

Prof. Aparna Rayaprol

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Aparna Rayaprol is Professor and Former Head, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad Her areas of interest include gender studies, Indian diaspora, qualitative research methods and urban sociology. Earlier, she was an Associate Professor in Research Methodology at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences in Mumbai. She was a faculty on the Semester at Sea Fall 2003 Voyage which went around the world (10 countries) teaching courses in sociology. Her PhD was from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research on second generation Indian-Americans was funded initially by an ICSSR grant on Indian diaspora and Princeton University at the Center for the Study of American Religion in 1998-99. She continues to work in the area of diaspora and gender as well as globalization and gender in the Indian context. She is the author of *Negotiating Identities: Women in the Indian Diaspora*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1997.

She was the Director of the Study in India Program from 2009-14 at the University of Hyderabad and was associated with it since its inception in 1998 and has been closely involved with its academic as well as administrative responsibilities. She has been conceptualizing and teaching new courses for SIP and coordinating the academic activities between teachers and students as well as reciprocal institutions. .

Areas of Specialization and Interest

- Indian Diaspora
- Sociology of Gender
- Qualitative Research Methods/Ethnography
- Urban Sociology

Administrative Responsibilities Held

1. **Director: International Affairs: March _ August 1, 2019**
2. **Department of Sociology, UGC SAP Coordinator, 2018-2019.**
3. **Head, Department of Sociology 2014-2017.**
4. **Director, Study in India Program 2009-14**
5. **Member, Management Committee SIP 2014-2020**
6. **Coordinator, SIP 2001-2009.**
7. **Member, MOU Committee 2017-2020**
8. **Member, Roster Committee 2020- present**
9. **Member, Grievance Committee 2002-2003**

10. Member, Committee Against Sexual Harassment 2002-2005

Distinctions:

- Served as the Head of the Department of Sociology from December 2014-17.
- Served as **the Director of the University's flagship Study in India Program (SIP)** from 2009-2014

- Member, MediCiti Hospital Ethics Committee for Research, 2020 to 2024 and Chairperson from 2024 onwards
- Memberships
- NIE-ICMR-WHO online course, NIECer 102: Ethics Review of Health Research
- Member, Institutional Ethics Board, LVPrasad Eye Institute since 2023.
- Member, Institutional Ethic Board of the TIFR, Hyderabad.
- External Member Board of Post-Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology Tripura University 2020-23
- Member School Board, School of Gender Studies, TISS Hyderabad
- UGC SAP Advisory Board Member Department of Sociology Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, TN 2018-2023
- Member, Board of Studies II of the Department of Sociology at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli 2018-2021
- Member, Academic Council, Central University of Rajasthan 2016-19
- Fulbright Expert on Selection Panels and Screening Committee from 2014-2021
- Expert Committee Member, advisory board of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIIT, Delhi Expert Committee Member, advisory board of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIIT, Delhi 2019-
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Sociology, Central University of Orissa 2018-20
- Member, Institutional Ethics Board of the TIFR, Hyderabad. 2017-2019
- Member: Advisory Board, International Telugu Centre, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University. 2005-7
- Represented the University of Hyderabad on a British Council sponsored trip of Generation UK India team members from nine Indian institutions to visit UK universities in Scotland, Wales, England from 3rd April till 8th April 2016 for international partnerships .
- Currently collaborating on an international Research Project with California Polytechnic Pomona, University of Connecticut and Boston University for a project on Living Religions. Went for a workshop at Los Angeles, California September 2017
- On a project on Religion and Gender with Waseda University Japan and Delhi University 2017
- Keynote Lecture at the Fourth Academic Conference on Migration at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Feb, 6-7, 2015 on "The Predicaments of Migration: Reconfiguring Boundaries and Citizenship"
- Invited by the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, at the University of Heidelberg, Germany from 5th to 8th May, to give a talk on "Return Migration and the Transformation of Hyderabad City".
- Keynote Lecture on "Building Bridges between Theories, Research and Praxis: Feminist Reflections" "Centre for Women's Studies National Seminar on"**Building Bridges:**

