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CURRENT POSITION

University of Oklahoma (OU)

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability

Norman, OK

Aug. 2024-present

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Social Policy

London, UK

Oct. 2022-August 2024

Harvard University

Affiliate, Weatherhead Center Research Cluster on Comparative Inequality & Inclusion

Cambridge, MA

2023-24

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

PhD in Public Policy and Environmental Philosophy

Cambridge, MA

September 2022

- General Examination Fields: Public Policy and Political Economy; Corruption, Environment, and Institutional Change
- Dissertation: *State, Street and Public Goods: A Theory of Misgovernance*
- Advisors: Janelle Knox-Hayes, Lawrence E. Susskind, Sally Haslanger, Chappell Lawson, Bish Sanyal, Asya Magazinnik

Georgia Institute of Technology

MS, concentration in climate change and public policy

Graduate Certification in Public Policy

Atlanta, GA

2010

2010

Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

MS (Engineering), concentration in climate change and computational methods

Bangalore, India

2007

G.B. Pant University

BTech in Mechanical Engineering

Uttaranchal, India

2002

SELECTED GRANTS AND HONORS

- Member of the MIT team along with the Clean Energy State Alliance (CESA), U. of Michigan, Energy Trust of Oregon, Partnership for Southern Equity, Vote Solar, and the U. of Chicago to receive U.S. Department of Energy funding, for the project “Effective Knowledge Dissemination for LMI Solar: The Roles of CBOs and State Governments.” 2021-24
- MIT Center for International Studies Fellowship 2022
- MIT Martin Sustainability Fellowship 2021-22
- MIT’s Schwarzman College of Computing’s Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing Scholar. 2021-22
- American Planning Association Foundation Scholarship 2020-21
- MIT-wide Graduate Student Council Teaching Award 2020
- DUSP, MIT funding to interview stakeholders in IDJC community relocation planning 2020
- MIT-India Fellowship for conducting fieldwork in India 2017-20
- Nadine Rodwin Fellowship for conducting fieldwork in India 2017
- MIT Presidential Fellowship 2016-17

PUBLICATIONS in process

- The Equitable Resilience Framework: An Environmental Justice Strategy for Community-led Resilience Planning. *Revise and resubmit. World Development Perspectives.* (With Janelle Knox-Hayes, Jungwoo Chun, Daniela Coray, and Rose Winer-Chan)

- The Logic of Corruption in Government Bureaucracies. (Book project based on my dissertation). *Under contract with Cambridge University Press.*

Abstract

Using extensive fieldwork in three of India’s major state bureaucracies and building on innovative strategies to measure corruption, this book sheds light on the long-standing puzzle of why corruption exists and persists in government bureaucracies. I argue that corruption in governments could be exclusively and exhaustively conceptualized as grand and petty corruption and that the former causes the latter. I show that these two kinds of corruption are organized around bureaucratic transfers and that corrupt exchanges at various levels are *thickly* embedded in their ongoing social and political relations. The stability of the linkages between grand and petty corruption explain why corruption persists.

- A Sociology of Corruption in Governments: Persistence in Spite of Efforts to End It. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Abstract

I examine the nature of linkages between grand corruption of senior officials and petty corruption of street officials in an Indian state police bureaucracy. Using a randomized response survey of 154 serving police officials, in-depth semi-structured interviews of an additional 58 police officials, and an ethnography of street vendors at an informal marketplace, I find evidence that these linkages are mutually reinforcing and that they are organized around the market for corruption in bureaucratic transfers. The mutually reinforcing nature of these linkages helps us understand long-standing questions about the existence and persistence of corruption in government bureaucracies and why anti-corruption reforms are difficult to implement.

- Identifying the demands of justice in Indigenous groups facing environmental risks: The case of a climate change-induced forced migration of a Native American community in Louisiana. *Manuscript in preparation.* (With Janelle Knox-Hayes)

Abstract

What are the demands of justice when Indigenous communities suffer serious environmental harms? We analyze environmental injustices in the climate change-induced forced migration of a Native American community of southeastern Louisiana in the United States. The article uses archival analysis, the lived experiences of the community members (including its Chief), and in-depth interviews of government stakeholders involved in the planning process led by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to safely relocate the Native members. The paper contends that rather than merely focusing on the fair distribution of environmental risks and benefits, the pursuit of justice should also be process-sensitive; meaningfully involve the risk-facing community; and respect its values, cultures, histories, traditions, knowledge systems, and sovereignty concerns. We argue that as the world confronts the reality of anthropogenic climate change, we must move beyond distributional equity to focus more on recognition claims of Indigenous peoples in order to design more equitable resilience policies.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- A Social Choice-based Approach to Global Justice

