

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Lalatendu Keshari Das

Assistant Professor of Sociology

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Lalatendu is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Indian Indian Technology Roorkee. Hailing from the coastal region of Odisha, Lalatendu has studied in Jharkhand, New Delhi and received his MA, MPhil and PhD from the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. In his doctoral research, Lalatendu has proposed the idea that in order to understand capitalist development in India, understanding the specific regional social-economic and political dimensions are crucial. Primarily forwarding his theoretical interventions by conducting intensive fieldwork, Lalatendu's work articulates three debates- Marxist debate on capitalist development, political subjectivity, and ecology. Through this, Lalatendu tries to understand issues ranging from social movements, agrarian change, fisheries, and social and environmental justice. In terms of teaching, Lalatendu is interested in teaching- Sociology of Development, Critical Agrarian Studies, Political Ecology, Sociality and Social Movements in Contemporary India, and Understanding India's Informal Sector.

Education

- Ph.D. Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, 2019.
- M.Phil. Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, 2013.
- M.A. Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, 2012.
- B.A. German studies (Hons.), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2007.

Work Experience

1. Assistant Professor of Sociology, IIT Roorkee, August 2020-
2. Postdoctoral Fellow at IDP in Climate Studies, IIT Bombay, May 2019-July 2020.
3. Programme Manager, Samarthan-Centre for Development Support, Bhopal, October 2018-March 2019.
4. Research Associate, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, June-September 2018.
5. Senior Process Associate, Hewlett-Packard India Private Limited, Bangalore, July-October 2009.
6. Assistant Consultant, Symphony Marketing Solutions (now Genpact), Bangalore, January 2008-June 2009.

Areas of Research Interest

Sociology of Development, Informal Economy, Critical Agrarian Studies, Political Ecology

Courses Teaching

1. HSN-916: Sociological Theories (to PhD Students).
2. HS-351: Society, Culture and Built Environment (to undergrad students of architecture and planning)

Languages Known

English, Hindi, Odia, German (re-reading).

Projects

1. Belmont Forum funded international project- Transformation as Praxis: Exploring Socially Just and Transdisciplinary Pathways to Sustainability in Marginal Environments (TAPESTRY). As postdoctoral fellow (2019-2020) and as project partner (2020-2021).

Invited Lectures

1. Guest lecture to PhD students on 'Research Scholars' Epistemological Predicaments', Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, 13th January 2021.
2. Gave a lecture on 'Sociality and Social Movements' to B.Tech. students at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 29th June 2019.
3. Gave a lecture on 'Understanding Development as Discourse' to M.Phil. students at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 9th August 2019.

Manuscript Reviewer

1. International Sociology
2. Journal of Contemporary Asia
3. International Centre for Advanced Studies: Metamorphosis of the Political (ICAS:MP)

Publication(s)

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Das, Lalatendu Keshari *et al.* (2019). 'Research Scholars' Epistemological Predicament'. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 54(23):35-42.
2. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2018). 'Social movements-judicial activism nexus and neoliberal transformation in India: Revisiting Save Chilika Movement' in *Sociological Bulletin*, 67(1): 84-102.
3. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2015). 'Middle Peasant Thesis and Its Limitations', in Manish Thakur (ed.) *Agrarian Relations and Social Structure in India*. New Delhi: E-pgpathsala, University Grants Commission-Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. <https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/Home/ViewSubject?catid=33>
4. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2014). 'Privatisation of the CPRs and the Informal Sector: A Case of Chilika Lake' in *Economic and Political Weekly*, 49 (40).

