

## PREETI RAGHUNATH, PhD

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

I work at the intersections of new technologies (policies and practices) and development. I do ethnography in South Asia, and theorise from the standpoint of the Global South. My research interests lie in the practices and policies of new technologies, media policy studies, development studies, region and media, and qualitative research.

### WORK EXPERIENCE (since 2012)

#### *CURRENT:*

- Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication (SIMC) – from March, 2020

#### *PAST:*

- **Researcher - Factly Media and Research** – August - October, 2018  
Short-term research project on Fake News, with Factly, an award-winning Data Journalism/Public Information portal in India. Authored an international research report.
- **Research Assistant – UNESCO Chair on Community Media** – February, 2012 to February, 2017.

#### Roles:

- Content creation – web and presentations, facilitating and interacting with visitors to the Chair.
- Research project management cycle - Grant application, Proposal-writing, Research, Report-writing, Outreach and Dissemination.
- Part of the organizing team for various events/seminars/workshops organized by the Chair.

#### Research Projects:

- Involved in the evaluation of a UN body's funding and strategic involvement in the community radio sector in India, deploying mixed methods to conduct research in some of the Most Backward Districts in two central Indian states.
- Involved in the drafting of the Community Radio-Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT) to be perused by the community radio stations (it has hence been translated and adapted by the CR sectors in various countries), its field-testing and adoption, in India and Bangladesh.
- **Teaching Assistant – Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad** – July to December, 2013 - Co-taught the Introduction to Communication course to the first year Masters students.

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **PhD in Communication** – “*Deliberating Community Radio in South Asia: A Critical Policy Ethnography*” - University of Hyderabad – 2019
- **Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute** - University of Oxford - 2013
- **Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations and Politics** – Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 2011 – 7.68/9 CGPA
- **Bachelor of Arts (BA – Triple Major) in Mass Communication and Journalism, Literature, Political Science**, St. Francis’ College for Women, an autonomous college of Osmania University, Hyderabad – 2009 – 79% overall

## PUBLICATIONS (since 2012):

### Books:

Raghunath, Preeti. (2020). *Community Radio Policies in South Asia: A Deliberative Policy Ecology Approach*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-981-15-5628-9

### Forthcoming Publications:

Raghunath, Preeti. (forthcoming in 2021). COVID-19 and Non-Personal Data in the Indian context: On the Normative Ideal of Public Interest. In Milan et al (Eds.) *COVID-19 from the Margins: Pandemic Invisibilities, Policies and Resistance in the Datafied Society*. Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences: Institute of Network Cultures.

Raghunath, Preeti. (forthcoming in 2021). Airing imperium: A Historiography of Radio Governance in South Asia. *Global Media and Communication*, (forthcoming). Impact Factor: 0.70

Raghunath, Preeti (Anticipated to be forthcoming in 2021.) “Of mountains, islands, and policy”: Conducting a Critical Policy Ethnography in South Asia. *Qualitative Research*. Impact Factor: 2.247

Sarwatay, Devina; **Raghunath, Preeti**; Dutta, Uttaran; Ramasubramanian, Srividya; Pavarala, Vinod; Basnyat, Iccha; Vats, Anjali; Kaur-Gill, Satveer; Roy, Sudeshna; Dutta, Mohan. (Under Review). Decolonizing Open Science: Towards a Southern Politics of Openness. *Journal of Communication*. Impact Factor: 3.753

Raghunath, Preeti. (forthcoming in 2021). Book Review of ‘Create, Copy, Disrupt: India's Intellectual Property Dilemmas’, *International Journal of Media Studies*, (forthcoming).

Parthasarathi, Vibodh, Raghunath, Preeti. (forthcoming in 2021/22). Reformulating Media Bazaars: The Digital Media Economy in India. In Terry Flew et al (Eds) *Sage Handbook of Digital Media Economy*, Sage.

Raghunath, Preeti. (forthcoming in 2021/2022). The Deliberative Policy Ecology Approach: Media Policy Studies from the Global South. In Hanan Badr and Sarah Ganter (Eds) *Media*

## INVITED TALKS

- Upcoming talk at the Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad, on March 24, 2021
- Upcoming Seminar at the BIT-ACT Seminar Series (University of Bologna), on 'Towards Theory-Building: 'Constructing Grounded Theory' and Media Policy Ethnography', on June 16, 2021
- Talk on 'The Deliberative Policy Ecology Approach' to the study of Media Policy, as part of the Talk Series of the School of Public Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, on December 10, 2020.
- Lecture on 'Constructing Grounded Theory' by Kathy Charmaz: A Theoretical and Empirical Introduction', for the MSW students at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur, India, on October 26, 2020.
- Seminar on 'Deliberation and Media Policy Studies: Towards A Deliberative Policy Ecology Approach', at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra, Australia, on October 12, 2020.
- Guest lectures on Community Media, and Ethnography, for the Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC), in September, 2020.
- Lecture on Explorations in Ethnographic Fieldwork, organised by the Anthropology Club of the University of Hyderabad, India, on March 22, 2019.

