

# DEVIKA NARAYAN

Devika.narayan@bristol.ac.uk  
www.devikanarayan.com

## APPOINTMENTS

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- 2022 – Lecturer  
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

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- 2021 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Minnesota.  
*Minor: Development Studies and Social Change*
- Dissertation: *Between the Cloud and a Hard Place:  
A Study of Industrial Transformation in the Platform Age.*
- \*\* Honourable Mention, The Best Dissertation 2022 [Social/Behavioural  
Sciences & Education, University of Minnesota]
- 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 (Honors), St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH & TEACHING

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Technology, work, & organizations; economic sociology; sociology of markets;  
digital economy; platform studies; social theory; qualitative methods

## ARTICLES

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Narayan, D. (2023). Manufacturing Managerial Compliance: How Firms Align Managers  
with Corporate Interest. *Work, Employment and Society*, 37(6), 1443-1461.  
[Lead Article].

\*\* Caroline Rose Best Graduate Student Paper Award 2020,  
Sociologists of Minnesota

Narayan, Devika (2023). Monopolization and competition under platform capitalism:  
Analysing transformations in the computing industry. *New Media & Society*, 25(2),  
287–306 [Lead Article].

\*\* Kauffman Foundation Award for Best Student Paper in Economic Sociology and Entrepreneurship (American Sociological Association, 2021).

Narayan, Devika (2022) Platform Capitalism and Cloud Infrastructure: Theorizing a Hyper-Scalable Computing Regime. *EPA: Economy and Space*. 54(5), 911–929.

\*\* Best Graduate Student Paper 2019, American Sociological Association [Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Section].

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].

\*\* Best Article Award 2022, American Sociological Association [Sociology of Development Section]

\*\* International Journal of Urban and Regional Research’s Best Article Award 2021

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].

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

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/ IN PROGRESS

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“The making of a software supply chain: Introducing conjunctural analysis to industrial relations” (Under Review).

“Platform Power in Business-to-Business Ecosystems” with Greta Corporaal. In Progress for *Journal of Management Studies*.

“The Autophagic Imperative: How IT firms cannibalize themselves” In Progress.

“Untethered: Competition in the Age of Platform” In Progress.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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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

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

## AWARDS & HONORS

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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).

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2020 (University of Minnesota, \$25,000).

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship at Charles Babbage Institute, 2019  
(University of Minnesota, \$25,000).

Graduate Research Partnership Program, 2019 (University of Minnesota, \$4000).

Anna Welsch Bright Research Fellowship, 2016 (University of Minnesota, \$3700).

International Waters Network fellowship, 2016 (\$5000).

MA, Professional and Doctoral Award by Global Programs and Strategy Alliance,  
2014 (University of Minnesota, \$5000).

Mini Grant, Institute of the Environment, 2014 (University of Minnesota, \$3000).

Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) Fellowship (\$20,000),  
research grant (\$10,000) and pre-dissertation grant for international fieldwork (\$4000), 2013  
(University of Minnesota).

Krishna Raj Summer Research Fellowship with Chandana Anusha and Tanya Matthan, 2011  
(University of Delhi, 12,000 INR).

## INVITED TALKS & PANELS

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“Untethering: Software Assets, Competition & Change” Presenter at workshop Royal  
Geographical Society, University of Durham, Geography +University of Copenhagen  
Business School (2023).

“Untethering: Software Assets, Competition & Change” Loughborough University,  
London, Institute for International Management Research Seminar (2023).

Author Meets Critics Panel, International Labour Process Conference, Glasgow (2023).

“How New Technologies Proliferate” Research Seminar Alliance B.usiness School,  
Manchester (2023).

“Science and Society” Co-Speaker. Marx Memorial Library, London (2022).

“Industrial Change in the Platform Age.” Guest Speaker. Oxford Platform Economy Seminar  
Series. Saïd Business School. University of Oxford (2021).

“Future of Work in India.” Participant. International Labour Organization (ILO) & Tandem  
Research, Goa, India, (2017).

“Lay-offs in the IT Industry: Why Should We Care?” Guest Speaker. Thursday Talkies – Lecture Series St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore, India (2017).

“The State of Development Research.” Panelist. ASA Development Sociology Section Conference, Brown University, Providence (2015).

Marginalities: A Workshop. Panellist for closing session, Delhi School of Economics (2010).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Monopolization and competition under platform capitalism”, American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, USA (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), (2023).

“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, (2021).

“Cannibalization in Times of Crisis,” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Conference, (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 (2021).

“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).

“The Rise & Fall of the Middle Manager: The Case of India’s Technology Sector,  
“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 (2018).

“Programmed Disruption: Examining Crisis and Reorganization in a Hi-tech Offshore  
Industry,” Annual SASE Conference, Lyon (2017).

“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, (2016).

“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 (2015).

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS – ON CAMPUS

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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  
(2023).

“Organizational Autophagy” Work Futures Brown Bag, University of Bristol (2022).

“New Cloud-Driven Market Dynamics in the Corporate Computing Industry,” Said Business  
School, University of Oxford (2021).

“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 (2020).

“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 (2019).

“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 (2015).

## WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATIONS

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Participant: Platforming and Unplatforming: A Research Workshop (Arizona State University, 2023).

Participant: Summer Institute in Economic Geography, Montreal (*Postponed*, 2024).

Participant: On the Political Economy of Digitality, workshop with Marion Fourcade, University of Lucerne, Switzerland (Declined due to Covid, 2021).

Participant: Winter School on the Digital Economy, International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (2017).

Participant & 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 (2016).

Participant & 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 (2014).

Presenter: “Re-thinking the State-Society Binary”, Research Scholars Workshop, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics (2012).

Participant & 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 (2011).

## RESEARCH FEATURED (SELECT)

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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*.

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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Research Assistant, Liberal Arts Technologies and Innovation Services (LATIS), UMN,  
*resource creation for online teaching and research during Covid-19 Pandemic* (2020).

Research Assistant, National Science Foundation funded project (# BCS-1636437):  
“Speculative Urbanism: Land, Livelihoods, and Finance Capital.” Principle Investigator:  
Dr. Vinay Gidwani, University of Minnesota. (2017).

Research Assistant, Dr. Shilpa Phadke (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai), project:  
“Women and Public Space in Mumbai.” (2008).

## TEACHING

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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)

Teaching Assistant (University of Minnesota):

SOC 4966W: Senior Projects Seminar (Fall 2016)

SOC 4966W: Senior Projects Seminar (Spring 2016)

SOC1001: Introduction to Sociology - Discussion Section Leader (Fall 2015)

SOC 3251W: Sociological Perspectives in Race, Class and Gender (Spring 2015)

SOC3701: Social Theory (Fall 2014)

Course Co-Designer:

SOC 3421W: Sociology of Work (Summer 2019)

Training Completed:

SOC8011: Teaching Sociology (Spring 2016)

## SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Co-lead, Work Futures Research Group, Business School, University of Bristol

Member of Editorial Collective. Journal: *Studies in Comparative International Development*

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

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



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

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

Graduate Student Mentoring Coordinator (2015-2016).

Co-Organizer Bangalore Research Network Summer Workshop (2016).

Manuscript reviewer: *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*.

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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American Sociological Association (ASA)

Society for Advanced Socio-Economics (SASE)

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS)

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

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