

Namita Vijay Dharia

Academic Appointments

- 2022- Department of History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences. **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, RI. Associate Professor of Anthropology and Political Economy
- 2016-2022 Department of History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences. **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, RI. Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Political Economy
- 2015—2016 Department of Anthropology, **Harvard University**. Cambridge, MA. Lecturer
- 2007 Rachna Sansad, **Academy of Architecture, Art and Applied Art**, Mumbai, India. Lecturer

Education

- Ph.D. 2015 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA
Department of Anthropology
Dissertation: Scaffolding Sentiment: Money, Labor, and Love in India's Real Estate and Construction Industry.
- AM 2010 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA
Department of Anthropology
- M.ARCH 2008 **Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY
College of Architecture, Art, and Planning
- B. ARCH 2003 **Sir J. J. College of Architecture**, Mumbai

Research Interests: Urban Political Economy and Ecology; Aesthetics and New Materialisms, Anthropology of Industries, Labor; South Asia

Publications

Book

- 2022 *The Industrial Ephemeral: Labor and Love in Indian Architecture and Construction*. University of California Press.

Articles

- 2022 Construction Site Pedagogies, In *The Routledge Companion to Architectural Education in the Global South*. Ashraf m. Salama, Harriet Harris, and Ane Gonzalez Lara eds. Routledge.
- 2021 Embodied Urbanisms: Corruption and the Ecologies of Eating and Excreting in India's Real Estate Economies. *Cultural Anthropology*, 36:4, 708-730.
- 2021 Labour and the temporalities of Indian design and construction, *The Journal of Architecture*. 26:6, 815-835.
- 2020 Women Architects in India: Namita Dharia in conversation with Mary N. Woods. *Marg* (Volume 72 Number 1).
2018. (revised and reprinted) The Artifacts and Artifices of the Global: Practices of US Architects in India's National Capital Region. In *Mapping the Elite*. Oxford University Press.
- 2017 Demonetization: Critical Responses to India's Cash(/less) Experiment. In Hot Spots. *Fieldsights*. (series editor, co-edited with Nishita Trisal)
2017. Cash Cultures: Risk, Hoarding, and the Futures of Indian Finance. Hot Spots, *Fieldsights*.
2017. 'Your House is Mine.' In *Manual/a resource about art and its making*. Rhode Island School of Design Museum.
- 2015 The Season of Migration to the City. In *The City and South Asia*. Harvard University Press.
2014. The Artifacts and Artifices of the Global: Practices of US Architects in India's National Capital Region. *The Global South: The Global South and/in The Global North*.

Podcasts and Digital Media

- 2020 First things First Manifesto 2020
- 2019 Walking amid Wonder: Tulasi Srinivas and Namita Dharia in Conversation. AnthroPod, *Fieldsights*, March 19. (With Tulasi Srinivas)
- 2015 The Season of Migration to the City. *City and South Asia Podcast*. Laxmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University.

Collaborative Urban Design/ Art Projects

- 2021 COVAI City Design Competition Team, interdisciplinary team
- 2017 Vision + Action Plan for BanglaTown by goodgood design
- 2011 Light Houses at the Harbor Pavilion by goodgood design

External Fellowships and Awards

- 2018 2018 Cohort, Atelier: Ethnographic Inquiry in the 21st Century. California University Press.
- 2016 Finalist, UCLA Sardar Patel Award for best dissertation on modern India 2015
- 2015 Postdoctoral Fellowship in Asian Urbanism, Hamilton College (Declined)
- 2014 Cora Du Bois Fellowship
- 2012 Wenner Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship
- 2010 Foundation of Urban and Regional Studies Studentship (funded by the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research)
- 2004 Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action, and Research (PUKAR) Research Fellowship

Academic Awards and Grants

- 2022 Frazier Award for Excellence in teaching
- 2014 Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies Graduate Fellowship
- 2014, 2010 South Asia Institute Summer Travel Award
- 2011 South Asia Institute Graduate Student Fellow
- 2009 Harvard India Fellowship
- 2008 Harvard University Graduate Fellowship
- 2005 Cornell University Helen Fagan Tyler Graduate Fellowship

Select Invited Talks and Invited Seminar/ Colloquia Presentations

- 2021 *Concrete Love* in the Symposium on *The Ideal Home: Design, Housing, and Market Capital in Modern South Asia*, University of Vermont
- 2021 Conference on Forced Labor in Construction, University of Pennsylvania
- 2020 Politics of *Pyaar* (love) in construction, University of Toronto
- 2019 Politics of *Pyaar* (love) in construction, Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University
- 2019 Unruly Kin, South Asia Studies. Brandies University.
- 2019 Design Anthropology: Landscape Ethnography and Design. Exploratory Seminar. Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies. Harvard University
- 2018 Climate Futures, Design and the Just Transition - A Symposium, RISD and Brown University
- 2017 Design Anthropology: Landscape and Cities. Exploratory Seminar. Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies. Harvard University
- 2016 Franz Boas Lectures in Anthropology, Columbia University
- 2016 South Asian Studies Workshop, Cornell University
- 2016 Department of Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College
- 2016 Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2015 Department of Asian Studies, Hamilton College

