

Dr. Brishti Banerjee

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Professional social media:

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Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=_6DI02UAAAAJ&hl=en

IIT Bombay: <https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in/alumni/alumni-phd/>

EDUCATION

- 2021-2026 **PhD in Public Policy**
Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
[Defended thesis on May 9, 2026]
Dissertation: *Governing housing informality: Policy categories, governance practices and lived experience in Guwahati, India*
- 2015-2017 **Master of Arts in Social Work with specialization in Community Organization and Development Practice**
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- 2011-2014 **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
Minor: History and English Literature

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant, IIT Bombay (Jan 4, 2021-Jan 4, 2026)**
 - Assisted in teaching and developing course curriculum: Critical Perspectives to Urban Space, Urban Studio, and Urban Lab, Ethnography in Qualitative Research for postgraduate students
 - Organizer and coordinator for departmental conferences, policy talks and seminars

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Independent Consultant (June 15-present)**
 - Working on a project with an NGO partner on climate justice and urban informality in cities and the pathways to develop climate action plans for pro poor
- **Research Associate, IIT Bombay (Jan 5, 2026-May 8, 2026)**
 - Worked on a manuscript (for publication) from PhD thesis titled "Rethinking housing informality: Spectral categories, lists and ethnonational politics in Guwahati, India"
- **Project Associate, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) (July 10, 2017- Dec 31, 2020)**
 - Led multi-city evidence-based research on urban informality, housing, identity and labour across Guwahati, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Mumbai, Navi-Mumbai and Delhi.
 - Authored policy briefs and research reports on migration, urban governance, housing and informal labour.

- Facilitated advocacy with urban local bodies, Members of Parliament, and ministries on housing and social protection.
- Facilitated capacity building of community leaders on relevant urban policies and master plans
- Coordinated national consultations on SDGs 8 and 11, participatory governance, and urban livelihoods.
- Represented YUVA at UN-Habitat, ESCAP, and global policy and civil society forums.

Additional responsibilities and representation

- India Focal Point for Major Group of Stakeholders (MGoS) at the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020
- Regional Focal Point (Lead Two) for United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, 2018
- **Project Associate, HCL Foundation (CSR), (April 14, 2017 - July 7, 2017)**
 - Capacity building of local government functionaries, with special focus on women *sarpanches*
 - Promotion and facilitation of community ownership in development initiatives
 - Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions in backward villages of Uttar Pradesh
 - Reporting, documentation, and knowledge management of program activities

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

2025	Conference Travel Grant, 2nd Inclusive Development Conference: Housing and Urban Land Management in an Unequal World, INET–YSI & NLSIU, Bengaluru, March 2025
2024	SSHRC Canada and Université du Québec Travel Grant for International CRACH Conference on Housing, Montreal, Canada
2024	IIT Bombay International Conference Grant for International Conference on Urban Affairs, New York, USA
2024	PhD Exchange Student to Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Lima under the Seed funding for Collaboration and Partnership Projects (SCPP) Scheme, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
2022-2023	IIT Bombay Fieldwork Grant awarded to support PhD fieldwork conducted in Guwahati, India
2021-2026	Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, Institute Teaching Assistantship at IIT Bombay
2017	Qualified National Eligibility Test (NET) India in Social Work for Assistant Professor
2017	Awarded Shield of Honor for Best Student Social Work (CODP), School of Social Work Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

1. **Banerjee, B.** (2025, March) (Accepted) (Presented). *Politics of policy categories: Informal settlements in Guwahati city*. 2nd Edition of Inclusive Development Conference: Housing and Urban Land Management in an Unequal World, Institute of Public Policy, NLSIU Bengaluru; Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET); Young Scholars Initiative, Bengaluru, India.
2. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, June) (Accepted) (Presented). *Precarious categories: Researching informal settlements and the policy landscape in Guwahati City*. Collectif de recherche et d'action sur l'habitat (CRACH) Conference on Housing: Global Crisis, Seeking Justice, Montreal, Canada.

3. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, May) (Accepted). *Precarious categories: Researching informal settlements and the policy landscape of Guwahati City*. Speaking from the South Academic Conference, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia.
4. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, April) (Accepted) (Presented). *Precarious categories: Researching informal settlements and the policy landscape in Guwahati City*. 2024 International Conference on Urban Affairs, New York, NY, USA.
5. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, March) (Accepted) (Presented). *Unstable and uncertain: Informal settlements and the politics of policy categories in Guwahati City*. 3rd New Housing Researchers Online Seminar, European Network for Housing Research (ENHR),
6. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, March) (Invited) (Presented). *Unstable and uncertain: Informal settlements and the politics of policy categories in Guwahati City*. Limapolis 2124: Conferences, Department of Architecture, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima, Peru.
7. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, February) (Accepted). *Unstable and uncertain: Informal settlements and the politics of policy categories in Guwahati City*. First Annual Conference of Critical Legal Geography, Torino, Italy.
8. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, January) (Accepted) (Presented). *Unstable and uncertain: Informal settlements and the politics of policy categories in Guwahati City*. Eighth Edition of Urban ARC Research Conference: Equal Cities, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, India.
9. **Banerjee, B.** (2020, January) (Accepted) (Presented). *Unpacking gender and the fundamental role of unionizing: A case of women street vendors in Ranchi, Jharkhand*. Fourth Edition of Urban ARC Research Conference: Equal Cities, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, India.
10. **Banerjee, B.** (2019, October). Organizational delegate at the Seventh Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF 7), organized by UN-Habitat, ESCAP, and URBANICE. Malaysia.
11. **Banerjee, B.** (2018, October) (Accepted) (Presented). *Blurred lines of domestic work: Unequal realities of women in the urban economy*. National Seminar on Women in Household Economy: Issues and Challenges Towards Gender Equality, organized by the Faculty of Women's Studies, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, India.
12. **Banerjee, B.** (2017, August) (Invited) (Presented). *Urban Chapter: Democratizing Urban Governance*. Presented as Urban Lead at Odisha Vikash Conclave 2018, India.

WORKSHOPS

1. **Collaborator**, *Towards a Situated Southern Planning* (SCPP-IoE) Workshop, Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay, 8-9 January, 2025 (with Prof. Himanshu Burte)
2. **Co-Organizer**, *Cities, Theory, and Methodology: Challenges in (Doing) Urban Research*, April 11-12, 2025 (with Prof. Patricia Wood, York University, Canada)
3. **Banerjee, B.** (2024, December 8). *Politics of policy categories: Informal settlements in Guwahati city*. Presentation at the 5th India Public Policy Network Conference PhD Workshop, IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India.
4. **Participant**, *Urban Theory and Methodology Workshop: Integrating Perspectives from Global South and North*, Centre for Urban Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, February 19-23, 2024.
5. **Banerjee, B.** (2023, November 4-5). *Unstable and uncertain: Informal settlements and the politics of policy categories in Guwahati city*. Presentation at the 10th Roots & Bridges Ethnography Workshop, Guwahati, India\
6. **Observer**, 9th Roots & Bridges Ethnography Workshop, North East Diocesan Social Service Society, Guwahati, India, November 26-27, 2022
7. **Teacher** (Invited) at LIMAPOLIS 2024, hosted by the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Lima, Peru, March 3-9, 2024
8. **Guest speaker** (Invited) at the District Level Workshop on *Eradication of social evils among tribals* in association with Birbhum (WestBengal) District Police and Visvabharati University, 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Book chapter

1. **Banerjee, B.** (2021). *Blurred lines of domestic work: Unequal realities of women in urban economy* (pp. 511-522). In A. Sinha (Ed.), *Women in household economy*. Indian Social Initiative, New Delhi.

