

# Vyjayanthi V. Rao

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## Education

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Division of Social Sciences**, Chicago, IL  
Ph.D. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology, 2002.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Division of Social Sciences**, Chicago, IL  
M.A. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology, 1996.

**BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY**, Waltham, MA  
B.A. *summa cum laude*, with Highest Honors in Anthropology, 1989.

## Academic/Professional Positions

**New School for Social Research**, New York, Spring 2005-Present  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Graduate Program in International Affairs*

**New School for Social Research**, New York, Spring 2004  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology*

**Yale University**, New Haven, 2002-2004  
*Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale Center for International and Area Studies &  
Research Director, Center for Cities and Globalization, YCIAS*

**Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research (PUKAR), Mumbai**, 2001-Present  
*Research Associate and Former Co-Director (2003-05)*

**University of Chicago**, Chicago, 1999-2002  
*Coordinator, The Globalization Project and The Regional Worlds Program (funded by the  
MacArthur and Ford Foundations)*

## Grants and Awards

India China Institute, The New School, Faculty Fellowship (2006-2008)

Ford Foundation grant as Co-Principal Investigator with Arjun Appadurai for a three-year project titled "Cities, Citizenship and Globalization: An Experiment in Global Capacity Building" (2003-06).

Council for the Advanced Study of Peace and International Cooperation (CASPIC-MacArthur) Dissertation Fellowship (2000-01).

Committee on Southern Asian Studies (University of Chicago) Dissertation Fellowship (1995-1998).

American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship for Research in India (1994-1995).

University Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago (1989-94).  
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society (1989).  
Harry and Betty Shapiro Prize for Best Undergraduate Student in Anthropology (1989).  
Saval-Sachar Undergraduate Research Travel Award (1988).  
Wien International Scholar, Brandeis University (1986-89).

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

Theories of Globalization  
Contemporary Urbanism  
Material Culture, Infrastructure and Technologies  
Theories of the Future  
Memory and Material Culture  
Development and Forced Migration  
Anthropology and Contemporary Art  
Modern South Asia

## **Publications**

### **Books**

*Heritage, Habitat and Diversity*, editor and contributing writer, volume prepared for UNESCO, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogues, 2005.

*Ruins and Recollections: On the Subjects of Displacement*, University of Chicago Doctoral Dissertation in Anthropology, Ann Arbor, University Microfilms International 2002.

### **Articles in Professional Journals**

"The Future in Crisis: Mumbai's 21<sup>st</sup> Century," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Fall 2008 (forthcoming).

"Narratives of Displacement and Formations of Development" *under review*, *Cultural Anthropology* (April 2007).

"How to Read a Bomb: Scenes from Bombay's Black Friday" *Public Culture*, Vol. 19.3, Fall 2007.

"Venture Capital" – Visual Essay with Satya Pemmaraju and Robert Gerard Pietrusko *Public Culture*, Vol. 19.3, Fall 2007.

"Invisible Urbanism/Africa," Conversation with AbdouMaliq Simone and Filip de Boeck, in *Perspecta 39*, *Yale Journal of Architecture* (Fall 2007).

"Proximate Distances: The Phenomenology of Density in Mumbai," in *Built Environment*, Volume 33, number 2, 2007.

"Territory: Non-Aligned Designs" in *Covjek i Prostor* (Journal of the Croatian Society of Architects), bilingual article, translated into Croatian and with an introduction by Aleksandra Wagner (May 2007).

"Risk and the City: Bombay, Mumbai and other Theoretical Departures," in *India Review*, Volume 5 (2), April 2006.

### **Book Chapters**

"Geographies of Inequality: Scale and Mobility in Defining the Commons," with Arjun Appadurai in *The Contested Commons: Conversations between Economists and Anthropologists*, eds. Pranab Bardhan and Isha Ray (London: Blackwell-Wiley: 2008)

"Post-Industrial Transitions," in *Cities of the South: Citizenship and Exclusion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* eds. Barbara Driessens, Franck Mermier and Heiko Wimmen (London: Saqi Books 2007)

"Post-Industrial Transitions: The Speculative Futures of Citizenship in Mumbai," in *The Mumbai Reader*, eds. Rahul Mehrotra and Pankaj Joshi, for the Venice Architecture Biennale, Mumbai Pavilion (Mumbai: Urban Design Research Institute, September 2006)