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2021 Participant and Organizer, *The Long Road Home. Panel on Labor in a Time of Migration and Containment at the Anthropological Association Meeting in Baltimore*
- 2020 Participant, Roundtable on Unexpected and Unplanned Urbanism in Cities across Asia Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Seattle.
- 2019 A Scaffolding for Real Estate: Confluences of Industry, Family, and National Development in the Indo-Gangetic Belt in Urban South Asia Symposium at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison.
- 2018 *The Industrial Ephemeral*. Symposium on *Aesthetics and Political Economy in South Asia*, at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison.
- 2017 *Drawing Dreams in Shifting Sands*. Panel on *Design Anthropology* at American Anthropological Association Meeting in Washington D.C.
- 2017 *Iron Cage Dreams: Creative Destruction in India's Real Estate and Construction Industry*. Panel on *The Challenges to and Materiality of Creativity in South Asian Arts* at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Toronto.
- 2016 *Making and Unmaking Labor Unions in India's National Capital Region*. Panel on *Between Making and Unmaking: Labor, Migratory Pathways and Material Technologies* at the American Anthropological Association Meeting in Minneapolis.
- 2016 *In Pursuit of Happiness: Body, mind, and soul in the politics of speculation in real estate. Conference on Ways of Knowing*. Harvard University.
- 2016 *The Artifacts and Artifices of the Global in the Practices of US Architects in India's National Capital Region*. Conference on *Sociology of Indian Elites*. Jawaharlal University.

Language Skills

Hindi, Marathi, English, Bengali (Elementary)

Fieldwork Experience

- 2018 *Mumbai, India*. One month of preliminary fieldwork on rest in Mumbai
- 2012-13 *New Delhi, India*. Fifteen months of dissertation fieldwork on the construction industry. Interviews and observations with individuals on construction sites, interviews and site visits with planners, architects, engineers, bankers, and contractors.
- 2012 *Kumbh Mela, Allahabad, India*. Eight research trips over the course of a year to study the construction of the temporary festival city of Kumbh. Interviews with bureaucrats, festival organizers, religious men, labourers, engineers, and historians.
- 2011 *New Delhi, Lucknow, Indore, India*. Four weeks of fieldwork on North Indian construction practices. Interviews with contractors, planners, architects and laborers.
- 2010 *Guwahati, Gangtok, Shillong, India*. Four weeks of fieldwork on urban development in North-East India. Interviews with planners, bureaucrats, journalists, and architects
- 2006 *Mumbai, India*. Eight weeks of fieldwork on women and public space. Interviews with local residents, business owners, and users around select public spaces.
- 2002 *Mumbai, India*. Fieldwork on informal market spaces in Mumbai conducted over a year.

Professional Affiliations

American Anthropological Association
Council of Architecture, India

Teaching

Rhode Island School of Design, Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences
Instructor: Graduate Seminars
Inventive Political Ecologies

Instructor: Undergraduate Seminars

History and Theory of Modern Architecture
Cities of the Global South
An Anthropology of Innovation
Design Anthropology
Freshman Seminar: Materiality Studies: S,M,L,XL Things

Harvard University, Department of Anthropology

Instructor: Undergraduate Seminars

Cities of the Global South
An Anthropology of Innovation

Instructor: Writing and Tutorials

Departmental Writing Instructor
Junior and Senior Tutorial in Anthropology

Teaching Fellow

Sophomore Tutorial on Social Theory
Ethnography as Practice and Genre
Housing and Heritage
Memory Politics
Language and Culture

Rachna Sansad, Academy of Architecture, Art and Applied Art, Mumbai, India

Instructor

History of Urbanism
Architecture as a Cultural System

Cornell University, Department of Architecture, Ithaca, U.S.A.

Teaching Assistant

History of Architecture and Urbanism
Architectural Analysis I and II

Academic Service

- 2021 Committee Member, European Honors Program, RISD
- 2021 Committee Member, Social Equity and Inclusion Rubric Development, RISD
- 2020 Guest Critic, Architecture Thesis Studio Finals, Guides: Hansy Better Barraza, and Amy Kulper.
- 2020 Committee Member, Committee on Social Equity and Inclusion, RISD
- 2020 Committee Member, Social Equity and Inclusion Rubric Development, RISD
- 2020 Mentor, Project Thrive, RISD First-Generation College Student Program
- 2020 Search Committee Member, Cluster Hires in Race and Decoloniality (Faculty Positions in History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences, Theory and History of Art and Design-Experimental and Foundation Studies, Literary Arts and Sciences, and Digital Media.)
- 2019 Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor in Residence Race and Ethnicity Studies, Liberal Arts Division, RISD
- 2019 Committee Member, European Honours Program, RISD
- 2018 Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor in Environmental Studies, Liberal Arts Division, RISD
- 2018 Guest Critic Studio Reviews, RISD: Interior Design Masters Thesis; Architecture Thesis Reviews
- 2017 Concentration Co-ordinator, Nature-Culture Sustainability Studies
- 2017 Secondary Advisor, Senior Thesis, Department of Architecture, RISD

- 2017 New Graduate Program Development Committee Member, Division of Liberal Arts, RISD
- 2017 Library Committee, RISD
- 2017 Guest Critic Studio Reviews, RISD: Travelling Architecture Studio, Department of Architecture; Humanitarian Design, Department of Architecture.
- 2016 Guest Critic Studio Reviews: Housing Studio, Department of Architecture, RISD, Pictogram Studio, Experimental and Foundational Studies, RISD, Masters Thesis Review, Graduate School of Design. Harvard University.
- 2016 Faculty Advisor, Anthrowrites Colloquia. Harvard University (secured \$10,000 award from Dean's office towards development of digital teaching-learning tools).
- 2016 Nominee, Starr Family Awards for Excellence in Advising, Harvard University.
- 2015 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Fall 2013, Spring 2012, Fall 2011).
- 2013 Teaching Consultant. Harvard University, Bok Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- 2011 Field coordinator for Harvard South Asia Institute "Mapping the Kumbh Mela Project"
- 2010 Co-Coordinator: Political Ecology Working Group. Department of Anthropology, Harvard University (two years).
- 2007 Alpha Rho Chi Medal for leadership and service, AA&P, Cornell University.