Book Chapters

1. Chatterjee, Ranit, Lalatendu Keshari Das and Ambika Dabral (2020). 'Stressors of Disaster Induced Displacement and Migration on Urban Ecology in India', in Pramit Verma, Pardeep Singh, Rishikesh Singh and A.S. Raghubamsi (Eds.) *Urban Ecology: Emerging Patterns and Social-Ecological Systems*. New York: Elsevier, pp. 71-89. (ISBN 9780128207307).
2. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2020). 'Neo-community Formation, Contestation and Policy Making in India: Narratives from Chilika' in Sunil Ray, Neetu Choudhary and Rajiv Kamal Kumar (Eds.) *Theorising Cohesive Development: An Alternate Paradigm*. New Delhi: Routledge, pp. 222-235. (ISBN 9781138580633)

Published Book Review(s) and Other Publications

1. Chatterjee, Ranit and Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2021). Strengthening Disaster Resilience of the Power Sector in India, *Energy Future: The Complete Energy Magazine*, 9(1): 32-39.
2. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2020). *Co-production of Knowledge through Collaborative Learning*. Blogpost on Transformation to Sustainability website. <https://t2sresearch.org/output/co-production-of-knowledge-through-collaborative-learning/>
3. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2020). *Sharing Knowledge Instead of Food: TAPESTRY at the Versova Koli Seafood Festival 2020*, Blogpost on STEPS Centre, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex website. <https://steps-centre.org/blog/sharing-knowledge-instead-of-food-tapestry-at-the-versova-koli-seafood-festival/>
4. Sarmah, Manalisa & Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2019). 'Subjective Underpinnings of "Objective" School Assessment Services in India', ISA RC 02 Economy and Society December 2019 Newsletter.
5. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2016). 'Book Review: Depoliticising Social Change and the Celebration of Inequality in Rural India', in eSocialSciences.

Seminars/Conferences/Workshops

Participated:

Outside India

1. Selected for STEPS Centre Summer School 2020 Fellowship on 'Pathways to Sustainability' (May 11-22, 2021), Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, the United Kingdom.
2. Parthasarathy, D., N.C. Narayanan, L.K. Das, K. Tare and J. Bhadgaonkar (2020). 'Co-producing the Linked Futures of Fisherfolk and the City: Transforming in and with Mumbai', POLLEN (Political Ecology Network) Conference 2020, on Contested Natures: Power, Possibility and Prefiguration, September 22-25, 2020.
3. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2019). 'Sandwiched between the Sea and the City: The Koli Fishers of Mumbai and their Love-Hate Relationships with Plastic', at University of Cambridge, the United Kingdom, on Social Life of Plastics Workshop, 7-8 November 2019.
4. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2018). 'The Players Extraordinaire? Organised Crime and the so-called "Shrimp Mafia" of Odisha, India', at Portland State University, Portland, USA, on Richard Robinson Business History Workshop, 24-26 May, 2018. (Trip fully funded by the organisers).
5. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2016). 'Emerging Subalternities and Anti-Dispossession Struggle in Chilika, India: A Gramscian Analysis', at University of Rostock, Germany on Hermeneutic Conflict, Cultural Entanglement, and Social Inequality, September 22-25, 2016. (Trip fully funded by the organisers).
6. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2016). 'Can Social Action Litigations Stop the Capitalist Juggernaut? Revisiting Save Chilika Movement, India', at ISA XIV International Laboratory for PhD Students in Sociology, Aston University, Birmingham, UK on Power, Violence and Justice, April 1-8, 2016. (Trip fully funded by the organisers).

Selected (but could not participate)

1. Selected for 7th Annual Summer School on Sustainable Climate Risk Management Fellowship, 29 July-2 August 2019, Pennsylvania State University, the USA. (Could not attend owing to delay in Visa services).
2. Selected for Capacity Development Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals, 5-7 July 2019. Organised by UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs. (Workshop postponed indefinitely).

3. Abstract on topic, 'Beyond Regulation: Privatisation of Governance and Emerging Market(s) for "Shrimp Mafia" in Odisha, India', accepted for oral presentation at Second Ireland India Institute Conference on South Asia (26-27 April 2018) at Dublin City University, Ireland. (Lack of funding).