Public scholarship (reports)

1. *Governance of Cities, Villages and Beyond: Decentralisation and Localising SDGs Agenda*
Brishti Banerjee
SDG Watch India Research Report, HRF & GIZ, 2021
2. *Informal Settlements and Urban Planning: A Study of Guwahati City*
Brishti Banerjee, Syeda Mehzebin Rahman, Marina Joseph, Sneha Doijad & Ankur Choudhury
YUVA & OEP Research Report, 2019.
3. *Legal Recognition of Domestic Workers in India*
Brishti Banerjee, Marina Joseph, Vindhya Jyoti & Shaguna Kanwar.
YUVA Research Report, 2019.
4. *Public Provisioning for the Urban Poor: An Analysis of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Budgets (2014-2017)*
Dr. Abdul Rashid Agwan, Jawed Alam Khan, **Brishti Banerjee**, Marina Joseph & Doel Jaikishen.
YUVA & IPSA Research Report, 2019
5. *Public Provisioning of Urban Poor: An Analysis of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation Budgets (2015-17)*
Dr. Abdul Rashid Agwan, Jawed Alam Khan, **Brishti Banerjee**, Marina Joseph & Doel Jaikishen.
YUVA & IPSA Research Report, 2019.
6. *Unequal Realities: The Adequate Housing Situation in India in Promises & Reality Citizen's Report*
Brishti Banerjee
WNTA Civil Society Report, 2019.
7. *Unequal Realities: The Challenges of Urban India: Housing and Urban Poor in Promises vs. Reality Citizen's Report*
Shaguna Kanwar & **Brishti Banerjee**
WNTA Civil Society Report, 2018.
8. *Housing Needs of the Urban Poor in Nagpur: Assessing the Applicability of the PMAY, Housing for All Mission*
Nitin Meshram, Marina Joseph, Doel Jaikishen, **Brishti Banerjee** & Sayali Marwar.
YUVA & IHF Research Report, 2018.
9. *Unequal Realities: Identity, Housing and Basic Services in Six Indian Cities*
Brishti Banerjee, Anjali Anand, Sachikanta Pradhan, Lavanya Rout, Madhusmita Behera, Mehzabeen Rehman, Pooja Yadav, Pratibha Wankhede, Nitin Meshram, Raju Vanjare, Dipak Kamble, Shanta Khot, Jaisingh Randive, Ankit Jha, Bharat Thombre, Shaguna Kanwar, Marina Joseph & Doel Jaikishen.
YUVA Research Report, 2018.
10. *Unequal Realities: Identity, Housing and Basic Services in Four Indian Cities*
Bharat Thombre, Manshi Singh, Anjali Anand, Syeda Mehzebin Rahman, Sachikanta Pradhan, Marina Joseph, Shaguna Kanwar, **Brishti Banerjee** & Adwaita Banerjee.
YUVA Research Report, 2017.

Media

11. *Stranded and Pushed to the Periphery: The Dejected Reality of Migrant Workers and the Impact of COVID-19 on Their Life Choices*
Brishti Banerjee & Nitin Meshram.
Online Article, *Countercurrents*, 16 April 2020.

Blogs

12. Indian Cities and the Nationwide Lockdown: Insights on Guwahati
Brishti Banerjee
Online Article, *YUVA India*, 21 August 2020.
13. Conversations on COVID-19 and India's Northeast (2020)
Minakhi Tamuli, Syeda Rahman, **Brishti Banerjee** & Kavitha Krishnamoorthy.
Discussion Report, *YUVA India*, 2020.
14. When Solid Waste Management Takes a Backseat in the Race to Construct Toilets
Shaguna Kanwar & **Brishti Banerjee**
Online Article, *YUVA India*, 2 October 2018.
15. Blurred Lines of Work: The State of Domestic Workers in India
Brishti Banerjee & Marina Joseph.
Online Article, *YUVA India*, 5 June 2018

SKILLS

Trained in qualitative research methods, policy analysis, and policy/program evaluation. Experienced in narrative building, data visualization and reporting, grant writing, stakeholder engagement, and intervention planning. Proficient in NVivo, Atlas.ti, and MS Office, and have working knowledge on quantitative research methods.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English (Fluent), Assamese (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent), Bengali (Native), Marathi (Basic), Nepali (Basic).
Medium of instruction throughout formal education: English