



SUMANGALA DAMODARAN

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1. PRESENT POSITIONS

- Professor, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi (since September 2022)
- Professor, School of Development Studies and School of Culture and Creative Expressions, Ambedkar University Delhi (2010-2022).
- Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa (since 2016)
- International Co-Director, project titled “Recentring AfroAsia: Musical and Human Migrations 700-1500 AD” funded by A.W.Mellon Foundation, 2016-2021, continuing with support from the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa from January 2022

2. EDUCATION

- PhD in Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (2004) (Supervisor: Prof. Jayati Ghosh)
- MPhil in Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (1991)
- M.A in Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (1989)

3. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I have taught and done research in Economics, Development Studies and Popular Music Studies over my professional career of 31 years. The first seventeen years of my academic career were spent at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, doing teaching and research in Economics and Development Studies and from 2006, I have done research, documentation and curation in music. In 2010, I was appointed at Ambedkar University Delhi and was in the founding team of the School of Development Studies and the School of Culture and Creative Expressions. I also served as Dean of the School of Development Studies for 4 ½ years. I have extensive experience in curriculum development, inter-institutional research and collaboration and administration.

I have been international Co-Director of an A.W. Mellon Foundation funded multi-institutional research project titled “Recentering AfroAsia: Musical and Human Migrations 700-1500 AD”, based at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, involving universities in India, South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania and China since 2016. The project has supported, under my direction, 90 students at graduate and post-doctoral level from 18 countries, more than 40 senior research scholars, and produced two books, about a hundred research papers and 17 artistic and musical performances. In recognition of the work done with the support of the Mellon Foundation, the project has been continued with support from the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa.

I am also a musician, composer and music director, having performed solo as well as with professional artists from India and countries in Africa and Latin America. My performative and curatorial work has been featured in the Kochi Muziris Biennale (India), the British Museum and the Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong).

I speak and perform in five Indian languages, apart from English.

Positions held:

- International Co-Director, project titled “Recentering AfroAsia: Musical and Human Migrations 700-1500 AD” funded by A.W.Mellon Foundation, 2016-2021, to continue with support from the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa from January 2022
- Dean, School of Development Studies (2016-2019)
- Dean (Officiating), School of Development Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi (AUD). Also involved with School of Culture and Creative Expressions in AUD
- Deputy Dean, School of Development Studies, AUD (2012-2014)
- Programme coordinator, MA Development Studies (2010-2012)
- Associate Professor, School of Development Studies, AUD (March 2010 to March 2013 on secondment from Delhi University)

- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi (from September 1993 to March 2010)
- Research Associate, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi (from August 1991 to September 1993)
- Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2016-present

Other positions:

- Consultant with National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS), Government of India from March 2008 to March 2009
- Deputy Course Director for the African programme for Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE) for the year 2009.
- Been in advisory capacity with V.V. National Labour Institute, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh and Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi.

4. PUBLICATIONS

4.1 Books

- Authored *The Radical Impulse: Music and Politics in the IPTA Tradition*, Tulika Books, 2017.
- Co-authored Sitas, Ari, Damodaran, Sumangala, Trimikliniotis, Nicos and W. Keim (eds) : *Gauging and Engaging Deviance – 1600-2000*, Tulika Books, 2014
- Co-authored Sitas, Ari, Damodaran, Sumangala, Trimikliniotis, Nicos, Pande, Amrita and W. Keim (eds): *Scripting Defiance*, Tulika Books, Forthcoming, 2022
- Co-authored Damodaran, Sumangala and Sitas, Ari: *Maps of Sorrow*, Tulika Books, Forthcoming, 2022

4.2 Book Chapters and Journal Papers

Economics and Development Studies (Selected)

- Issues in Capital Account Convertibility, in Walden Bello et al (eds) Global Finance, Zed Books, 2000
- Informal Sector and the Leather Industry in India, paper in Oberai, A.S and G.K. Chaddha (eds) Job Creation in the Urban Informal Sector in India, ILO – SAAT, New Delhi, 2001

