

PROFILE

A doctoral student in the Regional Planning program at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, I am exploring the technology and institutional set up for alternative sewage treatment in informal settlements scattered along open drains in New Delhi, India. This is intended to be an ethnographic-cum-action research-based study. My preliminary research was funded by a Campus Research Board grant received April 2014. Currently writing up the third edition of a research proposal, I am targeting ABD status by February or March 2016, in order to pursue my fieldwork full-time thereafter.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Doctor of Philosophy student, <i>Urban and Regional Planning</i> , UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	August 2013-present
Master of Science, <i>Environmental Studies</i> , TERI UNIVERSITY	July 2011-June 2013
AutoCAD (2D and 3D) Certification , NEW HORIZONS INSTITUTE	January 2011-March 2011
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Certification	October 2008
Bachelor of Science, <i>Biology</i> , MCGILL UNIVERSITY	September 2005-May 2009

AWARDS

<i>Lewis and Susan Hopkins Planning Fellowship</i> , University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	August 2015-December 2015
<i>Lewis and Susan Hopkins Planning Fellowship</i> , University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	August 2013-December 2013
<i>Second runner-up</i> , National Student Challenge, Indian Institute for Human Settlements	November 2011

Awarded cash prize, and grant of ~5000 USD to carry out a proposed initiative setting up pilot site for alternative wastewater treatment using wetlands in informal settlements in New Delhi. Third amongst ~600 teams from across the country.

SKILLS

- *Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis techniques*: survey administration; interview techniques; participant observation; IRB application; qualitative data analysis; basic statistics.
- *Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis techniques*: dissolved oxygen, metal, heavy metal, ions, nitrogen, phosphorus, measurement in air, water, and soil samples; coliform detection; calorimetry; nucleic acid and protein isolation, manipulation, localization; blots; chromatography; light microscopy; microbiology stains, culturing, and pathogen identification; common immunology kits; diagnostic analysis of various body fluid samples; dissections; limnology techniques; respirometry.
- Beginner-level software skills: ERDAS IMAGINE 9.3, AutoCAD 2010
- Intermediate-level software skills: Microsoft Office Suite 2013, ArcGIS 10.1, hand graphics
- Languages: Hindi (native), English (bilingual), Punjabi (conversational), Bengali (basic)

PUBLISHED RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Research Assistant, Designing Ecological Tourism (DET) Lab, University of Toronto, CANADA January 2013-May 2013

STUDY AREA: Rouge Park, urban national parks worldwide, public stewardship in protected area management

Syal, S., 2013, 'Governance and Management of Rouge Park: Understanding the history of stakeholders in the Rouge Park Study Area, and the role of public stewardship in its history and future', MSc thesis, TERI University.

Research Assistant, Michael Barry Laboratory, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, OMAN January 2010-June 2010

STUDY AREA: eco-toxicology, physiological responses to synergistic stresses

Barry, M.J., and Syal, S., 2012. Metabolic Responses of Tadpoles to Chemical Predation Cues. *Hydrobiologia*. Doi: 10.1007/s10750-012-1236-4

OTHER PUBLISHED MEDIA

Blog writer, Transnational Planning September 2013-present

Blog writer, Artificially Constructed Wetlands for Urban Sewage Treatment (ACWUS) December 2011-present

Contributing Artist, The Sketchbook Project 2011, Brooklyn, NY November 2010-August 2011

Reporter, The New Science Journalism Project February 2010- August 2011

Editor, SUStenance, McGill Science Undergraduate Society, McGill University, Montreal, QC April 2008-December 2008

Writer, McGill Tribune, Students Society of McGill University, Montreal, QC September 2007- December 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, NRES 102: Introduction to Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences August 2015-present

Teaching Assistant, UP 205: Ecological Applications in Urban Planning January 2014-May 2014

Home Tutor, International Baccalaureate Science and Mathematics, Muscat, OMAN September 2009-May 2011

Stewardship Leader & Education Assistant, The Riverwood Conservancy, Mississauga, ON September 2010-December 2010

Program Facilitator, Family Literacy Program, Region of Peel September 2010-December 2010

Tutoring Services Coordinator, McGill Students Offering Support, McGill University, Montreal, QC April 2008-April 2009

RECENT CONFERENCES & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Presenter, 55th Annual ACSP Conference: Justice and the City October 22-25, 2015

Attendee, Urban Policy Dialogues 2015, Bangalore, INDIA August 20-21, 2015

Participant, Comparative Urban & Regional Research PhD Workshop July 28-30, 2014

Founding Partner, BLUE: Building Local Urban Ecologies LLP October 2013-present

Panelist, Entrepreneurship Session, India Urban Conference 2013, Bangalore, INDIA December 2013

Panelist, Entrepreneurship Session, India Urban Conference 2012, Bangalore, INDIA December 2012

Participant as Co-founder of ACWUS, Acara Summer Institute, Bangalore, INDIA June 2012

Delegate, Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2012, New Delhi, INDIA February 2012

Delegate, India Urban Conference 2011, Mysore, INDIA November 2011