

RITWIK BASU

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am an environmental social scientist and urban and economic geographer working on inequality and the human dimensions of climate-economic and urban sustainability transitions. I draw on critical and applied traditions in interdisciplinary, intersectional, and relational approaches across urban studies, geography, spatial and political theory, and feminist and environmental science and technology studies (STS). Trained in mixed-methods and spatial approaches, I have advanced expertise in interpretive qualitative and ethnographic methods. I am committed to collaborative, practice-informed, and context-sensitive scholarship that advances place-based theorisation and public engagement with research.

I thoroughly enjoy working with and mentoring young researchers, and actively seek collaboration across different thought traditions, practice cultures, and creative dispositions.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Human Geography & Urban Studies

Graduated: July 2025

Durham University, UK

Dissertation: Brokered Resilience: Climate Resilient Reconfigurations as Strategic Governance of Racialised Labor Mobilities

Focus Areas: Climate and Sustainability Transitions, Critical Political Economy, Economic and Urban Geography, Critical Risk and Resilience Studies, Labor and Spatial Theory

M.Sc. Natural Resource Management

2014

TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India

Dissertation: Assessing Economic Potential of Conservation in Coffee Agroforestry Systems in the Indian Western Ghats

GPA: 8.1

B.Sc. Life Science with Chemistry Honours

2010

University of Pune, India

Majors and Minors: Biochemistry, Zoology, Botany, Geology | First Class with Distinction

Diploma in Micro Planning

2010

Centre for Development Studies and Activities, Pune

- Foundational course on Microplanning.
- Practical: Microplanning study of one of the most economically backward districts of North Kerala (Palakkad).

Diploma in Leadership in Biodiversity Conservation

2010

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai

- Designed and executed independent projects on planning people-centric conservation, including inputs from citizens at the neighbourhood scale in cities.
- Carried out an independent project on butterfly transect study to assess the health of urban forests in Pune.
- Attended BNHS workshops on conservation leadership approaches and outcomes.

SKILLS

Research & Analytical Methods

- Qualitative, ethnographic, and mixed-methods research design

- Meta-synthesis and Policy Analysis
- Textual and archival research methods
- Survey instrument design, sampling strategy development, and implementation
- Field research design, planning, data collection protocols, Data Management and Ethics
- Software-aided analysis using NVivo, Coding and Spatial analysis
- Applied GIS and Remote Sensing
- Statistical analysis using Stata and SPSS; data cleaning, management, and visualization

Policy, Strategy & Development

- Policy analysis, evidence synthesis, and advocacy
- Strategy development and organizational planning for research and development programs
- Stakeholder mapping, engagement, and participatory consultation
- Public-facing research communication (policy briefs, dissemination strategies, presentations)

Research & Project Management

- End-to-end research project management, workflow design, and deliverable tracking
- Research management, including protocol development, ethical compliance, and data governance
- Grant proposal development, budgeting, reporting, and donor communication
- Interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration

Academic & Pedagogical Skills

- Curriculum design, course development, and instructional planning
- Teaching, mentoring, and academic writing support
- Student learning assessments and performance evaluation

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Lecturer in Human Geography

Oct 2023 – Oct 2024

University of Bristol, Bristol, Somerset

- Co-designed and delivered interdisciplinary modules on Global Development and Environmental History, Sustainable Urbanism, Risk and Resilience in Urban Age, and Environmental Policy integrating contemporary research and applied case studies into teaching.
- Provided research supervision, mentorship, and structured feedback to students undertaking independent research projects.
- Designed and facilitated skills-development workshops aimed at strengthening research methods, academic writing, and analytical capacity for advanced graduate students.
- Conducted rigorous student assessment, including grading, evaluation, and delivering detailed formative and summative feedback to support academic progression.
- Actively engaged in continuous professional development to enhance pedagogical practice and curriculum innovation.
- Led research-informed seminars on urban political ecology, climate adaptation, and urban geography.
- Supervised undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations, guiding students in research design, methodological decision-making, and fieldwork preparation.
- Coordinated marking moderation, quality assurance, and assessment standardization processes across research clusters in the department to ensure consistency and academic integrity.
- Contributed to institutional culture by supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, including participation in the BAME Network and Women in Geography.

Chapter Scientist & Contributing Author

Jan 2019 – Mar 2022

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Cycle, Working Group II | Indian Institute for Human Settlements — Remote

- Conducted urban resilience research, co-authored IPCC sections, supported global expert collaboration.