- State Policy, Export Orientation and Labour: An Analysis of the Links in the Leather and Leather Products industry in India, Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 2005
- Demand-Supply Mismatches and the Role of Markets in Skill Development: Uncovering the Dimensions in India's Informal Sector, paper in the Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol 51, No.4, October-December 2008
- Global Production, Employment Conditions and Decent Work : Evidence from India's Informal Sector, Regulating for Decent Work Programme, International Labour Organisation, Geneva, 2011, <https://www.ilo.org/legacy/english/protection/travail/pdf/rdwpaper27b.pdf>
- “Women” versus “Breadwinners”: Exploring Labour Market Dynamics, Agency and Identity among Migrant Nurses from Kerala (India), Global Labour Journal, Vol. 4, No.3, 2013
- Chapter titled ‘Deviance’, written along with Ari Sitas, Nicos Trimikliniotis and Wiebke Keim in Immanuel Wallerstein (ed) book “The World is Out of Joint: World-Historical Interpretations of Continuing Polarizations (Fernand Braudel Center Series)”, Routledge, 2015.
- Contributed substantially to three reports of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector titled Skill Development and Employment Assurance in the Unorganised Sector, Technology Upgradation in the Unorganised Sector and The Challenge of Employment in India – the Informal Economy Perspective in 2009. All three reports went into the drafting policy documents of the Government of India.
- Upgradation or flexible casualization? Exploring the Dynamics of Global Value Chain Incorporation in the Indian Leather Industry, chapter in Anne Posthuma and Dev Nathan (eds) Labour in Global Production Networks in India, Oxford University Press, 2010
- ‘Trade and Employment in India’ in ICSSR Research Survey and Explorations in Economics, Volume II titled “India and the International Economy” edited by Jayati Ghosh, OUP, Delhi, 2015.
- “The Chimera of Inclusive Growth: Informality, Poverty and Inequality in India in the Post-Reform Period” in Development and Change, Vol 46, No.5, 1213-1224, 2015.
- “The Global Financial Crisis And ‘Resilience’: The Case Of India” in Vishwas Satgar (ed) Capitalism’s Crises: Class Struggles in South Africa and the World, Wits University Press, South Africa, 2015.
- “The shape/ing of industrial landscapes in a large metropolis: Life, work and

occupations in and around industrial areas in Delhi” in Surajit Chakravarty and Rohit Negi (eds) “Space, Planning and Everyday Contestations in Delhi”, Springer India, 2016.

- “New Strategies of Industrial Organisation and Labour in Mobile Telecom in India” in Dev Nathan, Meenu Tewari and Sandip Sarkar (eds) Labour in Global Value Chains in India, Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Chhachhi A., Hutter I., Damodaran S., Baud I. (2019) Working Towards a Shared Vision on Development Studies in India and The Netherlands. In: Baud I., Basile E., Kontinen T., von Itter S. (eds) Building Development Studies for the New Millennium. EADI Global Development Series. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-04052-9_13
- “Interrogating the Self and Categorising the Other: A Feminist Lens to Understanding Performance and Social Location” in Krishna Menon et al (eds) Doing Feminisms in the Academy: Identity, Institutional Pedagogy and Critical Classrooms in India and the UK, Zubaan Books, 2020
- “Migration and Informalisation: Underlying Processes” in issue titled State Capital Nexus – Implications for Labour, Anweshi Broadsheet on Contemporary Politics, March 2021

Music

- Music and Resistance: The tradition of the Indian People’s Theatre Association in the 1940s and 1950s, 2014, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Occasional paper
- “Singing Resistance – Music in the IPTA Tradition”, in Gargi Chakravartty (ed) People’s Warrior, Tulika Books, 2014.
- “Understanding the Relationship Between Art and Social Movements: Towards an Alternative Methodology” in Keim, Wiebke et al. (eds), Global Knowledge Production in the Social Sciences – Made in Circulation, Ashgate Publishing, 2014.
- “The Musical Journey – Re-Centring Afro-Asia Through an Arc of Musical Sorrow”, with Ari Sitas, Critical Arts, University of KwaZulu Natal, 2015.
- “Protest and Music”, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, OUP, 2016

- “Song Text and the Protest Song”, in Mudgal, Shubha et.al. (eds) Shabd aur Sangeet – Unravelling Song-Text in India, Three Essays Collective, 2019
- Introduction: Situating the Rural in Musical Imaginaries of Nation, Region, and Identity, Review of Agrarian Studies, Sage, 2019, vol. 9, issue 1, 69-75, for the volume that I guest edited
- But don’t we all play the same cello? Music as Metaphor, Music as Passion, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, DOI: 10.1080/02589001.2020.1787357
- “Is the Classical Contemporary?”, Conversation with Alarmel Valli and T.M.Krishna, Marg, March 2021.

5. Creative Output

5.1. **Performances and CD** based on research. I have performed songs, along with several professional musicians, from my documented archive of the musical repertoire of the Indian People’s Theatre Association (IPTA) extensively in India and abroad from 2008 onwards.

2010: “Songs of Protest: A Forgotten Tradition from the 1940s and 50s”, solo music album produced by Susmit Sen based on my research into the music of the Indian People’s Theatre Association.

5.2. **Musical collaboration.** In 2011, I co-founded, along with Ari Sitas, poet and sociologist from South Africa, an Indo-South African poetry and music ensemble, the **Insurrections Ensemble**, which has produced a vast quantum of musical work. I have, over **seven musical productions** over nine years, been involved in conceptualisation, composition and performance. The ensemble has performed several times in South Africa and three times in India.

2013: “Insurrections”, Insurrections Ensemble Music CD, curated with Neo Muyanga in the Fugard Theatre, Cape Town in 2012. **Best composition award** for CD in 2016, shared with Neo Muyanga and Sazi Dlamini, from National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa

2015: “Mayihlome/Aahwaan”, Insurrections Ensemble Music CD.

