**Dr Saumya Ranjan Nath**

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**Academic Background**

## 2019- 2024 PhD in History (Environmental History/Political Ecology) at the School of Media, Arts, and Humanities, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

2009-2011 MA in Social Work at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

2006-2009 B.A (Honours) in English Literature at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, India

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**Summary:** I possess thirteen years of combined professional and research experience, including four years dedicated to teaching, supervising, curriculum development, seminar facilitation, grading, and mentoring students.

**Teaching/Research/Professional experience**

November 2022 - Present (Part-time position)

**Lecturer, School Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Greenwich, London, UK**

* Teaching a module on the “Political Economy of Extractivism: Global Perspectives on Mining and Ecologies” as part of the MSc program in Global Environmental Change.
* Module Preparation and Delivery: Preparing and delivering lectures, seminars, and workshops that critically examine the political dimensions of climate change, resource extraction, environmental justice, and sustainability, resource scarcity and management.
* Curriculum Design: Developing a curriculum that covers foundational and advanced topics on climate politics, resource management, and extractivist practices around the globe, while incorporating recent research and interdisciplinary perspectives.
* Assessment and Evaluation: Designing assessments (undergraduate and post graduate thesis, exams, essays, presentations, etc.) to gauge student understanding and providing timely, constructive feedback.

November 2019- Present (Part-time position)

**Academic Tutor, International Development, International Study Centre, University of Sussex**

* Module Creation: Drawing from my expertise in designing courses and participating in revalidation processes (as seen in collaboration with the University of Sussex). Develop comprehensive modules that cover core themes such as classical and critical geopolitical theories, environmental impacts on policy, and resource management​
* Traditional & Hybrid Learning Materials: Leveraging my skills in developing instructional content suited for various learning environments. Creating multimedia presentations, lecture notes, and online discussion boards for topics like the strategic importance of natural resources and the geopolitics of climate change.
* Formative and Summative Assessments: Pedagogical practises through implementing quizzes, essay prompts, and debates around case studies (e.g., extractive mining and its impact on climate change) to assess and deepen students' understanding.

Academic Tutoring: Extending personal tutoring support to help students explore specialised topics for essays or projects related to environmental resource conflicts and policy analysis.

**Doctoral Thesis**

## My doctoral thesis, “Defending the Sacred: Discourses of Development, Identity and Everyday Resistance among the Dongria Kondhs in Eastern India,” constructs environmental history and social and political anthropology of an indigenous/Adivasi group in eastern India. It criticallyexamines the historical relations and implications of the contemporary processes of marginalisation, dispossession, and subordination rotted colonial and postcolonial past.

January 2020 to March 2021 (Part-time position)

**CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership Fellow with Vitae, Cambridge, UK**

## Led a team of researchers on a research project that focussed on “Understanding the experience of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) using the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) at UK Universities.” Vitae published this report in June 2021.

## Key responsibilities included working with early career researchers and experts from various UK universities to understand how they use the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) for their career development and research impact.

## January 2021- December 2022 (Part-time position)

## **Research Assistant to Professor Ian Gazeley, Global Income Inequality Project, University of Sussex**

* Assisted in calculating new estimates of world inequality by analysing 1500 household budget expenditure drawn from archival sources from 1935-1975.
* Conducted large scale data analysis through R and Python programming tools.

August 2015 - June2016 (Full time)

**Policy Researcher, Centre for Science and Environment, New, India**

* Conducted specialised workshops for bureaucrats and regulators hailing from India, Sri Lanka, and nine African countries on topics such as Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and the Social and Environmental Risks associated with Project Financing,
* Designed advocacy and policy recommendations of several mining and forest rights-related guidelines such as the Environment Protection Act 1986, Forest Rights Act 2006, District Mineral Foundation rule under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, in 2015 aimed at promoting robust and transparent environmental governance, addressing issues related to industrial waste, circularity, environmental compliance, and more.

April 2012 – June 2015 (Full time)

**Prime Minister’s Rural Development Fellow, Government of India**

* Successfully facilitated a solar electrification initiative in fifteen off-grid remote hamlets/villages in eastern India in 2013-2015, benefiting a population of 5000 indigenous/adivasi communities collaborating with partners from Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India and Government of India (GoI) to ensure the program’s seamless implementation and sustainability.
* Collaborated with Village Forest Committees to facilitate the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) between 2012-2015 and addressed grievances among 32,000 FRA beneficiaries guaranteed by Indian constitution.
* Collaborated with a thousand indigenous performing artists from eastern India, establishing community-owned and community-governed “Performing Folk Cultural Federations” through a funding of £200,000 from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India between 2012-2014.
* Worked as a research advisor/team member with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Government of Odisha in the formulation of the Disaster Management Plan for the year 2013-14, contributing towards an improved Disaster Plan of Action.

June 2011– April 2013 (Full time)

**Policy Researcher , Gujarat Ecology Commission, Government of Gujarat India**

* Carried out several research assignments towards rehabilitating degraded ecosystems in the Indigenous/Adivasi regions of South Gujarat. The research outcome contributed to Gujarat/India’s commitment to the Millennium Development Goals in building better agrarian and forest-based livelihoods for the thirty thousand local farming communities (https://gec.gujarat.gov.in/).
* Collaborated with multiple stakeholders- like the Government of India, various state governments, schools, NGOs, and community organisations and with international partners such as DFID, World Bank and Asian Development Bank in poverty alleviation and social protection programmes and raising ecological awareness.