- Managed chapter timelines, coordinated deliverables, authored adaptation synthesis, ensured quality.
- Led evidence-based initiatives, contributed to feasibility assessments, maintained reference databases.
- Streamlined chapter production workflows and managed reference databases, ensuring timely delivery of high-quality research deliverables under strict deadlines.
- Synthesized cross-chapter findings on climate adaptation and migration patterns, facilitating knowledge integration across multiple research domains.
- Spearheaded thematic analysis for the cross-chapter adaptation feasibility assessment, contributing critical insights to global climate resilience strategies and development pathways.
- Orchestrated global expert collaborations and chapter deliverables, ensuring rigorous quality standards while meeting critical international publication deadlines.
- Provided technical support and advisory assistance in stakeholder workshops on urban climate governance and the climate-development nexus.

Junior Researcher, City and Climate Vertical

Jun 2018 – Feb 2019

UN Habitat, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, India

- Primary researcher on SDG localization for South Asian cities; conducted indicator-based research to align SDG 11 targets with UN Habitat's framework for resilient urban habitats.
- Contributed to policy advocacy for mainstreaming urban resilience, adaptation, and sustainability in India's urban flagship programs.
- Assisted in designing research and management tools to scale community-driven adaptation projects, focusing on cities in India and Afghanistan.
- Led research on climate governance integration in select Indian cities as part of the LEDS 2 initiative with ICLEI-South Asia.
- Represented UN-Habitat in stakeholder and networking events related to climate and urbanization.

Senior Research Associate, Academics & Practice

Jun 2014 – May 2018

Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore, India

- Served as the primary researcher for the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) project under the CARIIA initiative, focusing on social dimensions of climate risk, differential vulnerability and adaptation responses across rural-urban continuum in semi-arid regions of southern India.
- Co-authored multiple academic and policy-facing outputs from workstreams on climate risks and vulnerability, adaptation and cross-cutting themes of gender, and governance.
- Co-led research for the IIHS-SDC collaboration with ICLEI-South Asia, focusing on multi-city projects to build resilience capacity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 climate-vulnerable cities.
- Contributed to the UNDP India Report on Human Dimensions of Climate Change as a primary researcher and author, focusing on migration and mobility in South Asia's climate hotspots.
- Organized stakeholder consultations and provided research and teaching support for climate modules in IIHS' Urban Fellows Program.
- Contributed to institutional development through mentoring interns, grant/proposal writing, and organizing networking meetings and urban research exhibitions.

Program Officer, Environmental Governance Group

Aug 2013 – May 2014

Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore, India

- Conducted primary and secondary research on urban climate, environmental governance, and climate governance scorecards for South Asian cities.
- Primary researcher on an IDRC-funded project focusing on climate change adaptation in peri-urban regions of Kathmandu (Nepal) and the Cauvery Delta (Tamil Nadu).
- Co-led the development of a report on State fiscal instruments for climate transitions in collaboration with the Shakti Foundation.
- Contributed regularly to research concept notes, grant proposals, and theme-based essays for the Environmental Governance Research group at PAC.

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

- Basu, Ritwika. 2026. "Hidden Infrastructure of Urban Resilience: Labor, Precarity, and Economic Adaptation in India." Forthcoming, *Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy*.
- Basu, Ritwika. 2026. Review of *Laboring for Justice: The Fight Against Wage Theft in an American City*, by Rebecca Berke Galembo (2023). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Exertions, Society for the Anthropology of Work. Forthcoming.

Under Peer Review

- Basu, Ritwika. "Labour, Crisis, and the Moral Geographies of Antifascism in the Global South." Under peer review, *Antipode*.

In Progress

- Basu, Ritwika. 2027. "Youth Aspirations as Temporal Conduits of Collective Repair, Hope, and Futuring in Migrant Geographies." In *A Research Agenda for Youth and Children's Geographies*. Edgar Publishers. In progress.
- Basu, Ritwika, and Shashwat Dhar. "The Effects of Exposure to Slow-Onset Disasters on Political Activism: Evidence from Two Indian States." In progress.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

1. IPCC. (2022). Chapter 18 on Climate Resilient Development Pathways. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>
2. Singh, C., & Basu, R. (2020). Moving in and out of vulnerability: Interrogating migration as an adaptation strategy along a rural–urban continuum in India. *The Geographical Journal*, 186(1), 87–102. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12328>
3. Ziervogel, G., Satyal, P., Basu, R., Mensah, A., Singh, C., Hegga, S., & Abu, T.Z. (2019). Vertical integration for climate change adaptation in the water sector: Lessons from decentralisation in Africa and India. *Regional Environmental Change*, 19(8), 2729–2743. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-019-01558-0>
4. Basu, R., & Bazaz, B. A. (2018). Reimagining development practice: Mainstreaming climate justice into planning frameworks. In T. Jaffry (Ed.), *The Handbook of Climate Justice* (pp. 100–113). Routledge.
5. Singh, C., Deshpande, T., & Basu, R. (2017). How do we assess vulnerability to climate change in India? A systematic review of literature. *Regional Environmental Change*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1149-x>
6. Basu, R., & Bazaz, A. D. (2016). Assessing climate change risks and contextual vulnerability in urban areas of semi-arid India: The case of Bangalore. CARIAA-ASSAR Working Paper. International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada and UK Aid, London, UK.
7. Revi, A., Pahwa Gajjar, S., Basu, R., Jain, G., & Bazaz, B. A. (2016). Cities on a finite planet. In S. Bartlett & D. Satterthwaite (Eds.), *Cities on a Finite Planet* (pp. 44–63). Routledge.