Contemporary Research in Gender Studies" for Research Scholars from March 24-26, 2014

- Two invited talks at the Centre for Diaspora Studies at the Central University of Gujarat October 29-30, 2013: "Problematizing Gender in Diaspora Studies" and "Methodological Challenges in Understanding Diasporas"
- Keynote Lecture "Challenges and Opportunities in Internationalization: An Experiential Account" at the The Fulbright South and Central Asia Conference, March 1, 2015 at Taj Krishna, Hyderabad.
- Invited to lecture on Gender and Generation among South Asian-Americans: Locations and Dislocations" at the Women and Gender Studies (WGST), Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, October 29, 2012.
- Invited as the SAP Visiting Fellow to the Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai from December 4-9, 2011.
- Fulbright_Nehru grant for the International Educators Seminar, October 15-30, 2011 to visit educational institutions in Washington DC, Philadelphia and NYC.
- Invited Speaker at the Symposium on "Gender, Culture and Development" at the 35th All India Sociological Conference, University of Kashmir, Srinagar 10-12 October, 2009. Paper: "Changing Locations and Transnational Movements: Relocations and Gendered Survival Strategies".
- Invited Panelist at the FICCI Education Summit in New Delhi on the topic of "Global Competitiveness through Partnerships" on November 7, New Delhi at the FICCI Bhavan. "The Study in India Program: Experiences from University of Hyderabad".
- Represented University of Hyderabad at the Canada-India Graduate Mobility workshop, in Delhi December 14-15th 2009.
- "Has Feminist Research Changed Pedagogical Approaches in Social Science? Are we Actually Walking the Talk?" First ISA World Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, Spain at the Research Committee on Women and Society RC32 titled "Talking the Talk, Walking the Walk: feminism and Research Methodologies in Action."
- "Changing Locations and Transnational Identities" at the Research Committee Organizers of Rc32/RC05 Joint Session on Intersectionality and Diasporas, Barcelona, Spain, Sept 5-8, 2008.
- Invited Speaker by the Women' Studies Department, South Dakota State University as part of the International Seminar Series on *Evolution of Women's Work* March 19-15, 2005. Gave a series of lectures on gender issues in India.
- Subject Expert for UGC Countrywide Class room series on gender studies by EMMRC for "Feminist Research Methodology" and "Public and Private Dichotomy," 2006.
- Member: Advisory Board, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, International Telugu Centre.
- Regular panelist for TV 9 *Naveena* program on women's issues: Gender division of labor, sexual harassment, domestic labor, socialization etc.
- Expert reviewer for Oxford University Press, Orient Longman, and *Sociological Bulletin*.
- Honored by the University of Pittsburgh at the annual Honors Convocation for winning the Rotary International
- Awarded grant for field work in the United States under ICSSR (Indian Council for Social Science Research) Grants for Studies in Indian Diaspora scheme.
- Rotary Foundation Graduate Scholarship for International Understanding, 1988-89.

- Junior Research Fellowship, the Indian Council for Social Science Research and the University Grants Commission (UGC), 1987-88.

Editorial Board

- **Member, Editorial Board of the *Sociological Bulletin*, 2016-17**
- Member, Editorial Board, Explorations, e-journal of the Indian Sociological Society

Research

Promoting Inclusion and Educational Opportunity among Disadvantaged Groups in Hyderabad. Funded by the US Consulate Hyderabad for Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2019-2020. Project team, Aparna Rayaprol and Usha Raman from University of Hyderabad, Salma Farooqui, MANUU, and Himani Gupta at Kriti Social Initiatives

On an international Research Project with California Polytechnic Pomona, University of Connecticut and Boston University for a project on Living Religions. Went for a workshop at Los Angeles, California September 2017

On a project on Religion and Gender with Waseda University Japan and Indian Council of Social Science Research and Delhi University 2017

Return Migrants and the Transformation of Urban Spaces in India (Ongoing).

