

SAI BALAKRISHNAN

Department of Urban Planning, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
T: 617-496-4687; sbalakrishnan@gsd.harvard.edu

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Areas of interest: spatial politics of land-use planning and property rights, urbanization and international development

Harvard University Graduate School of Design
Assistant Professor in Urban Planning (2015 – Present)

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University
Assistant Professor in International Development (2014 - 15)

Center on Global Legal Transformation, Columbia Law School
Postdoctoral Research Scholar (2013 – 14)

NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Adjunct Assistant Professor (Spring 2014)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
Faculty Associate, Science Technology and Society Program, Harvard University
Faculty Associate, Displacement Action and Research Network, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Research Fellow, Land Governance Laboratory, Cambridge, MA

EDUCATION

Harvard University
PhD in Urban Planning (2008 – 13)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Master in Urban Planning (2006 – 08)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Master in Urban Design (2004 – 06)

Manipal Institute of Technology, India
Bachelor of Architecture (1997 – 2002)

AWARDS

William Holland Prize for outstanding article published in Pacific Affairs in 2013
2014 ACSP (Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) Gill Chin Lim Award for Best Dissertation on International Planning.
Outstanding Master of City Planning Thesis, MIT, June 2008

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Balakrishnan, S., *Contesting Shareholder Cities: Agrarian to urban land transformations in globalizing India* (under contract with University of Pennsylvania Press)

REFEREED ARTICLES

- Balakrishnan, S. "Agrarian elites in urban real estate: Urban and land transformations along new economic corridors in liberalizing India," *International Journal for Urban and Regional Research* (under review).
- Balakrishnan, S. "Seeing Mumbai through its Hinterland: Entangled Agrarian-Urban Land Markets in Regional Mumbai," *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 2018.
- Potter, Cuz and Sai Balakrishnan, "Fragmented states and realistic improvements: Susan S. Fainstein's contributions to planning theory," AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) Booklet Series (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. "Highway Urbanization and Land Conflicts: The Challenges to Decentralization in India," Special Issue on "Decentralization and Urban Transformation in Asia," *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 86 no.4 (2013): 785-811.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Balakrishnan, S. "Narratives of Waste Land: Politics of Land Commodification and Decommodification in Liberalizing India," in Asher Ghertner and Robert Lake (eds), *Land Fictions*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. "Agrarian-Urban Land Rent: Locational Politics of Waste Land in Liberalizing India," in Sanjoy Chakravorty and Amitendu Palit (eds), *The Land Debate in India: Politics and Markets*, Oxford University Press (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. "New Towns in India." In Ann Forsyth and Rick Pieser (eds) *New Towns*, University of Pennsylvania Press (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. and A. Forsyth. "Qualitative Methods." In Subhrajit Guhathakurta, Nancey Green Leigh, Steven P. French, and Bruce S. Stifel (eds) *International Handbook on Planning Education*. New York: Routledge (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. "Bureaucratic Negotiations in India's Land Conflicts: A New Theory of 'Khadi-Rational' Authority." In Bish Sanyal (ed) *Hidden Successes*, Sage Publications (Forthcoming).
- Balakrishnan, S. "Land-based Financing for Infrastructure: What is New About India's Land Conflicts?" In R.Nagaraj and Sripad Motiram (eds) *Political Economy of Contemporary India*, Delhi: Cambridge University Press (2017)
- Balakrishnan, S. "Peri-Urban Land Markets in Bangalore: New Conditions of Informality and a New Politics of Inclusion." In Eugenie Birch, Shahana Chattaraj and Susan Wachter (Eds) *Informal Real Estate Markets*. University of Pennsylvania Press (2017).

NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Balakrishnan, S. "Land Readjustment in Western India: New Conditions and Challenges for the 21st Century," in *Global Experiences in Land Readjustment: Urban Legal Case Studies Volume 7*, Nairobi: UN-HABITAT.
- Balakrishnan, S. and Nicholas Blomley. *Introduction to Displacements: Reflections and Research Agendas*, MIT Displacement and Action Research Network, Forthcoming Summer 2017.
- Balakrishnan, S. *Jurisdictional Arbitrage at Bengaluru's Urban/Rural Edge*, in Michael Goldman, Vinay Gidwani and Carol Upadhyay (ed) Special Issue on Bangalore's Great Transformation, New Delhi: Seminar (June 2017).
- Contributor, "State of the World Cities (SWCR) 2012-13," and "SWCR 2015-16," Nairobi: UN-HABITAT.
- Carmin, J., S. McCormick, S. Balakrishnan, E. Chu. 2011. "Institutions and Governance in a Changing Climate: Implications for Service Provision for the Urban Poor," Background paper for the World Bank's Mayors' Task Force on Urban Poverty and Climate Change.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

- "Cities of Sugar: Agrarian Property in Urban Real Estate in Liberalizing India," Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru, August 2018.
- "Revaluing Waste Land in Liberalizing India: The New Land Acquisition Act As a Polanyian Double Movement," Center for Policy Research, New Delhi, July 2018.
- "Agrarian Elites in Urban Real Estate Markets: Urban Theory from the Global South," India China Institute, The New School, March 2018.
- "Regulatory arbitrage: Zoning across the urban-rural divide in India," 100 Years of Zoning Conference, Columbia University, December 2016.
- "The Infrastructure and Urbanization Question, Revisited from the Global South," Lectures in Planning Series, Columbia University, October 2015.
- "Law/Space Mismatch: The Politics of Uncertainty and Rule-Making in Globalizing India," Rethinking Law and Planning Series, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 2016.
- "Beyond the City-Hinterland Divide: Agrarian Elites in the Making of India's Urban Real Estate Markets," Asian Studies Lecture Series, Northeastern University, February 2016.
- "Land politics in liberalizing India," Course for IAS (Indian Administrative Service) bureaucrats on Urban Management and Development, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, October 2014.
- "Equity in Urban Development Law," World Urban Forum, UN-HABITAT, Medellin, March 2014.
- "India's Land Conflicts: Facts, Fallacies and Some Ways Forward," R&D Series, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai, India, September 2012.

JOURNAL REVIEWS AND EDITORIAL BOARDS

- Editorial Advisory Board, Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space, 2017 – Present.
- Reviewed articles for Journal of Planning Education and Research, Environment and Planning A, South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (Samaj).

RESEARCH GRANTS

- William Milton Fund Grant, Harvard University, 2018
- Dean's Junior Faculty Grant, Harvard University 2016, 2-17, 2018
- Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies Research Assistance Grant, 2017
- Book Manuscript Grant, Weatherhead Institute, Harvard University, 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CONSULTANCIES

- UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya
- Consultant (January – May 2015; January – May 2012)

- RNL Design, Denver, CO
- Urban Designer (2004 – 06)