Media & Policy Publications

8. Of Looming Men and Lingering Women: Materiality of Gender in the Textile Enclaves of Surat in India. Digital Magazine on Feminism and the City, GRIPP project.
9. Glocal Sustainability: Sustainable Development or Forced Cultural Assimilation. (2018). Policy Forum, Asia and the Pacific Policy Society. <https://www.policyforum.net/glocal-sustainability/>
10. Taking Cues from People's Movements for Governing Climate Change Induced Migration. (2019). Urbanet. <https://www.urbanet.info/climate-change-inducedmigration/>
11. Governing Water Across Scales: The Karnataka Experience (with Chandni Singh). <https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/governing-water-acrossscales-karnataka-experience>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

12. Governing Difference: Urban Resilience and Spatial Politics in Surat.
13. An Era of Climate Apartheid? Cities Adapting With and Under Architectures of Racialised Segregation. Submitted to Urban Studies.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Politics of Borders." Annual International Conference, 2021.
- "Climate Changed Geographies." Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Annual International Conference, 2023.
- Paper presentation. Urban Affairs Association (UAA) Conference, 2024.
- "Mapping." Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Annual International Conference, 2024.
- Basu, Ritwika and Shashwat Dhar. "The Effects of Exposure to Slow-Onset Disasters on Political Activism: Evidence from Two Indian States." Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, 2025.
- Basu, Ritwika. "Rethinking Climate Migration: From Precarious Labor to Adaptive Agents." Conference on Climate Mobilities and Migration, University of Western Michigan, 2025.
- Basu, Ritwika. "Labor Politics and Spatial Formations in Climate-Securitized Southern Cities." Santa Cruz School of Political Ecology, Session 2, American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Conference, 2026.

COLLABORATIONS

14. Building Epistemic Legitimacy in Geographies of Crisis and Desire: Methodological Insights into Studying Climate Urbanism, with Daniela Schofield (Cardiff University). Proposal and conceptualisation.
15. Disaster-Induced Political Configurations: A Comparative Study of Migrant Sending and Receiving Regions, with Shashwat Dhar (Political Science, Vanderbilt University). Early-stage; paper draft presented at MPSA conference, 2024 and 2025.
16. Climate–Labour Nexus, Mobilities Paradigm — Practitioner–scholar–policy coalition with PDAG (India). Initial conceptualisation phase.
17. Steering Committee Member, RiskKAN (2026–2028) — Knowledge Action Network on Emergent Risks and Extreme Events.
18. Researcher, Global Anti-fascism Research Network.

EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Climate and Cities in the Majority World, Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy (Feb 2025 – Jan 2026).

Peer Reviewer: World Development (2022) | Urbanisation (2020–22) | Environment and Urbanisation (2023) | Regional Environmental Change (2022) | Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy (2025) | Oxford Intersections (2026).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Royal Geographical Society (RGS)
- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS)
- British Sociological Association (BSA)
- Global Anti-fascist Research Network
- Environmental and Climate Mobilities Network (ECMN)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Christopher Moyes Doctoral Studentship, Durham University, 2019–2023
- Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience Field Research Grant, 2021
- RENKEI Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fellowship, 2022
- Student Bursary, University of Cambridge, 2023
- Small Opportunities Grant, Oxfam Great Britain, 2016
- Anubhav Development Leadership Seminar Series, Harriss School of Public Policy, 2018
- Ruffords Small Grants for Nature Conservation, 2012
- Grantee, Chicago School of Public Policy Fellowship for capacity building of young development professionals to navigate research and policy landscape for impact in the Global South (Oct–Dec 2018)

TRAININGS AND SEMINARS

- Certificate course on Social Impact Assessment, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, 2013
- Vegetation and prey-predator assessment training, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) and TERI, New Delhi, 2013
- Vulnerability assessment using SLD (Shared Learning Dialogue) approach, workshop by ISET-Nepal, 2014
- Basics of Agent Based Modelling, Gubbi Labs, Bangalore, 2014
- Training on Facilitating Participatory Workshops, Vikalp Kriya, Mumbai, 2015
- Agro-climatic modelling workshop, ICRISAT, Hyderabad/Bangalore, 2015
- Research into Use workshop, Oxfam UK, Bangalore, 2015
- Training on Demystifying Government Budgets, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore, 2015

LANGUAGES

English | Hindi | Bengali

REFERENCES

Professor Colin McFarlane
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