Abstract

There are two major challenges in conceptualizing global justice. First, most theories of justice are based on some form of a social contract, which limits their applicability outside the sovereign boundaries of a state. These social contract-based theories need a Leviathan to enforce required rules, and we do not have a world government to play such a role. A difficulty that has engaged some authors is the contrast between the standard treatments of social choice for a sovereign *nation* (Arrow’s pioneering work does not depart from that basic model) and the essential demand for a multi-nation perspective for a reasonable treatment of *global* justice. Second, understanding the demands of liberty in the global context poses dilemmas. This paper introduces a possible new approach to global justice.

- A Phenomenological Examination of Discrimination Against Women. (With Sally Haslanger)

Abstract

This essay is concerned with the conception of “power,” especially its connection with women’s conformity to socially constructed disadvantageous oppressive practices. We critically evaluate the liberal, Marxist, and Foucauldian accounts of power and supplement them with a phenomenological investigation of the lived experience

of ten women in New Delhi. Power can be exercised by an oppressor in three ways. One is the sovereign use of power as a brute force to unleash violence aimed at crushing the body; human civilization is replete with examples. The second is power as a controlling force to dominate women through social and political institutions in liberalism and class domination in Marxism. The third is a more subtle and nuanced Foucauldian exercise of power as an invisible, diffuse, and naturalizing force to achieve voluntary submission aimed not at crushing women's bodies but colonizing their souls and "disciplining" them to normalize discrimination. What is distinctive about the Foucauldian conceptualization of power, compared with the traditional liberal and Marxist accounts underpinned by a juridico-discursive notion of power? Using women's lived experiences about how power disciplines them to conform to sex-based discrimination, our aim is to tease out that notion of power that is distinctively Foucauldian and cannot be captured by historical accounts.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTER

Chaturvedi, B.K., & **Chandra, S.** (2014). The Right to Good Governance: Present Scenario and Future Lessons. In Chalam, K.S. (Eds.). *Governance in South Asia: State of Civil Service*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

REFEREED ARTICLES

Knox-Hayes, **Chandra, S. J.**, Chun, J., Gowda, S., Karmakar, I., and Winer, R. (2023). The Geographies, Typologies, and Trends of Community Based Organizations for Solar Energy in the United States, *Energy Research & Social Science*, vol. 106, 103311, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103311>

Knox-Hayes, J., **Chandra, S.**, & Chun, Jungwoo. (2020). The role of values in shaping sustainable development perspectives and outcomes: A case study of Iceland. *Sustainable Development*, 29(2): 363-377.

Satheesh, S.K., Srinivasan, J., Vinoj, V., & **Chandra, S.** (2006). How representative are aerosol radiative impact assessments? *Atmospheric Environment* 41 (16), 3008-3010.

Chandra, S., Satheesh, S.K., & Srinivasan, J. (2004). Can the state of mixing of black carbon aerosol explain the mystery of excess atmospheric absorption? *Geophysical Research Letters*, 31, L19109, doi:10.1029/2004GRL020662.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Cambridge, MA

- *Theory and Practice of Environmental Policy and Planning*, Professor Larry Susskind (Fall 2021)
- *Science, Technology and Public Policy*, Professors Noelle Selin and Ken Oye (Spring 2021, Spring 2020)
- *Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods for Planning*, Professor Albert Saiz (Fall 2019)
- *Microeconomics, Planning Economics*, Professor Devin Michelle Bunten (Spring 2019, Fall 2017)
- *Making Public Policy*, Professor Andrea Campbell (Fall 2018)

INVITED TALKS

- MIT, *scheduled*, 2025
- Ahmedabad University, April 2023
- London School of Economics and Political Science, November 2022 & April 2023 & March 2024
- Syracuse University, August 2022
- Harvard University, January 2021 & March 2021 & October 2022
- Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, March 2021
- Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, October 2020

REFERENCES

Janelle Knox-Hayes
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Head, Environmental, Policy & Planning Group
Department of Urban Studies and Planning
MIT
Cambridge, MA 02139
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Gender Studies
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