

# Dr. Nithya Natarajan

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## EDUCATION

- September 2013 – the present time      **PhD in International Development, SOAS, London** (viva voce passed March 2019)  
Thesis title: *Changing Dynamics of Tobacco Production and Exchange in South India: Towards a Socio-Ecological Analysis*
- September 2011 – August 2012      **MA Environment and Development, King's College, London;** Distinction
- September 2007 – September 2011      **BA English and German Literature, University of Oxford;** Upper Second Class Honours

## LANGUAGES

- **Tamil** – fluent, spoken (mother tongue)
- **English** – fluent, spoken and written
- **German** – advanced, spoken and written

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- February 2018 – the present time      **Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London**  
*'Blood Bricks: Examining the Modern Slavery-Climate Change Nexus in the Cambodian Construction Industry'* research project (funded by ESRC-DfID)
- September 2017 – January 2018      **Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Development Studies, SOAS**  
*Theory, Policy and Practice of Development*, postgraduate course
- September 2015 – July 2017      **Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Politics and International Relations, SOAS**  
*Politics of the World Economy*, undergraduate course
- July 2016      **Guest Lecturer, SOAS Summer School: Violence, Conflict and Development**  
*Humanitarianism, NGOs and International Organisations*, Lecture
- September 2015 – July 2016      **Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Development Studies, SOAS**  
*Critical Reasoning in Contemporary Development Studies*, undergraduate course

## PUBLICATIONS

Brickell, K., Parsons, L., **Natarajan, N.**, Chann, S., and Cristofolletti, T. (2019, forthcoming) 'Exhibition, Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change from Cambodia'. *Environment and Planning D*. (Photo essay for 'In Practice' section)

**Natarajan, N.** (2018) 'Broadening the horizons of 'work': small farms and brick kilns in Cambodia'. *Futures of Work blog*. Available at: <https://futuresofwork.co.uk/2018/11/19/broadening-the-horizons-of-work-small-farms-and-brick-kilns-in-cambodia/> (Blog piece)

**Natarajan, N.**, Brickell, K., and Parsons, L. (2018) 'Is the race to the bottom over? Reflecting on 'surplus' populations in Cambodia'. *Open Democracy*. Available at: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/author/nithya-natarajan> (*Blog piece*)

Brickell, K., Parsons, L. and **Natarajan, N.** (2018) 'Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change from Cambodia'. London: Royal Holloway. (*Report*)

Bayles, K., Brickell, K., Brown, D., Boyd, D., Ives, C., Natarajan, N., and Parsons, L. (2018) 'Modern Slavery, Environmental Destruction and Climate Change: Fisheries, Fields, Forests and Factories'. Nottingham: Royal Holloway and Nottingham University. (*Report*)

**Natarajan, N.** (2018) Moving past the problematisation of tobacco farming: insights from South India. *Tobacco Control*. 2018(17), pp. 272-277. (*Journal article*)

**Natarajan, N.** (2017) Behind the Indian Boom. *Focaal Blog*. Available at: [www.focaalblog.com/2017/11/14/nithya-natarajan-behind-the-indian-boom](http://www.focaalblog.com/2017/11/14/nithya-natarajan-behind-the-indian-boom) (*Blog piece*)

**Natarajan, N.**, Brickell, K. and Parsons, L. (forthcoming) Climate change and precarity across the Rural—urban Divide in Cambodia: towards a 'Climate Precarity; approach. *Environment and Planning E*.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

**Natarajan, N.** 'Agro-ecology, agrarian capitalism and caste: towards a socio-ecological analysis of tobacco production in western Tamil Nadu' (*Journal article*)

*Re-submitted to the 'Journal of Peasant Studies' following revisions, January 2019*

**Natarajan, N.**, Brickell, K. and Parsons, L. 'Debt-bonded brick kiln workers and their intent to return: towards a labour geography of smallholder persistence in Cambodia' (*Journal article*)

*Re-submitted to 'Antipode' following revisions, November 2018*

**Natarajan, N.** and Parsons, L. 'Introduction: Special Issue on Labour Geography in a Changing Climate' *Special Issue proposal accepted by 'Area' journal, February 2019, 'Introduction' currently being drafted*