In India

1. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2018). 'Everyone has become a "Dalal", Now': Ecotourism, Informality and the Commodification of the Largest Brackish Water Lake in India', at University of Hyderabad, Telangana, on Rural-urban Entanglements Workshop, 23-24 July 2018.
2. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2017). 'Political Society and Policy Making in India: Articulating Citizenship Rights and Neoliberal Governance', at A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar, on Cohesive Development: An Alternative Paradigm?, February 24-25, 2017.
3. Participated in a workshop on 'Academic Writing' organised by the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad during 22-27 January 2017.
4. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2016). 'Understanding "Illegality" in Social Jurisprudence and Everyday Practice: A Case of Aquaculture in Odisha', at 2nd Young Researchers' Workshop, Hyderabad, India on Researching Lived Experience(s): Ethnography and Beyond, January 21-22, 2016.
5. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2015). "'Illegality" in Social Jurisprudence and Everyday Practice: A Case of Aquaculture in Odisha', at Indian Sociological Society 41st All-India Sociological Conference, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India on Development, Marginalisation and People's Movements, December 27-29, 2015.
6. Participated in a workshop on 'Indian Development' Organised by the Azim Premji University-Institute of New Economic Thinking held during 06-10 July 2015 at Azim Premji University, Bangalore.
7. Participated in a workshop on 'Writing across Disciplines' during 04-06 August 2014 organised by the School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

Selected (but could not participate)

1. Selected for Winter School on 'Development, Democracy and Conflict' organised by South Asian University, New Delhi, from 26 November-1st December 2018. (Could not participate as did not get leave from my then employer.)
2. Das, Lalatendu Keshari (2019). 'Ecotourism and the Commodification of Experience: A Social Game Perspective', at the University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, in ISA RC 13 Sociology of Leisure Conference, Leisure and Social Development in the Post-Modern Era: Contemporary Issues and Challenges, 2-4 December 2019. (Accepted for oral presentation but could not attend owing to job related constraints).

Organised:

1. Part of organising committee of a workshop on 'Against Method? Methodological Challenges for Social Science Research Today' during 21-22 January 2015 at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, India sponsored by University Grants Commission-Special Assistance Programme.
2. Part of organising committee of an International Workshop on 'Healthcare Studies in India' during 6-7 March 2015 at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, India sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, USA.

Awards

1. Fellowship to attend STEPS Centre Summer School 2020 Fellowship on ‘Pathways to Sustainability’ (May 11-22, 2020), Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, the United Kingdom. (Postponed till May 2021 owing to the COVID 19 pandemic).
2. Fellowship to attend 7th Annual Summer School on Sustainable Climate Risk Management Fellowship, 29 July-2 August 2019, Pennsylvania State University, the USA. (Could not attend owing to delay in Visa services).
3. International Sociological Association Fellowship for Junior Sociologists to attend ISA XIV International Laboratory for PhD Students in Sociology, Birmingham, UK, 2016.
4. University Grants Commission-Junior Research Fellowship (UGC-JRF) for Sociology 2012.
5. University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) for Sociology 2012.

Member of Professional Bodies

1. International Sociological Association (2016-2024 (recurring at four years cycle)).
2. Indian Sociological Society (Life Member).

Other Activities

1. Elected representative for the M.Phil and Ph.D research scholars at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. Period- 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. During this period, under my leadership, we organised the 1st Young Researchers' Workshop in January 2015 for M.Phil and Ph.D research scholars. This was a pioneering activity (in fact one of the very few in the country of its kind) where we called upon selected research scholars from across the country to participate in a two days workshop on challenges faced by young researchers when they shift from textual field to the physical field. The results of which have been appreciated by none other than the Indian Council of Social Science Research, as they agreed to sponsor the 2nd Young Researchers' Workshop to be held in January 2016.
2. Elected representative for the for the M.A. programme at the Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. Period- 2011-2012.