**Publications**

**University Thesis**

Nath, Saumya (2024). Defending the sacred: discourses of development, identity and everyday resistance among the Dongria Kondh. University of Sussex. Thesis. <https://hdl.handle.net/10779/uos.25966813.v1>

**Book Chapter (forthcoming)**

Nath, S.R., (2025) ‘Positioning Odisha's Neoliberal Transformation within a Historical Framework’, in Mallick, P.,(eds.) (2025) Contours of Democracy in New India, London: Routledge.

Nath, S.R., Zucky S (2025) ‘Niyamgiri Chronicles: Environmental History and the Climate Impact of Lanjigarh Alumina Refinery through GIS Analysis in Eastern India’, in Damodaran, V., Padel, F., Gupta, M. and D’Souza, R. (eds.) (2024) Extractivism in South Asia: Impacts of Mining-based Industrialisation. London: Routledge.

Nath, S.R. Padel, F., Nayak, S., and Sundaresan, R. (2025) 'Bauxite Battles and the Aluminium Cartel in South Asia', in Damodaran, V., Padel, F., Gupta, M. and D’Souza, R. (eds.) (2024) Extractivism in South Asia: Impacts of Mining-based Industrialisation. London: Routledge.

**Journal Article (forthcoming)**

Nath, S.R., (2025) Book Review ‘Resistance as Negotiation: Margins of Modern India by Dr Uday Chandra, Stanford University Press’. SAR Journal - Science and Research.

**International Report (Published)**

Nath, S.R., Jones, K. and Viney, C. (2021) Understanding the experience of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) using the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) at UK Universities published by Vitae & Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England (CHASE). Available at: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/about-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework/understanding-experience-of-pgrs-using-the-vitae-rdf-at-uk-universities-final-june-2021.pdf>

**Book Chapter (Published)**

Nath, S.R. (2020) ‘Artists’ Federation for Social Awareness in Kandhamal, Odisha’, in *Making Development Happen: Transformational Change in Rural India*, ed. K. Seeta Prabhu and S. Parasuraman by Orient Black Swan, New Delhi ( ISBN. 9789352879311).

**Article (Published)**

2016 Illegal and unfair acquisition of mining land in Korba in Down to Earth

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/mining/illegal-and-unfair-acquisition-of-mining-land-in-korba-54627>

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**Major Grant Writing/Research Contribution Experience**

* Contributed to Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project to Academia and Activism, early career network grant ( with Prof. Vinita Damodaran)
* Contributed to Botany, climate, and Empire ( with Prof. Vinita Damodaran) funded by the British Academy

**Panel Invitation/Discussions**

2024 Book discussion : “Resistance as Negotiation: Margins of Modern India by Dr Uday Chandra” (Moderator), University of Sussex

2024 Indigenous Pluriverse and Stories of Resistance (Moderator), SOAS , London

2024 Environmental History and Resistance in South Asia(Moderator), University of Sussex

2024 Indian General Election Results 2024 (Panel speaker), School of Global Studies, University of Sussex

**Conference Presentations**

2024 Presented a paper titled “Transcending Colonial and Nationalist Framing : Reflection on Positionality and Ethics while working with Indigenous Communities” at George Mason University, Virginia , USA

# 2022 Presented a paper titled “Decolonising Archives and Methodologies: Ethical Approaches to work with Indigenous People as non-indigenous researchers ” at Centre for World Environment History, University of Sussex, UK

# 2022 Presented a paper titled “Kondhs’ resistance movement to save sacred Niyamgiri, Odisha in Eastern India” at the Department of Social & Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria

## 2022 Presented a paper titled “Defending the Sacred: Discourses of Development, Identity, and Everyday Resistance among Dongaria Kondhs in Eastern India” at Ireland India Institute, Dublin City University, Ireland.

## 2019 Presented a paper titled “State surveillance on Indigenous people and the case of popular resistance against bauxite mining in Eastern India” at the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK.

## 2017 Present paper titled “Examining Growth– Inequality Nexus in Post-reform Odisha: A Case of Popular Adivasi Resistance” at University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## 2013 Presented paper titled “Sustainable Development Dialogues: Issues of open-pit coal mining and land alienation in Korba, Chhattisgarh, India” at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India.

2011 Presented paper titled “Social Protection to Social Justice: Social Exclusion as a hindrance to Social Protection Processes in India” at International Council of Social Welfare, South Asia, Mumbai, India

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# **Conference & Workshops Organised**

2024 Co-organised a workshop on “Environemntal History and Resistance in South Asia” at the University of Sussex, UK.

2017 Co-organised a workshop on “Understanding Indigeneity in India” at the University of Sussex, UK.

2010 Co-organised a three-day consultation on “Social Protection Policies: Present Practise and Way Forward” with the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

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**Funding & Scholarship**

2019-2020 Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

2020- 2021 University of Sussex Alumni Scholarship

2021-2022 John Leonida sponsored Scholarship under Sussex Fund

# **Honours & Participations**

2019-2020 Co-convenor, Sussex India Society

2012-2013 Mentor, Jagriti Yatra

## 2010-2011 Ashoka Young Changemaker Fellowship