## RESOURCE ROLES

- Part of the Policy Working Group for 'Strengthening Community Radio in India: National Consultation on Community Radio in India', organized by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media, and supported by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO & UNESCO New Delhi, between April 11-12, 2017.
- Resource Person for a session on 'Community Radio and Policy Ethnography as Methodology', for the course on 'Teaching and Researching Community Media: A 6-day workshop on Curriculum Development and Research Methodology', organized by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media and National Council of Rural Institutes (An MHRD institution) at Hyderabad, India, March 16-21, 2017.
- Field Coordinator for The Learning Course on Communication for Development Workshop, organized jointly by Ohio University and UNICEF, at Hyderabad, India, July 31-August 12, 2016.
- Presentation on 'Community Radio in Disasters', as part of the UNESCO Chair on Community Media team's two-day facilitation, at the NIRD&PR-CIRDAP Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology Applications for Rural Development at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India, February 29 – March 9, 2016.
- Guest Lecture on the 'Role of Content in Corporate Communications', at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, India, in September, 2013.
- Consultant for 'Building Innovation Ecosystems for Mega Impact: A National Conference on Social Innovation, Technology and Government', organized by IIT-Delhi, India, on August 12, 2013.

conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Tampere, Finland (online), 2020.

- 'Liminal Voices and Civil Conflict: Critical policy ethnography for community radio in Sri Lanka and Nepal', at the annual conference of the International Communication Association, at Gold Coast, Australia (online), 2020
- 'An Intervention in Method: Conducting a Critical Media Policy Ethnography', at the National Seminar held at the University of Hyderabad, 2019.
- 'Deliberating Community Radio in India: A Policy Ethnography', at the 12th Annual International Conference on Public Policy and Management, organized by the Centre for Public Policy (CPP), Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India, 2017.
- 'Deliberating Community Radio: Narratives of Policies and Praxis from South Asia', at the 3rd International Public Policy Association's (IPPA) annual conference, at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 2017.
- 'Policy Ethnography as a qualitative method for Critical Policy Research', at the International Workshop on Internet Policy Research Methods for Asia, New Delhi, 2017.
- 'Reconstructing Histories: Community Radio Policies and Policymaking in South Asia', as part of the Working group on Global Media Policy, at the annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Hyderabad, 2014.
- 'Marginal Voices in Central India: An Analysis of the Warp and Woof of Community Radio in the Bundelkhand Region', (Co-authored with Vinod Pavarala, Kanchan K Malik and Vasuki Belavadi), as part of the Section on Community Communication, at the annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Hyderabad, 2014.
- Presentation of preliminary research on 'Community Radio Policies in South Asia: A Comparative Study', at the Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, 2013.

## POPULAR WRITING

- Raghunath, Preeti. (2020). Governance of Non-Personal Data in India: Early Reflections from Digital Ethnography, for NIICE Nepal
- Raghunath, Preeti. (2020). COVID-19 and Non-Personal Data in the Indian context: On the Normative Ideal of Public Interest, for Big Data From The South
- Raghunath, Preeti. (2019). Inscribing an Inclusive Idea of Data in India, for the Newslandry
- Raghunath, Preeti. (2013). Pioneer to a Passive Spectator: Community Radio in Sri Lanka, hosted on Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture's blog.
- Contributor to the London School of Economics' South Asia Blog:
  - Digital South Asia: a brief history of telecom policies in the region (2018)
  - South Asia's new satellite: Signaling public engagement for sustainable regional diplomacy? (2017)
- Sample of an Op-Ed on recent shifts in the Education Policy in India and sustainable policy for education, Saving the Public University, dated September 30, 2016
- Sample of a special report for a newspaper: On Queer Street, Women's Page, The Times of India, dated July 24, 2011.

Research Team for Factly Research and Media's Research Report (2019) on Countering Misinformation (Fake news) in India: Solutions and Strategies.

Raghunath, Preeti. (2013). Interface between Social Innovators and Government: Challenges and Recommendations, Sole author of the Research Report for 'Building Innovation Ecosystems for Mega Impact: A National Conference on Social Innovation, Technology and Government', organized by IIT Delhi.

Conference Proceedings: Raghunath, Preeti. (2012). 'Communities in Solidarity: Going beyond traditional thinking in bilateral ties'. Conference Proceedings (Volume II) of the International Conference on India-Japan relations: Transformation into Potential Relationship, organized by the Centre for Southeast Asia and Pacific Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India, December 7-9, 2012.

