

DEVIKA NARAYAN
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APPOINTMENTS

2022 – Lecturer/Assistant Professor
Bristol Digital Futures Institute & Business School
(Academic Group: Work, Employment, Organizations, and Public Policy), **University of Bristol**

2021 – 2022 Postdoctoral Researcher
Saïd Business School, **University of Oxford**

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
2013 M.Phil. Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.
2011 M.A. Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.
2009 B.A. Sociology, St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai.

AREAS OF RESEARCH & TEACHING

Digital technology; work & organizations; economic sociology; sociology of markets;
digital economy; cloud computing; platform studies; social theory; qualitative methods

ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

Narayan, Devika (2026) Cloud Capitalism and the Rise of Scalable Digital Assets. *The Information Society*, Online First, 1–13. doi:10.1080/01972243.2025.2599589.

Narayan, Devika (2025) A Conjunctural Approach to Global Production Networks: the case of India's software services industry, *Journal of Economic Geography*, Online First.

Narayan, Devika (2023) 'Manufacturing Managerial Compliance: How Firms Align Managers with Corporate Interest'. *Work, Employment and Society* 37(6):1443–61. doi: 10.1177/09500170221083109.[Lead Article].

Narayan, Devika (2023) Monopolization and Competition under Platform Capitalism: Analyzing Transformations in the Computing Industry. *New Media & Society* 25(2):287–306. doi: 10.1177/14614448221149939. [Lead Article].

Narayan, Devika (2022) Platform Capitalism and Cloud Infrastructure: Theorizing a Hyper-Scalable Computing Regime. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 54(5):911–29. doi: 10.1177/0308518X221094028

Goldman, Michael, and **Devika Narayan** (2021) Through the Optics of Finance: Speculative Urbanism and the Transformation of Markets. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 45(2):209–31 [Lead Article].

Goldman, Michael, and **Devika Narayan** (2019) Water Crisis through the Analytic of Urban

Transformation: An Analysis of Bangalore's Hydrosocial Regimes. *Water International* 44(2):95–114.

* Reprinted: In Rural–Urban Water Struggles: *Urbanizing Hydrosocial Territories and Evolving Connections, Discourses and Identities*, Eds. Hommes, Lenna., Boelens, Rutgerd., Harris, Leila, M., & Veldwisch, Gert, V. (New York: Routledge. 2020), 15-35 [Lead Chapter].

COMMENTARIES

Narayan, Devika (2026). Making Sense of the Digital Growth Machine. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, *Online first* [invited].

Narayan, Devika & Shestakofsky, Ben (2024). Relationships That Matter: Four Perspectives on AI, Work, and Organizations. *The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, 60(4), 639-651 *Equal Authorship

Narayan, Devika (2024) 'The Political Economy of Digital Platforms: Key Directions'. *Platforms & Society*. Online First. doi: 10.1177/29768624241263071 [Invited].

Narayan, Devika (2017). 'Decoding Disruption: Lay-Offs in the Software Industry.' *Economic and Political Weekly* 52(22):16–19 [Invited].

BOOK REVIEWS

Devika Narayan (2023) Management Divided: Contradictions of Labor Management. Vidal Matt. *Organization*. Online First.

Devika Narayan (2022) Erin L. Kelly and Phyllis Moen. Overload: How Good Jobs Went Bad and What We Can Do About It. *Administrative Science Quarterly*. Online First.

Devika Narayan (2022) Patrick Burkart and Tom McCourt. Why hackers win: power and disruption in the network society. *Information, Communication & Society*. Online First.

Narayan, Devika (2017). "Book Review Essay". *Seminar*, 694. Books Reviewed:

- Nagendra, Harini. 2016. "Nature in the City: Bengaluru in the Past, Present, and Future," Oxford University Press: New Delhi.
- Upadhyaya, Carol. 2016. "Reengineering India: Work, Capital, and Class in an Offshore Economy," Oxford University Press: New Delhi.
- Udupa, Sahana. 2015. "Making News in Global India: Media, Publics, Politics," Cambridge University Press: New Delhi.

POLICY BRIEFS

Narayan, Devika and Sajjanhar, Anuradha (2019) "A Study of Bangalore's Water Crisis: Key Findings and Policy Suggestions." International Waters Network.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Best Article Award, American Sociological Association, Sociology of Development Section, 2022. Paper title: *Through the Optics of Finance: Speculative Urbanism and the Transformation of Markets* (co-author: Michael Goldman).