ICSSR Grant for study of Second-generation Indian immigrants in the U.S., 1998.

Visiting Fellow at the Center for the Study of American Religion, Princeton University, Princeton, USA, 1998-1999.

Doctoral Research, University of Pittsburgh, 1988-93.

Project: "Gender Dynamics among South Indian Immigrants in Pittsburgh." An ethnographic study involving participant observation and in-depth interviewing.

M.Phil research, University of Hyderabad, India.

Project: A qualitative study on Modes of Interaction among residents of High Rise apartments buildings.

Research Assistant for three different projects in Medical Sociology, Mass Communication, and Urban Sociology, with Dr. Vijay Kochar, Dr. Vighnesh Bhat, and Prof. Ratna Naidu, respectively, at the University of Hyderabad during 1985-87.

Research Assistant for a project on "Construction workers in a rapidly growing metropolis," College of Social Work, Osmania University, Hyderabad, 1988. Collected data through interviews.

Some Major Publications:

Book

- ***Negotiating Identities: Women in the Indian Diaspora*, Oxford University Press (India), 1997.**
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Articles

- [With Anushyama Mukherjee] "Women Migrants and Social Remittances: the Case of Barkas in Hyderabad, in the Review of Women's Studies of the *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 54, No 17, 27th April 2019.
- "The Indian Diaspora in the 21st Century" in *Diplomacy and Beyond: A journal of Foreign Policy and National Affairs*, Volume 3, Issue 2, February 2019.
- "Feminist Research: Redefining Methodology in the Social Sciences" *Contributions to Indian Sociology Volume 50 No 3* October 26, 2016.
- "Cultural Reproduction and the Reconstruction of Identities in the Indian Diaspora" in Sekhar Bandopadhyay and Aloka Parasher-Sen [eds.] *Religion and Modernity in India* (Chapter 11). New Delhi, Oxford University Press 2016.
- "Teaching Gender in Indian Universities: Reflections on Feminist Pedagogy" in *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol 60 No 1, Jan to April 2011.
- "Understanding Gender Diversities in the Diaspora" in N. Jayaram ed. *Diversities in the Indian Diaspora*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2011.
- "Understanding Gender Justice: Perceptions of Lawyers in India" (with Sawmya Ray), *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol 17 No 3 November 2010, pp. 335-363.
- "Being American, Learning to be Indian: Gender and Generation in the Context of Transnational Migration." in Meenkashi Thapan (ed), *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity*, New Delhi, Sage, 2005.
- Entries on "Hinduism" and "South Asians" in *The Encyclopedia of American Culture*, Routledge, 2001.
- "'Can You Talk Indian?': Shifting Notions of Community and Identity in the Indian Diaspora," *Community and Identities in South Asia*, Surinder Singh Jodhka (ed), Sage, 2001.
- "Report on the National Seminar on Human Rights in Grassroots Perspective," *Indian Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 1, no.1, January-June, 1997.
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- **“Foregrounding Migration and Mobility in a Global Context” Meenakshi Thapan and Aparna Rayaprol *Sociological Bulletin* Special Issue on Migration and Mobility Volume 74, Issue 4**
- **Mobilities at Work: Stories of Migration and Labour from the Industrial Belts of Dhaka, Mitaja Chakravarty and Aparna Rayaprol *Sociological Bulletin* Special Issue on Migration and Mobility Volume 74, Issue 4**
- “Social Stratification” in *Global Handbook of Inequality* ed. Surinder S. Jodhka and Boike Rehbein, 2024. ISBN 978-981-99-5581-7.
- Emotional Labour in a Cyberabad Shopping Mall: A Feminist Understanding of New Forms of Labour DOI: 10.1177/23938617251315823 journals.sagepub.com/home/scs Ipsita
- Pradhan and Aparna Rayaprol in *Society and Culture in South Asia*, 19th Feb, 2025
- “Marginality and Gender in Educational Institutions in Contemporary India”.
- Introduction to the Special Issue, *Sociological Bulletin*. October 2023 Vol 72 (4); pp 367-374. (co-
- author Anurekha Chari Wagh)
- “Gender Sensitisation for School Teachers: Agents of Change in the Classroom” with Usha Raman, Salma A. Farooqui and Aishwarya Joshi: *Sociological Bulletin*. October 2023 Vol 72
- (4); pp 534-545.
- “Negotiating Honour by Jat and Muslim Women in Western Uttar Pradesh with Astha Mishra, *Sociological Bulletin*. Feb 2023 Vol 72 Issue 2 pp 162-178
- “Nostalgia, nation and Bollywood: second-generation Indian-Americans and the Consumption of Movies” coauthored with Pardhu Pinnamshetty in *South Asian Diaspora* online 5th June 2021
- Reverse Migrations and Women’s Role in Shaping Religious Identities in Hyderabad, co-authored with Anushyama Mukherjee and Pitheli K. Jimo in *Contemporary South Asia*, online 26th May 2021
- “Feminist Research: Redefining Methodology in the Social Sciences” *Contributions to Indian Sociology Volume 50 No 3* October 26, 2016.
- Chapter 11 "Cultural Reproduction and the Reconstruction of Identities in the Indian Diaspora" in Sekhar Bandopadhyay and Aloka Parasher-Sen eds. *Religion and Modernity in India* New Delhi, Oxford University Press 2016