## **GRANTS/AWARDS**

- Honorary Mention, Urban Communication Grant for the year 2020, awarded by the Urban Communication Foundation/IAMCR
- Best Paper Award for the Communication Policy and Technology (CP&T) Section and the Global Media Policy Working Group, at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) annual conference, Oregon, US, 20 - 24 June, 2018, for my paper titled, 'Airing Imperium: A Historiography of Radio Governance in South Asia'.
- Travel Grant by the annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Oregon, US, 20 - 24 June, 2018.
- Asian Scholar Grant – Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, for the International Public Policy Association (IPPA) annual conference at National University of Singapore, 2017.
- International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) – Open Society Foundation (OSF) Rapid Response Grant on Communication Policy, 2014 – Contributed to the Global Media Policy Working Group's Mapping Project as part of the Grant requirement, besides written submissions and presentations.
- Indian Council Social Science Research (ICSSR) Data Collection Abroad Grant, 2013-14 – Funding covered my doctoral fieldwork in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Indian government's University Grants Commission – Junior and Senior Research Fellowship – 2010.
- Gold medals - Best Outgoing Student, Best All-Rounder, Topper in Part-1 subjects - St. Francis' College for Women, Hyderabad, India (Bachelor of Arts, 2009).

## **PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS (Selected)**

- Organizing a pre-conference on 'Media Policies in South Asia', as part of the Global Media Policy Working Group, for the 2021 annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Nairobi, Kenya.
- 'Media Policy Studies: Towards a Deliberative Policy Ecology Approach', at the annual

Governance. A Cosmopolitan Critique, Palgrave Macmillan

Currently working on a paper for Media Development, on the legacy of the MacBride Commission Report in conjunction with the present digital era.

Currently co-editing an edited volume tentatively titled, 'A Media Anthropology of India', with Haripriya Narasimhan. Currently in the final stages of preparation for submission to an international publisher.

Currently co-authoring a paper on 'Mobilisation and Media: Interfacing with the Glocal', to be sent to the International Journal of Communication, in early 2021.

Currently working on a paper on Policymaking for Data in India.

Currently co-editing a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Digital Media and Policy (Intellect), on the theme, 'Media Policies in South Asia', scheduled for March 2022.

#### Journal Publications:

Raghunath, Preeti. (2020). Book Review of 'The Palgrave Handbook of Methods for Media Policy Research', *Asia Pacific Media Educator*, 30 (1).

Raghunath, Preeti. (2019). Human Security in a Datafying South Asia: Approaching Data Protection. *International Journal of Media Studies*, 1(1).

Raghunath, Preeti. (2014). The unfinished business of Nepal's community radio policy. *Media Asia*, 41(1), 22–23.

Raghunath, Preeti. (2014). Quelled voices and amplified silences, Himal Southasian's special issue on 'Growing Media, Shrinking Spaces', June, Vol. 27 (2).

#### Book Chapters:

Raghunath, Preeti. (2020). Deliberating Community Radio in India: A Critical Policy Ethnography. In Kanchan K Malik and Vinod Pavarala. (Eds.) *Community Radio in South Asia: Reclaiming the Airwaves*. Routledge, ISBN: 978-1138558533

#### Research Reports:

Pavarala, Vinod, Malik, Kanchan K., Belavadi, Vasuki, Deshbandhu, Aditya, **Raghunath, Preeti** (2013). Community Radio - Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CRCIT). ISBN: 978-81-88770-23-6

Research Monograph: Pavarala, Vinod, Malik, Kanchan K., Belavadi, Vasuki, **Raghunath, Preeti**. (2013). *On Air: A Study of Three Community Radio Stations in the Bundelkhand Region of MP and UP*, Research Monograph, UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad.

- Consultant for the Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), an Autonomous Body of the Government of India, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, Telangana, India, July-August, 2013.

## **ORGANISATIONAL ROLES**

- Organising Team of the Pre-Conference on Community Media for the Community Communication section of the IAMCR, 'Building Community – Shaping Change: The Role of Community, Citizen, and Alternative Media in Regional Transformation', at the Annual Conference in Hyderabad, in July, 2014.
- Organising Committee for CommClave 2013, a National Student Research Symposium on 'Contextualisations and Conversations', organized by the Department of Communication, on February 28, 2013, as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad, India.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSES/WORKSHOPS COMPLETED**

- Selected as a Fellow with the Indian School of Internet Governance (InSIG), held at New Delhi, October 12-15, 2018.
- Fully funded for the International Workshop on Internet Policy Research Methods for Asia, organized by the Internet Policy Observatory, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania and the Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University (NLU), New Delhi, India, April 10-14, 2017.
- Fully funded for the International Course titled, 'How to Engage in Broadband Policy and Regulatory Processes', organized by LinneAsia, Sri Lanka and the Centre for Communication and Media Governance (CCMG), Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, India, March 7-10, 2014.
- Fully funded for the Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, organized by the Centre for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania and the Programme for Comparative Media Law and Policy, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, UK, in June-July, 2013.
- National Workshop on 'Revisiting Campus Community Radio', organized by the UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad, India, on February 22-23, 2013.

## **ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Vice-Chair, Global Media Policy Working Group of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)
- Editor and Founding Member, Media Anthropology Research Collective-South Asia
- Reviewer, Media Asia, and the Asia Pacific Media Educator

## **MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATIONAL BODIES**

- Member, International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), since 2013.
- Member, International Communication Association (ICA), since 2019.
- Member, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), since 2020.

#### **LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

- English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu