

OVIYA GOVINDAN

Email: ogovinda@uci.edu

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate (ABD), Anthropology, University of California Irvine 2015– Expected 2022
Integrated M.A. Development Studies, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras 2009 - 2014

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research 2015-present

Title: “Making Coastal Nature(s) Work: The Politics of Risk and Value on the Coromandel Coast”

- Conducted 15 months of ethnographic and qualitative research on social, environmental, and economic politics around building energy infrastructure projects at vulnerable coastlines. Awarded \$20,000 by Wenner Gren Foundation for ethnographic fieldwork.
- Obtained IRB approvals, wrote proposal with research design and methods for data collection, conducted qualitative analysis of fieldwork data and gray literatures.
- Collected data through ethnographic interviews, participant observation and focus group discussions by working with diverse social groups: fishing communities, environmental activists, and bureaucrats at Chennai, India.

Research Assistant, Institute for Money Technology and Financial Inclusion, Summer 2020 UC Irvine

- Conducted policy research, report writing and authored a report titled ‘[Covid-19 Relief Payments in The U.S. And California: Overview, Barriers to Access, and Ways Forward to Aid Families in Need](#)’ to highlight inequities in accessing relief payments.
- Presented research findings to community organizations, non-profits, municipal officials in Orange County, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and helped organize public workshops in the immediate aftermath of COVID-19 on financial resilience of individuals and families.

Research Assistant, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, India 2014 - 2015

- Conducted field visits, literature reviews and interviews with planning officials, industry experts, and citizen groups to document the perspectives of multiple stakeholders on the proposed infrastructure project called Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. This research contributed to the policy paper [Manufactured Cities: Industrial Policy and Urban Growth](#).

Research Assistant, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India Summer 2013

- Conducted qualitative field visits, produced field reports and literature reviews to study transitions in rural land use. This work contributed to a policy report for the Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu, a State-level government body.

SKILLS

- Core Skills: Qualitative Research (Interviews, Participant Observation, Focus Group Discussions); Secondary Literature Analysis; Report Writing; Project Management.
- Tools: Microsoft Office; Video-conferencing software.
- Languages: Fluent in English and Tamil.

PUBLIC WRITING AND SERVICE

- “Getting Unstuck: Navigating Industrial Toxics and Ethnographic Silences”, Social Science Research Council, ‘Ways of Water’ Blog series. February 2021. Available [here](#).
- “At the Edge of Land and Water: Navigating Sea-Level Change in Chennai”, Platypus: The CASTAC Blog. May 2019. Available [here](#).
- Student Representative, DECADE Social Sciences Council for Diversity on Campus. 2017-18.