- “Study in India Program: A Journey in Internationalization,” Institute of International Education Newsletter, March 2012, <http://enewsiiindia.org/index.html>.
- “Teaching Gender in Indian Universities: Reflections on Feminist Pedagogy” in *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol 60 No 1, Jan to April 2011.
- “Understanding Gender Diversities in the Diaspora” in N. Jayaram ed. *Diversities in the Indian Diaspora*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2011.
- “Understanding Gender Justice: Perceptions of Lawyers in India” (with Sawmya Ray), *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol 17 No 3 November 2010, pp. 335-363.
- “Gender Equality in the Classroom,” *Teacher Plus*, November 2010, pp.26-28.
- “Being American, Learning to be Indian: Gender and Generation in the Context of Transnational Migration.” in Meenkashi Thapan (ed), *Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity*, New Delhi, Sage, 2005.
- Entries on “Hinduism” and “South Asians” in *The Encyclopedia of American Culture*, Routledge, 2001.
- ““Can You Talk Indian?”: Shifting Notions of Community and Identity in the Indian Diaspora,” *Community and Identities in South Asia*, Surinder Singh Jodhka (ed), Sage, 2001.
- "Report on the National Seminar on Human Rights in Grassroots Perspective," *Indian Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 1, no.1, January-June, 1997.
- "Gender Ideologies and Practices among South Indian Immigrants," *SAGAR*, (South Asia Graduate Research Journal), Center for Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, vol.2, no.1, Spring 1995.
- Book Reviews
- Book Review of *Work, family and integration: Indian migrant farmers in Northern Italy* by Meenakshi Thapan, Singapore, Springer, 2023, in *South Asian Diaspora*, 16th Sept. 2024
- Book Review of Neethi P and Anant Kamath. *Urban Undesirables: City Transition and Street-Based Sex Work in Bangalore* (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 211 pages, ₹895, \$99.99 in *The Indian Journal of Gender Studies*. December 2024 Vol 32 Issue 1 ISBN 978-1-009-18021.
- Book Review of *A thousand tiny cuts: mobility and security across Bangladesh-India borderlands*, by Sahana Ghosh, New Delhi, Yoda Press, 2024, 286pp., INR 699.00