Honourable Mention, The Best Dissertation 2022, University of Minnesota (Social/Behavioural Sciences & Education).

International Journal of Urban and Regional Research Best Article (IJURR, 2021). Paper Title: Through the Optics of Finance: Speculative Urbanism and the Transformation of Markets.

Kauffman Foundation Award for Best Student Paper in Economic Sociology and Entrepreneurship (American Sociological Association, 2021) Paper Title: New organizational forms and market dynamics in the corporate computing industry.

Caroline Rose Best Graduate Student Paper Award. (Sociologists of Minnesota, 2020). Paper Title: *The Structural Liminality of Disposable Managers*.

Don Martindale Award: For excellence in scholarship and achievement “throughout the sociology graduate student career.” (University of Minnesota, 2020).

Best Graduate Student Paper, Section: Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology. (American Sociological Association, 2019). Paper Title: *How New Computing Infrastructures Fuel Asset-Light Economies*.

Outstanding Graduate Research Paper, Sociology Research Institute. (University of Minnesota, 2018). Paper Title: *An Analysis of Cloud Systems and the Industrial Effects of Just-In-Time Infrastructures*.

M.S.A. Rao. Memorial Medal: Academic Excellence in Research Methods. (University of Delhi, 2012).

INVITED TALKS & PANELS

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| 2026 | Plenary Lecture: The Firm in the Age of Elastic Machines. Summer Institute of Economic Geography , Toronto. |
| 2026 | Research Seminar, Between the Cloud and a Hard Place: thesis on technological transformation. Sciences Po , Paris. |
| 2026 | Speaker: Cloud Capitalism: Infrastructural Dynamism and Why it Matters. Workshop: Techno-Geographies of AI (multiple organisers) Milan . |
| 2026 | Public Lecture: Cloud Capitalism. AlgoSoc/ University of Amsterdam in collaboration with Programmable Infrastructures Project at TU Delft . |
| 2025 | Research Seminar. Cloud Capitalism. Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) University of Cambridge . |
| 2025 | Keynote Speaker, Symposium: Out of Order? Critical Reflections on Big Tech, Inequalities and Digital Futures, University of Sheffield . |
| 2025 | Respondent, Platforms & Society Online Symposium in response to: Caliskan, K., MacKenzie, D., & McGowan, A. (2025). Prodxchange: Digital-industrial economization in Google Search supply chain. <i>Platforms & Society</i> , 2. |
| 2025 | Speaker, “Scalable Digital Assets and the Unbounding of Fixed Capital” Political Science Department, The New School , New York City |
| 2025 | Early Career Keynote Speaker for Economic Geography Specialty Group. American Association of Geographers , Detroit |

- 2025 Respondent, Author Meets Critics Panel (Variegated Economies by Jamie Peck), **AAG**, Detroit
- 2023 Speaker, “Untethering: Software Assets, Competition & Change” at workshop, Royal Geographical Society (University of Durham, Geography + University of Copenhagen Business School)
- 2023 Speaker “Untethering: Software Assets, Competition & Change” **Loughborough University**, London, Institute for International Management Research Seminar
- 2023 Respondent, Author Meets Critics Panel (Management Divided by Matt Vidal), **International Labour Process Conference**, Glasgow
- 2023 Speaker, “How New Technologies Proliferate” Research Seminar Alliance Business School, **University of Manchester**
- 2022 Speaker “Science and Society Online Symposium” **Marx Memorial Library**, London
- 2017 Participant “Future of Work in India.” Participant. International Labour Organization (ILO) & **Tandem Research**, Goa, India
- 2017 Speaker, “Lay-offs in the IT Industry: Why Should We Care?” Thursday Talkies – Lecture Series **St. Joseph’s College**, Bangalore, India
- 2015 Panelist “The State of Development Research.” **ASA Development Sociology** Section Conference, Brown University, Providence

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “Infrastructure Arbitrage and Data Gravity within Big Cloud Ecosystems,” SASE, Bordeaux.
- 2026 “Cloud Capitalism,” SASE, Bordeaux.
- 2025 “Navigating platform advantages in an uneven world,” AAG, Detroit.
- 2024 “Cloud computing and the new conditions of scale making” EASST-4S, Amsterdam.
- 2024 “Cloud as Infrastructure: Theorising links between ‘big tech’ and ‘small tech’, Association of Internet Research (AoIR), Sheffield.
- 2023 “Monopolization and competition under platform capitalism,” ASA, Philadelphia.
- 2023 “Organizational Self-Eating,” Disrupting Technology Conference, Organized by University of Leeds Business School and Monash University, Prato, Italy.
- 2023 “Supply Chains and Conjunctural Analysis,” The British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA).
- 2021 “New Organizational Forms and Market Dynamics in the Corporate Computing Industry,” Annual Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference.
- 2021 “The Contradictory Liminality of Disposable Managers,” Annual European Group of Organizational Studies (EGOS) Conference, Online.
- 2021 “Cannibalization in Times of Crisis,” Society for the Advancement of

Socioeconomics (SASE) Conference, Online.

- 2021 “Organizational Autophagy: Theorizing Market-Making in the Platform Age,” Doctoral Conference on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Online.
- 2019 “Industrial Change and the Logic of Corporate Cannibalization: The Re-Making of India’s IT Sector,” Annual 4S Conference, New Orleans.
- 2019 “How New Computing Infrastructures Support Asset-Light Economies,” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference, New York City.
- 2019 “Platform Capitalism and the Restructuring of an Off-shore Economy,” Annual Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Conference, New York City.
- 2019 “Creative Destruction in the Age of Platform Capitalism,” EGOS, University of Edinburgh.
- 2019 “Between the Cloud and a Hard Place: New Computing Infrastructures and the Rebirth of Just-in-Time Logics,” SASE Annual Conference, New York City (2019).
- 2018 “The Rise & Fall of the Middle Manager,” Annual South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin Madison.
- 2018 “The Promise and Perils of Creative Destruction in India’s IT Sector,” ASA Annual Conference, Philadelphia.
- 2018 “Labor Disrupted: The Crisis and Reorganization in India’s Software Industry,” Annual American Association of Geographers (AAG) Conference, New Orleans
- 2018 “Cashing Out the City: Speculative Urbanism through the Lens of India’s Real Estate Industry” (co-author: Dr. Michael Goldman), Annual AAG Conference, New Orleans.
- 2018 “Between the Cloud and a Hard Place: The Re-making of India's Software Sector,” International Conference on Labour History, Delhi.
- 2017 “Programmed Disruption: Examining Crisis and Reorganization in a Hi-tech Offshore Industry,” Annual SASE Conference, Lyon.
- 2016 “Software-led Development: The Changing Politics of the IT Industry in India,” ASA Development Sociology Section Conference, Cornell University.
- 2016 “The Reconfiguration of India’s Software Industry: Conceptualizing Labor Displacement in the Hi-tech Economy,” ASA Economic Sociology Section Pre-Conference, Seattle.
- 2015 “The Changing Terrain of Software Labor in India,” Annual South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2015 “The Reconfiguration of India’s IT Industry: Conceptualizing a new regime of productivity,” ASA Development Sociology Section Conference, Brown University.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS – ON CAMPUS

- 2025 “A Sociotechnical Approach to Industrial Change” Presentation at UoB Business School, SocioTechWorkshop.
- 2023 Panellist on Book Panel (UoB Law School and by Bristol Centre for Law at Work). Book by Eva Kocher: Digital Work Platforms at the Interface of Labour Law.
- 2023 “How Emerging Technologies Proliferate,” Bristol Digital Futures Institute Seminar Series.
- 2022 “Organizational Autophagy” Work Futures Brown Bag, University of Bristol.
- 2021 “Industrial Change in the Platform Age.” Oxford Platform Economy Seminar Series. University of Oxford
- 2021 “New Cloud-Driven Market Dynamics in the Corporate Computing Industry,” Said Business School, University of Oxford.
- 2020 “In Search of the Cloud: A view from the world’s back office,” Just Code - A symposium on the Political Economy of IT, Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota.
- 2019 “Organizational Autophagy: How IT firms are drawn to auto-disrupt,” Department of Sociology Workshop Series, University of Minnesota.
- 2019 “Software Labor and the Internal Contradictions of Middle Management: The case of an offshore industry,” ICGC Brown Bag Series, University of Minnesota.
- 2015 “The Changing Terrain of Software Labor in India,” South Asia Seminar Series, University of Minnesota.
- 2015 “The Reconfiguration of India’s IT Industry: Conceptualizing a New Regime of Productivity,” Sociology Research Institute, University of Minnesota.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Presenter: The Cloud is a Factory Workshop. AlgoSoc/University of Amsterdam in collaboration with Programmable Infrastructures Project at TU Delft, Amsterdam.
- 2023 Participant: Platforming and Unplatforming: A Research Workshop, Arizona State University, LA.
- 2021 Participant: Winter School on the Digital Economy, International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore.
- 2016 Presenter: “Bangalore’s Great Transformation: Urban Expansion and Issues of Water Access,” presented at the Justicia Hídrica Alliance and International Waters Network Workshop, Wageningen University, Netherlands. Co-presenter: Anuradha Sajjanhar.
- 2014 Presenter: “The Financialization of Urban Infrastructure: A research agenda,” presented at the International Workshop on Comparative Urban and Regional Research, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bangalore.
- 2012 Presenter: “Re-thinking the State-Society Binary”, Research Scholars Workshop, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics.