2017: “The Storming”, Insurrections Ensemble Music CD. **Best composition award** for CD in 2018, shared with Ari Sitas and Reza Khota, from National Institute of Humanities and Social

Sciences, South Africa

2019: “Threads of Sorrow”, Insurrections Ensemble Music CD.

2020: “Transgressions”, Insurrections Ensemble Music CD.

2020: “A Seadrift of Songs”, Afroasia Ensemble Multimedia performance

2021: “Giraffe Humming”, Afroasia Ensemble Multimedia performance for which I was Music Director

All the above are available at www.insurrectionsensemble.com

2018: Directed music for “Dark Things”, a theatre production directed by Anuradha Kapur and Deepan Sivaraman, supported by Ambedkar University Delhi

5.3. Curation and Exhibitions.

2012: My work on the IPTA was curated by British artist Taf Hassam into an exhibition at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, culminating in a performance.

2014: My work was featured in an exhibition titled “Mapping Asia” by the Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong, consisting of a six day residency and a performance, along with musicians from India and Hong Kong.

2017: I curated a sound installation titled “People’s Music” for the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa, along with theatreperson Sudhanva Deshpande and animation artist Shaaz Ahmed.

2017: I curated the segment on Protest Music for the museum Indian Music Experience, Bangalore.

2018: My work was featured in an exhibition titled “I Object: Ian Hislop’s Search for Dissent”. Curated by Ian Hislop at the British Museum for a period of four months.

April-May 2021: I curated and conducted an eight-session workshop on Music and Democracy for Kochi Biennale Foundation

August 2020 – present: Curating a video series called Waqt Ki Awaaz for Newslick web channel and Indian Cultural Forum.

October 2021: Produced a documentary film titled ‘A Caravan of Longing’ that traces the

musical lament as a thread by which marginalised communities, especially women from them, remember centuries old histories of travel and migration.

6. Research and Teaching Collaboration and Projects:

- Teaching a course titled ‘Art and the Sociology of Popular Culture’ in the Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa, along with Prof. Ari Sitas, for a month every year since 2012.
- Lecturing in course titled ‘Deviance’ in the Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa, since 2013.
- Research project under SDS research programme titled ‘Re-searching Delhi’, since 2018
- Research project on Ageing in the City: a Comparative Study of Delhi and the Hague under Research Innovation Facility from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, with Prof. Amrita Chhachhi as Principal Investigator, 2017.
- UGC-UKIERI project on Feminist Pedagogies titled ‘Teaching Feminisms, Transforming lives’ along with AUD colleagues from School of Human Studies and School of Liberal Studies, 2017.
- Ambedkar University Delhi project titled ‘Researching Antiquity’ along with Centre for Community Knowledge, 2017.
- Co-Director, along with Prof. Ari Sitas of the University of Cape Town, of project titled “Re-centring AfroAsia – Musical and Human Migrations 700-1500 AD”, awarded by The A.W. Mellon Foundation, 2016-2021.
- Co-Director, along with Prof. Brett Pyper of the University of the Witwatersrand, of project titled “Re-centring AfroAsia”, awarded by the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa.
- Collaborative Research Project with Dr. Amrita Pande, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town, awarded by the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa and ICSSR for a period of one year beginning January 2016.
- One year Seed Money Grant project titled “Music and Migration” awarded by Ambedkar University, Delhi, 2020-21
- Two year ICSSR sponsored project titled “Migration and Industrial Work: A Study of Industrial Areas in Delhi” from Jan 2013 to Dec 2014
- One year project sponsored by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust titled “Migrant Identities in Industrial Work”, 2014-15.
- Music Research and Documentation grant from the National School of Drama, Delhi in 2009.
- One year Research Grant by the Gender and Labour programme of the National Labour Institute, India, to work on Gender and Migration in 2006
- Music Research and Documentation grant from CSDS-SARAI in 2006.

7 Residencies and lectures

Two week lecture tour in Bogota, Cartagena and Medellin, Colombia under the auspices of UNAL, Colombia, 2012.

Lecture on Music of Resistance, Department of Music, Harvard University, 2012

Six day artist residency with Asia Art Archive and Spring Workshop, culminating in a performance, Hong Kong, 2014.

Six day artist residency with Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 2012, consisting of workshops and a performance.

One month artist residency with Khoj International Artists' Association, 2016.

Six day artist residency with the Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg, 2018

Six day residency and lecture series for Emancipatory Futures Studies Project, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 2021

8 Distinguished lectures delivered

Ila Dalmia Memorial Lecture, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Delhi 2015: “The Radical Impulse: Music and Politics in the Tradition of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA)”

Ashok Ranade Memorial Lecture, Ashok Ranade Memorial Trust, Mumbai 2017: “Music and the Radical Impulse: The IPTA tradition and beyond”

Kumar Gandharva Memorial Lecture, Raza Foundation, New Delhi 2018: “History, Memory and Emotion in Understanding Music as Politics”.

Presented papers in several national and international seminars and conferences