- (paperback), ISBN 978-9382579915 in *South Asian Diaspora* May 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19438192.2024.2355419>
- Book Review “The World of Death” of *Dead in Banaras: Ethnography of Funeral Travelling* by Ravi Nandan Singh, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2022; pp 163, ₹1,495. Vol. 59, Issue No. 38, 21 Sep, 2024
- Review essay of Kaveri Haritas, *In Search of Home: Citizenship, Law and the Politics of the Poor*, Cambridge, UK 2021, ISBN 9781108834049 (Hardback) \$ 99 and Soibam Haripriya *Homeward: Towards a Poetics of Space*, New Delhi, Zubaan and SPF Peace Foundation, 2022, ISBN 9789390514373 (hardback) and 9789390514380 (ebook), pages 256 Rs 1200 and \$ 35 in *The Book Review* Vol 46 No 9 Sept 2022
- Book Review “The Craft and Lifeworld of Artist and Art in Society” Vol. 56, Issue No. 7, 13 Feb, 2021 of *Perspectives on Work, Home, and Identity from Artisans in Telangana: Conversations Around Craft* by Chandan Bose, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019; pp 311, ₹93.59.
- Book Review of *Diaspora Theory and Transnationalism* by Himadri Lahiri, Orient Blackswan, 2019 in *South Asian Diaspora* December 2019

Research Guidance:

Ph.D Students currently under supervision

Obaid Farooqui
 Namrata Panigrahi
 Afsal Hussain M M
 Sonali Singh
 Hidha Moosa

M.Phil Degree Awarded

1. Pardhu Pinnanshetty “Where Is My Hero?": Consumption of Bollywood Movies Among Young Indian-Americans
2. Basima Shahna Muhammed. "Understanding Islamic Practices from a Feminist Perspective", Awarded 2015
3. Anurupa Mitra. "Understanding the politics of Reproduction- A review of Abortion debates in India", Awarded 2014

4. Ishita Das Purkayastha. "Gender a Dynamics of Childcare: A study of Day care Centers in Kolkata", Awarded, 2011
5. Anushyama Mukherjee. "Emerging patterns of informal labour in the hi tech city: A study of the tow settlements in Hyderabad", Awarded, 2010
6. Ilika K. Jimo. "Property rights of women: A study of sumi nagas", Awarded, 2008
7. Pitheli k. Jimo. "Understanding returnees local responses to global educational patterns", Awarded, 2008
8. Kanchan Bharati. "Understanding Elder care: A study of old homes in Hyderabad", Awarded, 2006
9. V Sawmveli. "Christianity and Gender: A study of protestant Mizos", Awarded, 2005
10. Nungshimenla Jamir. "Naga women and identity", Awarded 2004
11. Remya Mohanakrishnan. "Alternative Education: A study of two schools in Secunderabad", Awarded 2003
12. Sawmya Ray. "Legal constructions of domestic violence; study of cases in Hyderabad court", Awarded 2002

Ph.D Degrees Awarded:

1. Gitanjali Joshua, "Secular Entanglements: Women and the Changing Landscape of Personal Laws in India". Awarded 2025
2. Astha Mishra "Honour, Community, and Gender Relations: A study of Jat and Muslim Women in Muzaffarnagar, Western Uttar Pradesh". Awarded 2023
3. Mitaja Chakraborty "What makes garment(s) work? Gendered Labour and Networks of Struggle in the Garment Industry of Dhaka, Bangladesh". Awarded 2022
4. Ilika K. Jimo "Women, Work and the Double Burden: A Study of Street Vendors in Dimapur, Nagaland". Awarded 2020
5. Ipsita Pradhan "Understanding Gendered Labour in a "Global City": A Study of Women Shopfloor Employees at a Shopping Mall in Hyderabad"
6. Pitheli K. Jimo. "Reconceptualising Home and Citizenship: A Study of Return Migrants in Hyderabad", Awarded 2017
7. Anushyama Mukherjee. "Understanding homeland/s and identities: A study of Barkas in Hyderabad", Awarded 2015
8. V. Sawmveli. "Law religion and gender: A study of women's rights in Mizoram", Awarded, 2012
9. Sawmya Ray. "Legal constructions of violence against Women: A study in Odisha", Awarded, 2009