- 2011 Presenter: “Theorizing Global Political Economy: Themes and Debates”, Final presentation at a two-month summer workshop: Researching the Contemporary, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi.

RESEARCH FEATURED (SELECT)

Singh, A. 2023, 4 December. India’s Elite Tech Schools Are a Golden Ticket with a Dark Side. *Wired*.

Nagrik Podcast, 2021, September 17. Labour Organising in Tech.

BER Staff. 2020, April 2. The Future of Employment in the Age of Robots and AI, *Berkeley Economic Review*.

Basole, Amit. 2018. State of Working India. Centre for Sustainable Employment, *Azim Premji University*, Bangalore.

Ramanathan, Anuradha. 2018, May 16. 40 & Outdated. *The-Ken*.

Sturgeon, Timothy. 2017. The ‘New’ Digital Economy and Development, Technical Note, The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). 8, 1-37.

Subramanian, Sumanth. 2017, October 24. India Warily Eyes AI. *MIT Technology Review*.

TEACHING

University of Bristol:

Lecturer: EFIMM0136 Sustainable Work Futures in the Digital Economy.

University of Minnesota:

Instructor:

New Digital Economy: Key Debates (Lifelong Learning Institute, Winter 2020)

SOC3701: Social Theory (Summer 2018)

Course Co-Designer:

SOC 3421W: Sociology of Work (Summer 2019)

Training Completed:

HEA Fellowship Programme (2024)

SOC8011: Teaching Sociology (Spring 2016)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer: Author Meets Critic. Book: Gidwani, V., Goldman, M., & Upadhyay, C. (2024). *Chronicles of a Global City: Speculative Lives and Unsettled Futures in Bengaluru*. *University of Minnesota Press*, AAG, Detroit, 2025.

Panel Co-Organizer (3 panels, with Jean-Christophe Plantin), “Cloud, infrastructure, and scale-making”, EASST-4S, Amsterdam, 2024.

Session co-organizer: “Computers and Assetization: Organizational and Historical Approaches.” Panel for Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference, 2021.

Session Organizer: “Entrepreneurial Labor,” Society for the Study of Social Problems, labor division, 2020.

SERVICE

Lead, Work Futures Research Group, Business School, University of Bristol (2022 -)

Presenter, Job Market Workshop for PhD Students, Speaker, University of Bristol (2025)

Graduate Student Mentoring Coordinator (2015-2016).

Co-chair: Graduate Students Organization, Sociology, UMN (2020-2021).

Awards Committee Member: Best Student Paper, CITAMS Section ASA (2020).

Editorial Board Member: *Platforms and Society*; *Studies in Comparative International Development*

Manuscript reviewer: *Journal of Economic Geography*; *Antipode*; *Competition and Change*; *Cambridge Forum on AI Culture and Society*; *AI & Society*, *IJURR* (x2); *Platforms & Society* (x2); *Big Data & Society*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Finance & Society*; *Journal of Urban Technology*; *Organization, Work and Occupations*; *Environment and Planning E*; *Economic and Political Weekly*; *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; *Water International*; *International Conference on Information Systems*. *Journal of Cultural Economy*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*; *New Media & Society*; *Work Employment, & Society*; *Research in the Sociology of Work*; *Information, Communication & Society*; *British Journal of Industrial Relations*; *Cambridge Forum on AI Culture & Society*; *New Political Economy*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Society for Advanced Socio-Economics (SASE)

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
