

Saumitra Sinha

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EDUCATION

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- May 2024 **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH)**
Dept. of City and Regional Planning | Doctor of Philosophy
Title: "Muddling Through to Uphold the Right to Water? An Examination of Delhi's Free Water Policy,"
Committee: Dr. Dale Whittington (Chair), Dr. Meenu Tewari, Dr. Aaron Salzberg, Dr. Joseph Cook, Dr. Noreen McDonald
- Aug 2017 **Cornell University**
Dept. of City and Regional Planning | Master of Regional Planning
- May 2012 **School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, India**
Dept. of Architecture | Bachelor of Architecture

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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- Nov 2024 – **University of Notre Dame**
Present **Keough School of Global Affairs | Postdoctoral Research Associate**
- June 2024 – **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
July 2024 **Dept. of City and Regional Planning | Research Associate**
- Nov 2018 – **TARINA - TCI (Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition)**
Jun 2019 **New Delhi | Research Consultant**
- Aug 2017 – **Cornell University, Dept. of Applied Economics and Management & Dept. of**
Oct 2019 **Landscape Architecture | Research Associate (part-time)**

PUBLICATIONS

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- Radin, M., Wong, B., McManus, C., **Sinha, S.**, Jeuland, M., Larbi, E., Tuffuor, B., Biscoff, N. K., & Whittington, D. (2020). "Benefits and costs of rural sanitation interventions in Ghana." *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, 10(4), 724–743.
- Weinstein, L., Rumbach, A., & **Sinha, S.** (2019). "Resilient Growth: Fantasy Plans and Unplanned Developments in India's Flood-Prone Coastal Cities." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 43(2), 273–291.

UNDER REVIEW

- Sinha, S.**, Carson, R.T., Cook, J., Whittington, D., "Assessing Preferences for Reforming Water Subsidy Eligibility Rules in Delhi"

IN PREPARATION

Sinha, S., “Eliciting People’s Preferences for Tradeoffs between Water Subsidies and System Improvements in Delhi. Implications for Upholding the Human Right to Water”

Sinha, S., Tewari, M., “Typologies of Water Sharing and Payment Arrangements between Landlords and Renters in Delhi.”

REPORTS

Cook, J., Whittington, D., **Sinha, S.**, Flagship Report on Subsidies, Chapter 6.2 Water and Sanitation Subsidies, *World Bank (Forthcoming)*

Radin, M., McManus, C., **Sinha, S.**, Jeuland, M., Larbi, E., Tuffuor, B., Biscoff, N. K., Wong, B., & Whittington, D. (2020). “Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural Sanitation Interventions in Ghana.” *National Development Planning Commission, Copenhagen Consensus Center.*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sinha, S., Whittington, D. (2024) “Determinants for the Adoption of Household Water Conservation Strategies” *Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning*, Seattle

Sinha, S. (2024) “People’s Preferences for Getting Water Subsidies Compared to Subsidies in Other Public Sectors,” UNC Water and Health Conference: Science, Policy, and Practice, Chapel Hill

Sinha, S., Whittington, D. (2024) “Eliciting People’s Views on the Fairness of Alternative Municipal Water Subsidy Policies in Delhi, India” *Urban Affairs Association*, New York

Fuente, D., Cook, J., **Sinha, S.**, Whittington, D. (2024) “Water Tariff Design in the Anthropocene: Eight Problems with the World’s Most Popular Water Tariff Structure (Increasing Block Tariffs)” *Society of Benefit-Cost Analysis*, Washington D.C.

Sinha, S. (2023) “Eliciting People’s Preferences for Water Subsidies as Compared to System Improvements in Delhi” *Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning*, Chicago

Sinha, S. (2023) “Understanding Water Sharing and Payment Arrangements between Landlords and Renters in Delhi through a Property Rights Framework” *Institute for Human Development*, Delhi

Sinha, S. (2023) “Exploring Water Payment Arrangements between Landlords and Renters in Delhi, India” *Urban Affairs Association*, Toronto

Sinha, S. (2022) “Evaluating Delhi’s Free Water Policy” *Society of Benefit Cost Analysis*

Safi, A.G., Vanucchi, J., **Sinha, S.** (2020) “Climate Change, Planning, and Social Vulnerability: Better Preventing and Mitigating Riverine Flooding” *American Public Health Association*

Stock, J. & **Sinha, S.** (2019) “Planning the Monsoon Municipality: Toward a Practical Ecological Urbanism for India’s Monsoon Cities” *Research Committee 21*

Vanucchi, J., **Sinha, S.**, et. al. (2018) “Assessing Relocation as a Strategy for At-Risk Populations and Municipalities in the Susquehanna Watershed” *Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture*

TEACHING

Aug 2019 – May 2023	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Dept. of City and Regional Planning Teaching Assistant
3 semesters	<i>ENVR/PLAN 685: Water and Sanitation planning in developing countries</i> <i>Graduate and undergraduate (online and hybrid) average class size: 10</i> Graded essays and provided detailed feedback. Assisted with class presentations and moderated class debates.
3 semesters	<i>PLAN 710: Microeconomics for Planning and Policy</i> <i>Graduate (online and in-person) average class size: 24</i> Prepared and conducted applied group exercises on the economics of housing and zoning, transportation planning, and environmental planning. Held weekly review sessions and graded weekly assignments.
2 semesters	<i>PLAN 720: Planning Methods Graduate (in-person) average class size: 30</i> Prepared and held weekly labs on hypothesis testing and regression analysis in Excel. Developed four class assignments and graded weekly assignments.
Aug 2015 – May 2017	Cornell University Dept. of City and Regional Planning Graduate Teaching Assistant
2 semesters	<i>CRP 5080: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Planners; Graduate (in-person) average class size: 30</i> Guided students during bi-weekly lab sessions and graded weekly assignments

MENTORING

Feb 2025 – Present	Mentoring three undergraduate students with Dr. Ellis Adams as part of the Kellogg Developing Researchers Program, University of Notre Dame Teresa Majkut, <i>Neuroscience and Behavior, Minor in Business Economics</i> William Pater, <i>Biological Sciences, minor in Poverty Studies, Theology</i> Connor Mulligan, <i>Neuroscience and Behavior, minor in Scientific Computing</i>
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AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024	Best Student Paper on International Planning, <i>Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Global Planners Education Interest Group, “Eliciting People’s Preferences for Water Subsidies as Compared to System Improvements in Delhi”</i>
2023-2024	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, <i>Royster Society of Fellows, UNC-CH</i>
2024	Conference Travel Grant, <i>Modern Indian Studies Program, UNC-CH</i>
2022	Graduate Summer Research Grant, <i>UNC-CH</i>
2021	Best Teaching Assistant in the Dept. of City and Regional Planning, <i>UNC-CH</i>
2019	Druscilla French Graduate Student Fellow, <i>UNC-CH</i>
2016	Research Travel Grant, <i>Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University</i>

2012	Travel Fellowship to attend visiting school, "Campaigning Architecture," at the University of Illinois Chicago, awarded by <i>the international Berkeley Undergraduate Prize for Architectural Design Excellence</i>
2009	Sustainable House Design Competition, joint 3 rd Position with Shoma Matthew, <i>Indian Green Building Council</i>

CONSULTING & PROFESSIONAL WORK

Aug 2024 – Sep 2024	The World Bank, Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practice Consultant
Feb 2022 – Jun 2022	The World Bank, Water Global Practice Consultant
Jun 2020 – Aug 2020	Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Consultant
Dec 2016 – May 2017	Cornell University, Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise, Johnson Graduate School of Management Student Consultant
Jun 2016	NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Freshkills Park Planning Intern
Nov 2014 – Jun 2015	Space Matters, New Delhi Research Associate
May 2013 – Nov 2014	Archi Platform, New Delhi Architect

INVITED TALKS & ROUNDTABLES

Cal Poly Pomona, URP 5070: Planning for Environmental Sustainability (Apr 7th, 2025), Incorporating Public Input for Sustainable Water Management

UNC-CH, PLAN 667: Perspectives on Equitable Economies (Oct 1st, 2024), Roundtable on Conducting Interviews

Confab, Duke University (July 12th, 2024) "Elicitation of People's Views on Alternative Municipal Water Subsidy Policies in Delhi."

Confab, Duke University (May 2nd, 2024) "An application of Best-Worst Scaling Case 2 to Municipal Water Budget Allocation Decisions."

The Water Institute, UNC-CH (Nov 15th, 2023) "Eliciting People's Preferences for Water Subsidies as Compared to System Improvements in Delhi."

The Water Institute, UNC-CH (Nov 15th, 2023) "Identification of Informal Water Sharing and Payment Arrangements between Landlords and Renters in Delhi using a Property Rights Framework."

The Royster Society of Fellows, UNC-CH (Sep 21st, 2023) "Do People Want Water Subsidies? Eliciting People's Preferences for Delhi's Free Water Policy."

SERVICE

2025	Award Committee Member for Best Student Case Study Award, <i>Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference, Global Planners Education Interest Group (GPEIG)</i>
2025	Working Group Member to Assess <i>Royster Society of Fellows, UNC-CH</i> , fellowship structure, visibility, and policies
2022, 2023	Participated in two workshops organized by <i>GPEIG at ACSP</i> conferences to prepare strategies for improving the experience of international students and to integrate planning topics from the Global South into core courses
Aug 2019 – May 2023	PhD Policy Committee Member, <i>Department of City & Regional Planning, UNC-CH</i>
2022, 2023	Reviewed applications to the doctoral program <i>Department of City & Regional Planning, UNC-CH</i>
2017	Reviewed applications to the Master of Regional Planning, <i>Department of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University</i>
2016	Vice president of the International Planning Students Organization (IPSO), <i>Department of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University</i>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TEACHING AND MENTORING)

2024	Effective Mentoring (Credly Link), UNC-CH
2023	Supporting Neurodivergent Students. University of Illinois Chicago, CIRTL
2023	Professional Communication Workshop. Activate to Captivate (Credly Link)