**Natarajan, N.** 'Climate, Ecology, and the Shifting Dynamics of Labour among Tobacco Farmers in Tamil Nadu' *Accepted by 'Area' journal, February 2019, currently being drafted*

**Natarajan, N.**, Brickell, K. and Parsons, L. 'The perils of financial inclusion and growth for the poor: modern slavery as 'adverse incorporation' into Cambodia's economy' [working title] (*Journal article*)

*Submitted to 'World Development', December 2018*

**Parsons, L.** and Natarajan, N. (eds) 'Climate Justice or Labour Justice?' (*Edited book*)

*Submitted to 'Routledge', December 2018.*

Goodfellow, M. and **Natarajan, N.** 'Workers and Environmentalists of the World Unite: Towards a Red- Green Agenda in the UK Union Movement' in **Parsons, L.** and Natarajan, N. (eds) 'Climate Justice or Labour Justice?' (*Edited book*)

*Submitted to 'Routledge', December 2018.*

## **WORK IN PREPARATION**

Brickell, K., **Natarajan, N.** and Parsons, L. 'Bonds of affection as bonds of affliction: towards a carceral geography of bonded labour' [working title] (*Journal article*)

*To be submitted to 'Annals of the Association of American Geographers', January 2019*

**Natarajan, N.** and Ramesh, A. 'The politics of 'adaptation' to climatic and environmental change: risk, water and farmers' movements in South India' (*Journal article*)

To be submitted to 'Environment and Planning A', February 2019

**Natarajan, N.** and Brickell, K. "‘Surplus women’ in Cambodia: a feminist interrogation of agency among indebted, pluri-active rural households' (*Journal article*)

To be submitted to *Development and Change*, May 2018

## **POLICY PAPERS**

- November 2018      Brickell, K., Parsons, L., and **Natarajan, N.** (2018) 'Submission to UN Review of UN Compliance with Un Convention Against Torture', *REDRESS Civil Society Report*.
- September 2018      Brickell, K., Parsons, L., and **Natarajan, N.** (2018) 'Submission to Home Affairs Select Committee Regarding Progress of the Modern Slavery Act, 2015'

## **PRESENTATIONS/ SEMINARS**

- March 2019  
(forthcoming)      'Indecent work and economic growth in SDG 8: The perils of financial inclusion and growth among unfree brick workers in Cambodia'  
*Centre on Labour and Global Production seminar series, Queen Mary, University of London*
- January 2019      'Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change'  
*Presentation to Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Phnom Penh*
- January 2019      'Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Debt Bondage and Climate Change'  
*'A Seminar on Microcredit in Cambodia: Pressing Issues and Future Prospects', Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Phnom Penh*
- January 2019      'Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change'  
*United Nations Learning Seminar, United Nations Development Programme, Phnom Penh*
- January 2019      'Blood Bricks report launch'  
*Residence of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Cambodia, Phnom Penh*
- January 2019      'Financial Inclusion or Adverse Incorporation? Insights from farmers-turned-brick workers in Cambodia'  
*'Debt, Freedom and Development: Insights from Asia' Conference, National University of Singapore*
- November 2018      'Modern Slavery and the Growth Imperative in Cambodian Construction: Towards a Critique of Contradictions in Sustainable Development Goal 8'  
*Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan*
- September 2018      'Land, migration and debt: deagrarianisation and the aspiration to 'return to the land' in Cambodia'  
*International Institute for the Promotion of Political Economy (IIPPE) Conference, Pula*
- August 2018      'Climate change, ecology and the shifting dynamics of labour among tobacco farmers in Tamil Nadu'  
*'Geographies of Labour in a Changing Climate' panel, Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference, Cardiff*
- June 2018      'Constructing 'Informality': towards a more articulated notion of 'informal' and 'unfree' labour'  
*'The Post-Wage Economy: Re-theorising 'Work' Across the Global North/South Divide' workshop, Queen Mary, University of London*

