANKAN CITY, UNHABITAT 3** (Quito, Ecuador)
Speaker as part Cities, Society and Culture side event, organized by the Centre for the
Built Environment, Kolkata, India. (cancelled last minute)
Speaker

- 2016 **TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY** (Kingstown, RI)
Global Product Sustainability Workshop co-sponsored by University of Rhode Island and Technische Universität Braunschweig
Speaker and Session Chair
- 2016 **DESINE LAB AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT** (Storrs, CT)
United States Institute for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship, US State Department and the University of Connecticut, Global Affairs
Speaker
- 2016 **FAITH AND MEMORY: WOMEN'S INTERFAITH STORIES AND THE BUILDING OF A MEMORY ARCHIVE IN POST-CIVIL WAR SRI LANKA** (Providence, RI)
Bridge Center, Johnson and Wales University, Gender, Faith and Spirituality Symposium
Speaker
- 2016 **DESIGN, DEMOCRACY AND WORK** (Providence, RI)
Critical Design/Critical Futures II: Rethinking Sustainable Design Futuring, co-sponsored by Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University
Panelist
- 2015 **RECONSTRUCTION IN POST-CONFLICT SRI LANKA** (Cambridge, MA)
Conference on Complex Water Challenges, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Speaker
- 2015 **SPECULATIVE DESIGN FUTURES: PEDAGOGY THEORY + PRAXIS** (Providence, RI)
Critical Design/Critical Futures Symposium, co-sponsored by Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University
Panelist
- 2014 **REALIGNMENT: DESINE LAB IN CENTRAL FALLS** (Portland, Oregon)
Symposium on Micro-Enterprise, Urban Production and the Architecture of Inclusion, co-sponsored by University of Oregon and Mercy Corps NW
Speaker
- 2014 **DESIGN THINKING** (Providence, RI)
Social Enterprise Economic Ecosystem Development (SEED) Conference
Panel Moderator
- 2014 **COMMUNITY-FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT IN RHODE ISLAND**
Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA)
Panelist and Exhibitor, DESINE Lab master planning and design in Central Falls, RI
- 2014 **TERRAINS OF ENGAGEMENT: INTENTIONALITY AND IMPACT** (Providence, RI)
Better World x Design Conference, co-sponsored by Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design
Panelist
- 2013 **RESTORATION OF THE POST-CONFLICT CITY: TRIAGE vs PLANNING** (Kolkata, India)
International Symposium on Cities Under Restoration, Centre for the Built Environment (airline malfunction en route prevented our participation)
Keynote Speaker and Workshop Co-Coordinator w/Daniel Feldman

- 2013 **IMPACT ASSESSMENT** (Providence, RI)
Better World x Design Conference, co-sponsored by Brown University and
Rhode Island School of Design
Panel Moderator
- 2013 **TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT: ENGAGING THE SOUTH ASIAN CITY** (Bogotá, Colombia)
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Speaker
- 2013 **RESILIENCY AND GROWTH IN THE MEGACITIES OF THE DELTA** (Kolkata, India)
International Symposium on Cities Under Change, Centre for the Built Environment
Speaker
- 2013 **DESIGN ACTION/SOCIAL INNOVATION** (Boston, MA)
ABX Conference, Boston Society of Architects
Panelist
- 2012 **LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND MICRO SUPPLY** Chains (Miami, Florida)
Sustainatopia Conference
Panelist with Made by Survivors (MBS)
- 2011 **ADDRESSING ISSUES OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DESIGN** (Providence, RI)
Brown University Entrepreneurship Forum
Speaker
- 2011 **SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE: MEGACITIES OF BENGAL** (Keene, NH)
Antioch University New England, Department of Environmental Studies
Speaker
- 2010 **SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE AT THE HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE**
(Washington, D.C.)
Disaster Resilient Design Conference, National Academies of Science
Speaker/Panelist
- 2010 **URBANIZATION, POVERTY, AND LAND-USE IN THE MEGACITIES OF SOUTH ASIA**
(Cambridge, MA)
Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture, MIT
Speaker
- 2009 **COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT IN KALIGHAT** (Kolkata, India)
US Consulate
Speaker: presentation of graduate student research and development strategies
- 2009 **RISD: RESEARCH ON WATER ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA** (Kolkata, India)
International Symposium on Water and the City, sponsored by Centre for the Built
Environment and the Academy of Fine Arts
Speaker
- 2006 **ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND DELTAIC CITIES** (Bristol, RI)
Water Resources Conference, Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy, Roger Williams
University
Speaker

- 2005 **WOMEN AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN BANGLADESH** (Bristol, RI)
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Economic Development Conference: Political State and the Workforce – Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, Gabelli School of Business, Roger Williams University
Speaker
- 2005 **DESIGN FOR CHANGE: THE ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN IN BANGLADESH** (London)
Aga Khan University Conference on Education in Developing Countries: Muslim Contexts
Speaker
- 2002 **WATER AS INFRASTRUCTURE: SUSTAINABILITY IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH**
(Monopoli, Italy)
Landscapes of Water International Conference
Speaker

PUBLICATIONS

- in process **CITIES OF SILT AND SAND: URBANIZATION, DISPLACEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION**
- WIDENING WATERS: LANDSCAPE, IDENTITY AND NARRATIVE IN SRI LANKA**
- BEYOND SILENCE: CONFLICT AND CREATIVITY IN SRI LANKA**
- In process **WATER, URBANIZATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**
to be published in *Living with Water: Development and Urbanism In South Asia*, Mahbubur Rahman, editor, Routledge
- 2021 **A VIEW FROM THE DESIGN COMMUNITY**
in *Accountability to Affected Populations in Times of Pandemic*, southasiadistas.net, Issue No. 192 (Feb 2021), 16-17.
- 2021 **INTERSECTIONS: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION: 1996-2021** (unpublished)
- 2019 **MAKING SPACE: CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCE IN WAR-TIME SRI LANKA**
in v.1, publication of the Rhode Island School of Design (Spring 2019)
- 2015 **REBUILDING THE POST-INDUSTRIAL CITY: THREE YEARS OF DESIGN LAB IN CENTRAL FALLS, RI**
Rhode Island School of Design
- 2006 **WOMEN, GENDER AND URBAN BUILT ENVIRONMENTS: SOUTH ASIA**
in *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Culture* (Leiden: Brill)
- 2010 **RECONSTRUCTED NATURE: THE MAKING AND MEANING OF LANDSCAPE IN EARLY MUSLIM IRAQ**
in *Sustaining the Iraqi Marshlands: Restorative Redevelopment*, Robert L. France, ed., New York: Routledge (was to be published in 2006, later absorbed into *Restorative Redevelopment of Devastated Eco-Cultural Landscapes*, CRC Press, 2010)

- 2002 **THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY-MAKING
IN BANGLADESH**
SPURS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2002 **INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONTAINMENT
SYSTEMS (DHAKA, BANGLADESH)**
In Proceedings of Landscapes of Water International Conference (Monopoli, Italy, 2002)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (basic reading/speaking/writing proficiency); Italian and French (basic reading);
Classical Arabic (reading - rusty); German (rudimentary); Tamil (beginning)

EDH (June 2022)