

# ARPITA BANERJEE

Urban & Regional Planner  
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## EDUCATION

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### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Jan 2021 - Dec 2022(expected)

CGPA 4.0

### School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Bachelors in Physical Planning (B.Planning)

Sep 2014 - Jul 2018

79.18 % (Department Rank #2)

## ONGOING PROJECTS

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### An Integrated Toolkit for Rural Disaster Planning

*Supervisor* - Russell Medley, University of Illinois Extension

May 2021 - Present

A toolkit for rural communities in Illinois, using an asset-based approach, and will include a model process and supporting materials to integrate disaster planning into economic development planning. Deliverables include -

- A template for collecting secondary data relevant to hazards and potential disasters
- A planning process for identifying and prioritizing disaster planning strategies that are viable and consistent with other planning efforts
- A framework for integrating disaster planning strategies to economic development plans as they are created
- Best practices to minimize disaster impacts and foster community recovery
- List of federal resources to address disaster mitigation, preparedness, and recovery.

### An Intersectional Analysis of Housing Vulnerability

*Guide* - Prof. Andrew Greenlee

Oct 2020 - Present

An intersectional model comprising housing unit, householder, neighborhood and metropolitan level characteristics to analyse housing vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. A new tool for housing vulnerability through clustering techniques and geovisualization is envisaged.

## UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### A Model for Geo-Spatial Information Approach to Planning for Rural Clusters

*Undergraduate Thesis Guide* - Prof. Dr. Mahavir

Jan-Jul 2018

Developed a standardized geo-spatial model for rural planning information systems [including delineation, database design and generation, analysis, scenario building, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural clusters (hybrid settlements containing rural and urban areas). Applied on the tribal district of Khunti, Jharkhand (India).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UIUC

*Graduate Teaching Assistant for UP 316 Urban Informatics II*

Jan - May 2021

Teaches critical statistical analysis of urban and regional planning data through Labs based on R and MS-Excel

### Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

*Research Associate*

Jan - Apr 2019

Evaluation of Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Scheme under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Surveyed and analyzed higher education institutions at the semi-rural and small town levels.

### Environmental Defence Fund, New York

*Project Intern*

Nov 2018 - Jan 2019

Creation of a **National Air Pollution Research Database** comprising indigenous research work. Work was conducted in association with National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute, New Delhi

**Suitability Analysis for Residential Development in Champaign County, IL***Graduate Coursework in Physical Planning, Spring 2021 (under Dr. Dustin Allred)*

Feb onwards, 2021

Development of a composite suitability map taking into account the opportunities and constraints of slope, soil, water and green infrastructure for residential development

**Planning for Village Clusters in Districts adjacent to Metropolitan Areas***Undergraduate Planning and Design Studio, Semester 7*

Aug-Dec 2017

Development of a Composite Rural Development Index through spatial layering, and analysis of 14 components to create an Integrated Cluster Action Planning of 4 villages in Kurukshetra, India

**Affordable Housing Development for Landslide-prone Industrial Locations***Undergraduate Planning and Design Studio, Semester 5*

Aug-Dec 2016

Study of the proposed v/s existing housing scenario of BBN Special Area, identification of issues, conflicts and economic pressures and preparation of an environmentally sustainable Housing Plan for the eco-sensitive foothills of the Himalayas

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**SOCIAL SERVICE AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL**

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**Capacity Building Volunteer**

February 2018

Involved in technical demonstration of watershed program and educating farmers from 6 villages in Jharkhand (India)

**Volunteer, Watershed Demonstration Stall at Central Kishan Mela (Farmer's Festival)**

February 2018

Spread mass awareness among tribal villagers about benefits of soil moisture conservation with the help of micro watershed program

**Teaching Volunteer, Ramakrishna Ashram, Ranchi, Jharkhand (India)**

June-July 2015

Participated in an educational project for the holistic development of poor rural children of ages 5-12 years for 40 days

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**RELEVANT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

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- "Delineating Rurban Clusters as a Neutralization Technique for Polarized Regions" in *25th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society, REAL CORP* (2020) at Aachen, Germany (Work in Progress)
- "A Geospatial Model for Rurban Planning" in *24th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society, REAL CORP* (2019) at Karlsruhe, Germany
- "Application of a Geo-Spatial Planning Model on a Tribal Rurban Cluster: Case Study of Khunti, Jharkhand" in *SPACE (the Official Journal of SPA Delhi)* (2019)
- "Geo-Spatial Information Approach to Planning for Rurban Clusters" in *Coordinates Volume XIV, Issue 9* (2018) ([link](#))
- "Unpacking a Geospatial Model for Rurban Planning: Inputs from Computer Science" in *16th International Conference on Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management* (2019) at Wuhan, China
- "Spatial Strategies for Rurban Clusters: Case Study of Kurukshetra" in *International Conference on Future Cities, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee* (2019) at Roorkee, Uttar Pradesh

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**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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**Merit-Based Full Tuition Scholarship** for the academic year 2021-2022.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UIUC

**College of Fine and Applied Arts Nonresident Scholarship** for the Academic year 2021-2022.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UIUC

**General Proficiency Award** for achieving Department Rank 2

Department of Physical Planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

2018

**Apurva Rustagi Scholarship for Meritorious Women in Planning**

Department of Physical Planning + BE Planners (Alumni Association), School of Planning and Architecture

2016

## RELEVANT COURSES

*Fall 2014- Spring 2018*

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- **Graduate level [Ongoing]** - Physical Planning, Neighborhood Analysis & GIS for Planners
- **Undergraduate level** - Planning Information Systems, Utilities & Infrastructure Planning, Project Planning & Control, Statistics, Demography, Economics, Rural & Resource Planning

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Proficient:** ArcGIS, Spatial & Statistical Data Analysis, AutoCAD, Photoshop, MS Office, Technical & Academic Writing
- **Learning:** R, Python, Machine Learning, Database Management, and Data Visualization