- September 2017 ‘Deagrarianisation and Tobacco Production in Tamil Nadu: The End of Cheap Nature?’  
*International Institute for the Promotion of Political Economy (IIPPE) Conference, Berlin*
- September 2016 ‘Exploitation and accumulation through multiple markets: reflections on deagrarianisation in western Tamil Nadu’  
*International Institute for the Promotion of Political Economy (IIPPE) Conference, Lisbon*
- June 2016 ‘Understanding Real Markets: the Development of Tobacco in Tamil Nadu’  
Inequality and Poverty Research reading Group, Department of Anthropology, LSE
- April 2016 ‘Contesting the ‘Market’: Caste, Class and Liberalisation among Tobacco Farmers in Tamil Nadu’  
*British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference, University of Cambridge*
- February 2016 ‘Knowledge production among tobacco agriculturalists in India: moving towards a class-based analysis’  
*Contested Agronomy Conference, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex*
- September 2015 ‘Caste networks and class dynamics: tobacco control and its impacts upon Gounder agriculturalists in South India’  
*International Institute for the Promotion of Political Economy (IIPPE) Conference, Leeds University*
- April 2015 ‘Marxist political economy: theory, methods and analysis’  
*Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu*

### **AWARDS AND FUNDING**

- June 2018 QR Global Challenges Research Fund Award (£10,000); *with Professor Katherine Brickell*
- March 2017 SOAS Doctoral School Award for Research-led Activity (£500); *with Dr Aditya Ramesh and Dr Shreya Sinha*
- February 2017 Award for Excellent Presentation, Contested Agronomy Conference, STEPS Centre, University of Sussex
- July 2016 Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) Interdisciplinary Research Fund Award (£3,000); *with Jai Bhatia*
- September 2014 – August 2016 Economic and Social Science Research Council (ESRC) PhD Studentship
- September 2013 – August 2014 SOAS Doctoral Scholarship

### **EVENTS CO-ORGANISED**

- October 2018 *Lives in Brick: Bodies, Justice, Power*  
Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
- October 2018 *Global Challenges’ Creative Turn: a workshop exploring the possibilities and practicalities of creative research methods and practices in the Global South*  
Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
- October 2018 *Blood Bricks: Untold Stories of Modern Slavery and Climate Change from Cambodia*  
Photo exhibition and project report launch, Building Centre, London
- June 2018 *Modern Slavery, Environmental Destruction and Climate Change: A Scoping Workshop*

	Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
May 2018	<i>Cambodia Scholar Workshop</i> , with screening of ‘ <i>A Cambodian Spring</i> ’ Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
June 2017	<i>Interrogating the ‘rural’ in South Asia: ruptures and continuities</i> ; SOAS South Asia Graduate Conference South Asia Institute, SOAS, University of London
September 2016 – April 2017	<i>SOAS Development Studies Department Seminar Series</i> Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London
July 2016	<i>Violence, Conflict and Development</i> ; SOAS Summer School Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London

### **ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS/ ACTIVITIES**

January 2019	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>World Development</i> journal
November 2018	<b>Reviewer</b> , <i>Gender Place and Culture</i> journal
August 2018 – the present time	<b>Media and Impact Representative</b> , <i>Climate Change Research Group</i> ; <i>Royal Geographical Society</i>
December 2014 – June 2015	<b>Research Affiliate</b> , <i>Madras Institute of Development Studies</i>

### **NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

February 2013 – May 2013	<b>Communications and Media Intern</b> , <i>Friends of the Earth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assisted campaigns department in adapting key messages into language to render it more appealing to media sources.</li> <li>▪ Reviewed news stories on a daily basis to understand key environmental issues prevailing in the news cycle and adapt campaign messaging accordingly.</li> </ul>
June 2012 – December 2012	<b>Research and Consulting Intern</b> , <i>New Philanthropy Capital</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worked on an international development funding prize scheme, researched potential water and sanitation initiatives across Africa and Asia and developed a strong, operational knowledge of water, sanitation and hygiene in developing countries.</li> <li>▪ Undertook a research project on environmental philanthropy in the UK, developed a literature review and a survey of high-level philanthropists.</li> </ul>
September 2011 – March 2012	<b>Fundraising and Communications Intern</b> , <i>Child in Need India</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wrote detailed fundraising proposals for all of CINI’s projects, incorporating current research paradigms as well as information sent from the India office.</li> <li>▪ Managed the NGO’s anti-malnutrition campaign through policy research and publicity via social media.</li> </ul>