

DR. PAVITHRA VASUDEVAN

The University of Texas at Austin
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ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018-present Assistant Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies
Assistant Professor/Core Faculty, Center for Women's and Gender Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Geography and the Environment
Faculty Affiliate, Department of American Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Warfield Center for African and African American Studies

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. Geography. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
"Searching in Aluminum's Shadows: Black Geographies & Industrial
Toxicity in North Carolina"

2013 M.A. Geography. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
"Memory and the Re-invention of Place: The Legacies of Environmental
Justice in Warren County, North Carolina"

2008 Post-baccalaureate program, Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology,
Columbia University, New York.

2003 B.A. *cum laude* Program II. Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
"Social Movements & Representation"

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

2019 Pavithra Vasudevan. "An Intimate Inventory of Race and Waste."
Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography. DOI: 10.1111/anti.12501.

2018 Mabel Gergan, Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan (Equal authorship).
"Earth Beyond Repair: Race and Apocalypse in Collective Imagination."
Environment and Planning D: Society and Space: 0263775818756079.

- 2015 Pavithra Vasudevan and William A. Kearney (First author). "Remembering Kearneytown: Race, Place and Collective Memory in Collaborative Filmmaking." *Area* 48 (4): 455-462.
- 2014 Siobhan Senior, Anthony Lioi, Mary Kate Ryan, Pavithra Vasudevan, Angel Nieves, Darren Ranco and Courtney Marshall. "The Resilience of Race: A Cultural Sustainability Manifesto." *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 1 (2).
- 2012 Pavithra Vasudevan. "Performance and Proximity: Revisiting Environmental Justice in Warren County, North Carolina," *Performance Research* 17 (4): 18-26.

Book chapters in edited volumes

Pavithra Vasudevan. "Brown Scholar, Black Studies: On Suffering, Witness & Materialist Relationality." *Feminist Geography Unbound: Intimacy, Territory, and Embodied Power*. West Virginia University Press. Banu Gökarıksel, Michael Hawkins, Christopher Neubert, & Sara Smith, eds. (In Press)

Chris Neubert, Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan (Equal authorship). "The Intimate Geopolitics of Race and Gender in the United States." *Routledge International Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*, Anindita Datta, Peter Hopkins, Lynda Johnston, Elizabeth Olson, and Joseli Maria Silva, eds. (In Press)

- 2018 Donna Houston and Pavithra Vasudevan. "Storytelling Environmental Justice: Cultural Studies Approaches." In *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Justice*. Ryan Holifield, Jayajit Chakraborty, and Gordon Walker, eds.: 241-251.

Edited special journal issues

- 2017 Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan, eds (Equal authorship). "Race, Biopolitics and the Future: Introduction to the Special Section." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 35 (2): 210-221.

Guest Editorial in Peer-Reviewed Journal

- 2019 Sara Smith, Pavithra Vasudevan, Carlos Serrano and Banu Gökarıksel. "Breaking Families: Whiteness, State Violence, and the Alienable Rights of Kin." *Political Geography*. DOI: 10.1016/j.polgeo.2019.01.001

Public scholarship

Pavithra Vasudevan. "Conscience of the Nation: the Leadership of Dollie Burwell and Naeema Muhammad." *Practical Visionaries: Women of Color and Indigenous Women in the North American Environmental Movement*, Anuja Mendiratta and Beth Rose Middleton, eds. (Accepted by editors)

- 2016 Atiya Husain, Pavithra Vasudevan and Neel Ahuja. "Islamophobia & Anti-Blackness: A Call to Action at UNC." *Monsoon: A Platform for South Asian Affairs*, 3: 6. Available: <http://monsoon.web.unc.edu/islamophobia-anti-blackness-a-call-to-action-at-unc-by-atiya-husain-pavithra-vasudevan-and-neel-ahuja/>
- 2013 Pavithra Vasudevan. "Linking Struggles to Build the Movement – Report-back from the NCEJN Summit." Blog post. Available: <http://www.ncejn.org/>
- 2008 Women's Environment and Development Organization. "Gender, Climate Change and Human Security: Lessons from Bangladesh, Ghana, and Senegal" (Unpublished working paper), Contributor. Available: <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/hsn-study-final-may-20-2008.pdf>

MULTIMEDIA

Performance

Pavithra Vasudevan (Playwright). "Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town." Research play (90 min), directed by Joseph Megel.

- Feb 2017 Swain Studio 6 Productions, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Oct 2016 North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Summit, Whitakers, NC
- Apr 2016 Community performance, New London, NC

Vasudevan, Pavithra (Writer & Performer). "Take Me to the Water." Solo ethnographic performance (10 min).

- Nov 2013 National Communications Association Convention, Washington, DC
- Jul 2013 Community performance, Connecticut Artists Initiative, Hartford, CT
- Mar 2013 Across the Threshold Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC
- Nov 2012 Critical Geography Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- May 2012 International Conference on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Film

- 2012 Pavithra Vasudevan and William A. Kearney. "Remembering Kearneytown." Film (17 min). Available: <https://vimeo.com/115070233>

Media interviews

- 2017 Featured in “Environmental Racism and Oral History.” *Press Record* Podcast, Episodes 14 & 15. Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Available: <http://sohp.org/podcast/>
- 2017 Featured in “Carolina Chronicle.” The Graduate School, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Available: <http://carolinachronicle.unc.edu/2017/engaged-research/>

AWARDS

Grants

- 2019 Robert Paterson, Miriam Solis, Pavithra Vasudevan, and Deidre Zoll (Co-PI), “Urban Planning for An Uncertain Future.” Planet Texas 2050, Internal Funding proposal. Total funding awarded: \$30,000 (~\$2,360 for co-PI summer salary)
- 2018 Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Award, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School
- 2015 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award, National Science Foundation
- 2015 Seed Grant Award, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research
- 2015 Graduate Student Transportation Grant, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant, Center for the Study of the American South
- 2011 Graduate Summer Research Grant, Center for the Study of the American South

Fellowships

- 2016 McColl Dissertation Fellowship, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- 2015 Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School
- 2015 Evelyn L. Pruitt National Dissertation Fellowship, Society of Women Geographers

- 2015 Community Engagement Fellowship, Carolina Center for Public Service
- 2015 Future Faculty Fellowship, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center for Faculty Excellence
- 2012-15 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
- 2010 Doctoral Merit Assistantship, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School
- 2008 Graduate Fellowship, Women’s Environment and Development Organization
- 2003 New Voices Fellowship (Semifinalist), Academy for Educational Development

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Lecturer. Global and International Studies Forum, University of California, Irvine (Upcoming).
- 2019 Guest speaker on Environmental Justice. Politics of Nature Seminar, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.
- 2019 Guest speaker on Storytelling Environmental Racism. Engaged Anthropology Seminar, Department of Anthropology, Appalachian State University.
- 2019 “Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town’: Performing Environmental Racism & Justice.” Race & Ethnicity Symposium Keynote, Southwestern University.
- 2018 “Bearing Witness to Intimate Monstrosities: Environmental Racism & Justice in an Aluminum Town.” Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2018 “The Unjust Burden of Racialized Toxicity: An Intimate Political Ecology of an Aluminum Town.” The School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment, University of South Carolina.
- 2017 “Feminist Geopolitics of Race and Waste.” The School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement, San Francisco State University.
- 2017 “Monstrous Natures and Intimate Politics of Racialized Toxicity.” Department of Geography, Florida State University.

- 2017 Guest speaker on Environmental Justice. Politics of Nature Seminar, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Department of Geography, University of Arizona.
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Department of Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, Harvey Mudd College.
- 2016 “Environmental Justice Storytelling through Critical/Performance Ethnography.” Applied Qualitative Research Methods Graduate Seminar, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University.
- 2008 “Case Study in Natural Resources and Sacred Spaces: Black Hills, South Dakota”; “Gender and Climate Change: Women as Agents of Change.” Introduction to Environmental Anthropology Seminar, Barnard University.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers

- 2020 Revisiting the Crucible: Race and Emergent Industrial Capitalism in the US South. American Society for Environmental History, Ottawa, Canada (Upcoming).
- 2019 “‘In the Crucible’: Rethinking Racial Capitalism through Black Feminist Materialism.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI (Upcoming).
- 2019 “Racist Epidemiology and Abolitional Possibility: The Case of Aluminum Worker Health,” with Elizabeth McClure. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Philadelphia, PA (Upcoming).
- 2019 “‘Flesh’ing Out Racialized Toxicity: Black Feminist Materialism.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2019 “Decolonize the Future!,” with Sara Smith. American Association of Geographers Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2018 “Living Memory: Performing Race and Toxicity in an Aluminum Town.” Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference. Austin, TX.

- 2018 “Toxic Legacies: Racist Epidemiology & Abolitional Possibility,” with Elizabeth McClure. American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 “The Health Politics of Industrial Toxicity,” with Elizabeth McClure. Research Session, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Annual Summit, Whitakers, NC.
- 2017 “The Domestic Geopolitics of Racial Capitalism.” Feminist Geography Conference: Insides and Outsides of Feminism, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2017 “An Intimate Inventory of Race & Waste.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2016 “Toxic Life, Slow Death: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Gender, Bodies and Technology 4th Biannual Conference, Virginia Tech, Roanake, VA.
- 2016 “Earth Beyond Repair: Race and Apocalypse,” with Sara Smith and Mabel Gergan. American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 “Medicalization of Injustice: The Politics of Health in Environmental Racism.” Health and Humanities Exchange, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2015 “The Geography of Aluminum Towns.” 8th European Institute for the History of Science and Popularization: Living in a Toxic World (1800-2000), Menorca, Spain.
- 2014 “Toxic Life, Slow Death: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Tampa, FL.
- 2014 “On Remediation and Resolution: the Possibilities and Perils of Collective Memory Practices in Countering Racism.” Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2013 “‘It’s good now, it’s waste’: Material Transformation and Value at the Compost Pile,” with Mike Dimpfl. Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2012 “Lessons in Environmental Participatory Research.” Center for the Study of the American South Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2012 “Remembering Kearneytown’: Lessons in Environment & Justice from Warren County, NC.” Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY.

Panel presentations

2018 Panel: “Unsettling Colonial Geographies with Performative Arts Practice.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.

2018 Panel: “DIY (Do it Yourself) Filmmaking.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.

2017 Co-presenter with FLOCK Collective, Panel: “Conversations on Practices of Decolonization and Racial Justice in Geography.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Boston, MA.

2017 Co-presenter with FLOCK Collective, Panel: “Calling All Collectives.” Feminist Geography: Insides and Outsides, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2016 Panel: “Performances and Practices for Racial Justice.” Feminisms Here and Now Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2012 Panel: “Film as Research Output.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New York, NY.

Discussant

2019 Moderator, Panel: “Cultural Practice as Environmental Activism.” Women’s Environmental Leadership Summit, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, DC (Upcoming)

2019 Moderator, Opening plenary. Workshop: “Rethinking Difference in India: Racialization in Transnational Perspective.” American University, Washington, DC.

2018 Roundtable: “Health and Environment in Crisis.” Symposium: Puerto Rico in the Wake of Crisis: Toward a Just (After)life of Disaster, University of Texas at Austin, TX.

2016 Session: “Geographies of Media XIII: Media, Governmentality, and Managing the ‘More than Human’ Environment.” American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.

2011 Session: “Reframing Islandness III.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Seattle, WA.

Conference organizing

- 2019 Organizing committee. Workshop: "Rethinking Difference in India: Racialization in Transnational Perspective." American University, Washington, DC.
- 2017 Session: "On Race and Feminist Geopolitics," with Willie J. Wright. Feminist Geography: Insides & Outsides. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2016 Paper & panel sessions: "Legacies of Black Feminisms," with LaToya Eaves. American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015 Session: "Afro-Pessimism & Black Optimism." Black Radical Tradition Mini-Seminar, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2015 "Teaching, In and Out of Academia," Co-organizer. Geography Association of Graduate Students Colloquium, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2014 Sessions: "Race, Biopolitics and the Future I, II, III," with Sara Smith. American Association of Geographers Conference, Tampa, FL.
- 2014 Panel: "Black Geographies," with Willie J. Wright. Global Africana Studies Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2014 Session: "Teaching Social Justice in Environmental Classes," with Autumn Thoyre. Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2012 Session: "Creating Possibilities in a Sea of Unknowing: Negotiating Positionalities through Performance Ethnography," Co-organizer. International Conference on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- 2012 Session: "Bodies, Borders & Territory I, II, III," Co-organizer. American Association of Geographers Conference, New York, NY.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2017 "Producing an Intimate Inventory: Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town." Tell About the South Speaker Series, Center for the Study of the American South, UNC Chapel Hill

- 2017 “An Intimate Inventory of Race & Waste.” Graduate Research Colloquium, Department of Geography, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology Speaker Series, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2017 Invited panelist, Graduate and Professional Models of Engaged Experiential Education, Annual Engagement Units Summit, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016 “Translating Oral History into Performance,” Southern Oral History Program, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016 “Collaboration through Critical/Performance Ethnography,” with Rev. William A. Kearney, Community Capacity Seminar, Department of Health Behavior, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016 “Performance as Ethnographic Praxis,” Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant Award Presentations, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2013 “Collaborative Filmmaking as Geographical Praxis,” Graduate Research Colloquium, Department of Geography, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2012 “Remembering Kearneytown’: Lessons in Environment & Justice from Warren County, North Carolina,” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2012 “Political Ecology of Toilets, Toxins and Trans-actions,” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series, UNC Chapel Hill

TEACHING

Faculty Instructor, The University of Texas at Austin

Feminist Geopolitics: Race, Empire (Graduate seminar)

Race, Capitalism, and the Environment (Upper-level undergraduate class)

Introduction to Women’s & Gender Studies (Introductory undergraduate seminar)

Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Geographies of Globalization (Introductory undergraduate lecture)

Environmental Conservation & Global Change (Intermediate undergraduate seminar)

Graduate Research Consultant, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

(Advising undergraduate research projects)

Technology & Democracy workshop

Politics of Everyday Life

Political Geography

Expressive Cultures (Anthropology)

Geographies of Religion

Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Urban Geography

World Regional Geography

Introduction to South Asia

Space, Place & Difference

Environmental Systems

Workshop facilitation

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| 2015 | “Industrial Agriculture, Environmental Justice and Climate Justice,” with Naeema Muhammad and Zoe Ackerman. North Carolina Climate Justice Summit. |
| 2015 | “Our Bodies, Our Stories: Intergenerational Workshop for Movement-Building,” with Marie Garlock. North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Summit. |
| 2013 | “Decolonizing Methodologies,” Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. |
| 2013 | “Performance Ethnography,” Connecticut Artists Initiative & University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Sustained Participatory Action Research Collaboration, Hartford, CT. |

2013 “But that’s just natural, right?!”: Teaching Critical Geography to Skeptical Beginners,” Department of Geography, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

ADVISING

Graduate committees

Elizabeth McClure, PhD (UNC-CH Epidemiology, in progress)
Deidre Zoll, PhD (UT Austin Community & Regional Planning, in progress)
Ruth Matamoros Mercado, PhD (UT Austin LLILAS, in progress)
Nnenna Odum, PhD (UT Austin Curriculum & Instruction, in progress)
Daelena Tinnin, PhD (UT Austin Radio-Television-Film, in progress)
Suzanne Nimoh, MA (UT Austin Geography, in progress)

Undergraduate advising

Omololu Refilwe Babatunde (Honors thesis reader, UNC-CH Geography, 2015) “Black Liberatory Senses of Place: Creating From Abject Otherness”

SERVICE

Department

2018-2020	Executive Committee, African and African Diaspora Studies, UT Austin
2018	Graduate Workshop: Prepping for the Job Market, African and African Diaspora Studies, UT Austin
2017	Graduate Member, Interview Committee: Andrew Curley Hire, UNC Chapel Hill
2015-6	Graduate Representative, Diversity Committee, UNC Chapel Hill
2013-4	Co-president, Geography Association of Graduate Students, UNC Chapel Hill
2012-3	Graduate Representative, Undergraduate Committee, UNC Chapel Hill
2012-3	Founding Member, GIFT Teaching Committee, UNC Chapel Hill

University

2018-present	Faculty Co-Advisor, Environmental Justice Committee, UT Austin
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- 2018-present Faculty Member, The Feminist Geography Collective, UT Austin
- 2016-7 Founding Member, FLOCK Feminist Geography Collective, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2016-7 Founding Co-president, Hurston Collective for Critical Performance Ethnography, UNC Chapel Hill

Discipline

- 2019 Panel: “Welcome to the AAG Session.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Washington DC.

Referee Work

- 2019 *Gender, Place & Culture*
- 2018 *Antipode*
- 2017 *Southeastern Geographer*

Community Work

- 2014-7 Planning Committee, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
- 2011-3 Planning Committee, Warren County Environmental Action Team

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Association of Geographers
- Critical Ethnic Studies Association
- American Studies Association
- American Society of Environmental History
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

PRIOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012 Research Assistant to Scott Kirsch, *Technology & Democracy Workshop*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2011 Research Assistant to Carla Norwood and Gabe Cumming, *Growing Local/ Buying Local*, Warren County, NC.

- 2008 Fellow, *Summer Environmental Exchange*, Tahoe-Baikal Institute, CA.
- 2008 Graduate Research Fellow, *Sustainable Development Program*, Women's Environment and Development Organization, New York, NY.
- 2008 Research Assistant to Crystal Fortwangler, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Anthropology, Barnard University, NY.
- 2007 Research Assistant to Steven Chillrud, Toxicology Lab, Lamont-Doherty Observatory, NY.

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2008-10 Program Director, Girls Inc. of Westchester County, White Plains, NY.
- 2006 Summer Institute Faculty, "Spirit Work: Spirituality and Social Change."
Sadie Nash Leadership Project, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2005-8 Facilitator, Curriculum Consultant & Interim Project Director, The Girls & Boys Projects, New York, NY.
- 2003-5 Program Assistant and Consultant, *Domestic Violence Training Institute & Community Empowerment Program*. CONNECT: Safe Families, Peaceful Communities, New York, NY.
- 2004-9 Freelance Professional Dancer and Dance Educator