"Pirating Utopia: Mumbai and the End of Planning," in *The Mumbai Reader 07* eds. Rahul Mehrotra and Pankaj Joshi (Mumbai: Urban Design Research Institute, forthcoming)

"Object Lessons: Transforming Contemporary Sculpture Practice," in *Young Indians* ed. Gayatri Sinha (Delhi: Bodhi Art Gallery, forthcoming)

"City as Archive: Contemporary Urban Transformations and the Possibility of Politics," in *Education and Urban Life. 20 Years of Educating Cities* ed. Lali Bosch (Barcelona: International Association of Educating Cities, forthcoming)

### **Review Essays**

"Slum as Theory: the South/Asian City and Globalization. Review Essay of Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift, *Cities: Reimagining the Urban* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002), Mike Davis, "Planet of Slums: Urban Involution and the Informal Proletariat," in *New Left Review* 26, 2004, Okwui Enwezor, "Terminal Modernity: Rem Koolhaas' Discourse on Entropy" in V. Patteew (ed.), *What is OMA: Considering Rem Koolhaas and the Office of Metropolitan Architecture*, Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2003, Arjun Appadurai, "Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics," in *Environment and Urbanization* 13.2, 2002 and Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed*, New York: Columbia University Press" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Volume 30.1, March 2006.

### **Book Reviews**

2006 "Keller Easterling, *Enduring Innocence: Global Architecture and its Political Masquerades* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005)," *Constructs: Yale Architecture*, Spring 2006.

### **Catalogue Essays**

*Statics*, solo exhibition by Sudarshan Shetty (August 2004)

*Shift*, collaborative exhibition by Sudarshan Shetty, Shantanu Poredi and Manisha Aggrawal (November, 2004)

"*Making up the City*," essay in exhibition book of *Last Mile*, digital images by Satya Pemmaraju (August, 2006)

*Love*, solo exhibition by Sudarshan Shetty (October 2006)

### **Work in Progress**

"A New Urban Type: Gangsters, Terrorists and the Global City" (article submitted for *Urban Charisma*, volume under preparation, eds. Thomas Blom Hansen and Oskar Verkaaik)

“After Industry: Diversity, Development and Built Form” (article in progress for *Mumbai Modern*, eds. Arjun Appadurai and Carol A. Breckenridge)

*Ruins and Recollections: South Asian Displacements in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (book manuscript in preparation, based on dissertation)

*Globalization and the Speculative Ethic: Space, Violence and Subjectivity in Post-Industrial Mumbai* (book manuscript in preparation)

## **University Service**

Director, South Asia Faculty Forum – a University Wide Initiative.

Member, NSSR Fulbright Committee.

Member, Exhibitions and Public Programs Committee, Parsons.

Member, Search Committee for Chair of Fine Arts Department, Parsons.

Faculty Coordinator, Summer Field Research Program for GPIA Master’s students in Mumbai, Summer 2005, 2007, 2008.

Organizer, Faculty Speaker Series, GPIA Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006 & Fall 2006.

## **India-China Institute**

Faculty Fellow, India-China Institute – contributions to ICI conferences in 2006 and 2008.

Consultant, India-China Institute Collaborative Project with PIIM (Parsons Institute for Information Mapping), Spring 2006

Organizer, Authors and Artists’ Dialogue between Sudarshan Shetty and Xu Bing, Spring 2006

## **University Curricular Initiatives**

Member, Urban and Environmental Studies Curricular Committee

Member, University Committee on Design and The Social Sciences

Organizer, Symposium on “Design, Social Change and Social Science,” Feb 2008 (on behalf of the University Committee on Design and Social Sciences)

Collaborative Course Developments with Parsons The New School for Design, departments of Communication, Design and Technology and Architecture, Lighting and Interior Design

Collaborative Course Development of new University Lecture Course with Faisal Devji  
“Violence/Non-Violence.”

Consultant for The New School’s Vera List Centre for Art and Politics Fellows on their project *9 Scripts from a Nation at War*, premiered at documenta12, 2007.

## **Professional Affiliations**

Member, American Anthropological Association

Member and former General Secretary, Interdisciplinary Network on Globalization

Research Associate and former Co-Director, Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research, Mumbai

## **Professional Service**

Proposal Reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Book Reviewer, American Ethnologist.

## **Languages**

Telugu: Native Language

Hindi: Medium level of reading

Marathi: Medium level of reading

French: Medium level of reading

## **Conference and Invited Presentations**

### **Selected Presentations**

“Speculative Designs: Urban Games and Social Transformation,” panel presentation for Design, Social Change and Social Science: Catalyzing Interactions” at The New School (February, 2008)

“Broadcasting Beijing: An Ethnography of the CCTV Building, Beijing,” presentation for Vexed Urbanism: A Symposium on Design and the Social at The New School (February, 2008)

Discussant, panel on “Sacrifice, Sovereignty and the General Economy,” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D. C. (December, 2007)

“Strategies of Occupation: Grabbing Land, and the Political Agency of the Artist – A Public Workshop,” panelist at workshop organized by Apex Art Gallery and The Vera List Center for Art and Politics, The New School (November, 2007).

“Mobile Media and New Research Paradigms,” presentation for MAKE: A Studio-Based Research Symposium at Parsons The New School for Design (October, 2007).

“Art and Research Communities,” presentation in panel on “ReForming India: Artistic Collectives Bend International Art Practices,” curated by Nina Moentman at the Vera List Centre for Art and Politics, The New School, New York (April 2007).

“Slum as Theory: Density and Development,” presentation on Urban Metabolism panel, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco (April 2007).

“Comedies of Speculation: Making Mumbai a World Class City,” invited presentation, Lectures in Planning Series, Columbia University (April 2007).

“Mumbai’s Global Transition,” invited presentation, Urban Anthropology Seminar at Katholieke University Leuven (December 2006).

“Farmers, Bombers and Suicide in the Global Age,” invited presentation for “Global Lies/Local Violence” at the Centre for Contemporary Culture, Barcelona (November 2006).

“Risky Cities,” invited presentation in Prof. Lebbeus Woods’ seminar on Radical Space, Cooper Union, New York (November 2006).

“Ruins and Recollections: Memory, Historicity and Development,” presentation at The South Asia Institute, Columbia University, New York (November 2006).

“Phantom Debris and the Future in Ruins,” presentation at “Scarred Landscapes/Imperial Debris: Reflections on the Ruins of Empire,” workshop at The New School, New York (October 2006).

"Facts-in-Ruins: Archaeology, Memory and Development," invited presentation in the Peripheral Visions in Ethnography and History Lecture Series, Department of Anthropology, The New School, New York (September 2006).

"The Makeshift Temple," (co-authored with Faisal Devji), presentation at "Non-Violence: The Social Life of a Concept," conference at The New School, New York (May 2006)

"Seeing the Visible: Speculative Futures," presentation at "Cities in a World of Migration: India and China in Global Perspective," conference at The New School, New York (April 2006)

"Contemporaneity and Difference: A Dialogue on Indian and Chinese Visual Arts with Artists Sudarshan Shetty and Xu Bing," The New School, New York (April 2006)

"The Crisis of the Future and the Future as Crisis: Comedies of Speculation," presentation in "Urban Futures" Workshop, The New School, New York (March 2006)

"Post-Industrial Transitions: Citizenship and Historicity in Mumbai's 'World-Class' Makeover," invited talk for University of Toronto's Center for International Studies Development Seminar Series, University of Toronto, Toronto (February 2006).

"Transit City/Transient Citizenship: The Mumbai Makeover Project," presentation at "Cities and Globalization: Challenges to Citizenship," organized by the Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Institut Francais du Proche Orient and American University, Beirut, Beirut (December 2005)

"Planning and the Built Environment," presentation at "Mumbai Futures," PUKAR Annual Lecture, Mumbai (August 2005)

"Systemic Terror, or the City as Stage," presentation invited for the symposium on Urban Traumas organized by Centro do Cultura Contemporania, Barcelona (July 2004).

"Enclaves and the Limits of the City," invited presentation for Interracio 2004 (organized by CERC, Barcelona), Barcelona (May 2004).

"Catastrophic Commemorations: Infrastructure as Archive," paper invited for conference on Urban Vulnerabilities and Network Failure (co-organized by Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin) at University of Salford, Manchester, UK (April 2004).

"Hindu Modern: Modernist Memorials, Nationalist Architectures and Figures of Gandhi in Contemporary India," paper invited for the Yale University's South Asian Studies Council's annual conference on Gandhi, New Haven (April 2004).

"Cities and Securities," paper invited for the second annual Summer School on Globalization of the Interdisciplinary Network on Globalization, Johannesburg (February 2004).

"Catastrophic Commemorations: Infrastructure as Archive in the Age of Emergency" American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Special Panel in honor of Arjun Appadurai (November 2003).

"Geographies of Inequality: Scale and Mobility as Features of the Commons," paper co-authored with Dr. Arjun Appadurai, presented at "Conversations between Economists and Anthropologists" a conference organized by University of California, Berkeley in Goa, India (August 2003).

### **Conferences Organized**

2008 "Design, Social Change and Social Science," held at The New School, New York, February 25, 2008 (funded by the Office of the Provost)

2006 "Urban Futures", held at The New School, New York, March 30, 31 and April 1 (Co-organizer, with Carol A. Breckenridge)

2004 "Enclave," held at Yale University, New Haven, March (Co-organizer, with Keller Easterling)

2004 "Risk, Rationality and City-Life," Second Summer School of the Interdisciplinary Network on Globalization, held at University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, February (Member, International Organizing Committee)

2003 "African Cities: Remaking the Urban World," held at Yale University, New Haven, December (Co-convener with AbdouMaliq Simone)

2003 "Cities and Universities: New Knowledge Networks in the Era of Globalization," held at Yale University, New Haven, May (Co-organizer, with Arjun Appadurai)

2001 "Genealogies of Modernity," First Summer School of the Interdisciplinary Network on Globalization, held at the University of Amsterdam, August-September (Member, International Organizing Committee)

2000 "Mobile Geographies, Plural Histories: Rethinking Area Studies," held at the University of Chicago, May (Coordinator)

## **Courses Taught**

### **University of Chicago**

Ethnic Violence in Global Perspective (Joint Instructor with Arjun Appadurai), 2002

Languages of Civilization: Social Experience and Political Movements in Contemporary South Asia, 2002

Wealth, Power and Virtue (Undergraduate Social Science Core Curriculum), 2001

### **Yale University**

Globalization and South Asian Cities, 2003

### **The New School**

Cities: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives, Spring 2004 (Anthropology)

Globalization and Violence, Spring 2005 (Anthropology)

Anthropology of Global Flows Spring 2005 (Anthropology and International Affairs)

Anthropology of Global Flows, Fall 2005 (Anthropology and International Affairs)

Foundation Course, Urban Concentrators, Fall 2005 (International Affairs)

Beyond Human Rights: New Ethnographies of Ethics, Spring 2006

The Urban Beyond: Contemporary Landscapes and the Technological Sublime, Spring 2006

Cities and Globalization, Fall 2006 (Anthropology and International Affairs)

Violence and Non-Violence, Fall 2006 (Co-Instructor, University Lecture Course)

Collaborative Studio: Mobile Media Fall 2006 (Co-Instructor, Parsons Communications Design and Technology Department)

Limits of Ethics: Human Rights, Humanitarianism and Ethnography, Spring 2007 (Anthropology)

Anthropology as a History of the Present, Spring 2007 (Anthropology, Required Seminar)

War, Trade and Desire: Conflicting Architectures of Global Cities, Fall 2007 (Co-Instructor, Anthropology and Parsons Architecture)

Collaborative Studio: Design and Ethnography, Fall 2007 (Co-Instructor, Anthropology and Communications Design and Technology Department, Parsons)

Global Flows: The Making of the International Community, Fall 2007 (International Affairs)

Critical Foundations of Theory, Spring 2008 (Anthropology, Required Seminar)

Global Exchange, Spring 2008 (Co-Instructor, International Affairs (NSGS), Architecture and Communication Design and Technology Departments, Parsons)

## **REFERENCES**

Arjun Appadurai

John Dewey Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences, The New School

Thomas Blom Hansen,

Professor of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

Claudio Lomnitz,

Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

Stefania Pandolfo

Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley