

**SILPA SATHEESH**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY  
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**EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D.** University of South Florida, **Sociology** August 2020  
*Dissertation:* “Red-Green Rows: Exploring the Conflicts between Labor and Environmental Movements in Kerala, India”  
Committee: Dr. Robert Benford (Chair), Dr. Laurel Graham, Dr. James Cavendish, Dr. Mahuya Pal
- MPhil** Jawaharlal Nehru University (CDS), **Applied Economics** June 2013  
*Thesis:* “Environment, Development and New Social Movements: The Political Ecology of Endosulphan Pollution in Kasaragod, Kerala”
- MA** University of Hyderabad, **Economics** May 2011
- BA** University of Kerala, **Economics** May 2009  
**First Rank at the University Level**

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Social Movements, Qualitative Research Methods, Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Development, Climate Change & Society

**EMPLOYMENT**

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- Current** Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
- 2021-22** Assistant Professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, Bangalore
- 2020** Assistant Director of Research, Thanal (ENGO), Triavndrum, Kerala.

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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***Journal Articles***

Satheesh, Silpa (forthcoming). “Can we place people and the environment at the centre of the reimagined global economic architecture?” *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Satheesh Silpa.2020. “The Pandemic does not Stop the Pollution in River Periyar.” *Interface: A Journal for and about Social Movements*, 12(1): 250-257.

Satheesh, Silpa. 2020. “Moving Beyond Class: A Critical Review of Labor-Environmental Conflicts from the Global South.” *Sociology Compass*; e12797. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12797>

Satheesh, Silpa. 2017. Development as Recolonization: The Political Ecology of the Endosulphan Disaster in Kasaragod, India. *Critical Asian Studies*, 49(4): 587-596.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Satheesh, Silpa. 2021. “Fighting in the Name of Workers: Exploring the Dynamics of Labor- Environmental Conflicts in Kerala,” In: Räthzel N, Uzzell D and Stevis D. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Labour Studies*: Palgrave Macmillan. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-71909-8>

Satheesh, Silpa. 2021. “Environmental Movements in the Global South,” In Bell, K (eds) *Diversity and Inclusion in Environmentalism*, Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Diversity-and-Inclusion-in-Environmentalism/Bell/p/book/9780367567354>

Satheesh, Silpa and Robert, Benford. 2020. “Framing and Social Movements,” In: Ritzer, George (eds) *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia for Sociology*, 2, John Wiley & Sons.

**MANUSCRIPT UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS**

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“*Namuth Vellame*: Ensuring Food Sovereignty through the Revival of Indigenous Agriculture in Attappadi, India” is under review for publication at *Critical Asian Studies* (got a revise and resubmit)

Satheesh, Silpa and Robert Benford. “Frame-Disputes between Labor and Environmental Movements: Mapping the Link between Framing and Ideology” To be submitted to *Social Movement Studies* in June 2020.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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“*Namuth Vellame: Ensuring Food Sovereignty through the Revival of Indigenous Agriculture in Attappadi, India*” has been included in the proceedings of the ASA (American Sociological Association) Virtual Annual Meeting, August 7.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Satheesh, Silpa. 2020. “Break the Chain”: Exploring the Kerala Model of Pandemic Response,” *Sectors*, Newsletter of the American Sociology Association’s Sociology of Development Section, Spring Issue.

Satheesh, Silpa. 2019. “Periyar: A River that is Left to Die a Slow Death,” *Sectors*: 6(1), Newsletter of the American Sociology Association’s Sociology of Development Section, Spring Issue: 26-28.

Satheesh, Silpa. 2020. “COVID and Anti-Lockdown Protests in the US” [*Covidum Anti-Lockdown Prathishedangalum*] Truecopy Think (Malayalam)  
<https://truecopythink.media/article-anti-human-slogans-of-america-amid-covid-19-silpa-satheesh>

Satheesh, Silpa. 2020. “*Fighting for Ventilators: People Vs. The American Economy*” [*Ventilatorinayi Matsarikkunna American Economyum Maushyanum*] Truecopy Think (Malayalam)  
<https://truecopythink.media/covid19-american-situation-silpa-writes>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Mahatma Gandhi University:**

*Political Economy and Cultural Dynamics*  
*Social Theory*  
*Global Environmental History*  
*Social Sciences Methodology*  
*Kerala Studies*  
*Modern Processes: Capitalism and Colonialism*

### **Azim Premji University:**

*Qualitative Research in Development Practice (Sem IV, 2021)*  
*Development Communication (Summer 2021)*  
*Sociology of Modern India (Sem I, 2021)*  
*Contemporary Social Movements (Sem IV, 2022)*

### **University of South Florida, Tampa, FL:**

*Social Movements (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020)*  
*Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)*

**Teaching Assistant/Associate, 2014-2017, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL:**

*Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Spring 2016)*  
*Social Statistics (Fall 2016; Spring 2017)*  
*Social Psychology (Summer 2019)*

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**RESEARCH GRANTS**

Grant funded by Azim Premji University, School of Development Small Grants, “Surviving the Floods: Understanding the Social Vulnerability to Extreme Weather Events in Kerala” (2021-22)

Energy (In)Equalities in collaboration with Berlin School of Economics, University of Witwatersrand and WRI, Application Submitted to Volkswagen Foundation (awaiting decision)

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**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Graduate Student Travel Grant, CPGP (Conference Presentation Grant Program), Student Government, \$500

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida 2014-2019 (Introduction to Sociology, Social Science Statistics)

Selected as a participant for Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI 2014 - Human Security and Humanitarian Response: Increasing Effectiveness and Accountability in the Age of Complex Emergencies) hosted by Brown University, 2014

Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission, India, July 2013

University Rank in B.A. Economics (First), University of Kerala, Kerala, India (2006-2009).

Best Paper Award for ‘Global Financial Crisis and its Impacts on India’, Conference on Global Financial Crisis, Department of Economics, University of Kerala, December 2009.

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**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2021

“*Namuth Vellame*: Ensuring Food Sovereignty through the Revival of Indigenous Agriculture in Attappadi, India” has been accepted for the session titled “*Food as*

*Struggle, Food as Resistance*” 2021 ASA (American Sociological Association) Virtual Annual Meeting, August 7.

2020

“Exploring the Frame-disputes between Labor and the Environmental Movements in Kerala, India,” has been accepted for the session titled “*Global South Perspectives on Development.*”2020 ASA (American Sociological Association) Annual Meeting, San-Francisco, August 2020. (meeting canceled due to Covid-19 outbreak)

“They are all anti-developmentalists”: Exploring the Influence of Industrial Capitalism on Social Movement Mobilization in Kerala, India,” *Capitalism & Contention*, New York University, March 13-15. (Canceled due to the Covid-19 outbreak)

2017

“Development, Environment, and Exclusion: Exploring the Political Ecology of Endosulphan Disaster in Kasaragod, India (poster),” 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Symposium, University of South Florida, March 20, 2017

“Postcolonial Development and Resource Alienation: The Political Ecology of Endosulphan Disaster in Kasaragod,” 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE) Conference, organized by the Political Ecology Working Group (UK-PEWG) at University of Kentucky, Lexington. Feb 23-25, 2017.

2016

“Nehruvian Development, State Landlordism and Resource Exploitation: The Political Ecology of Endosulphan disaster in a South Indian state”, Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference “Dynamics of Globalization in 21st century,” April 8th, 2016

2015

“Ecology Movements, Postcolonial State and Governmentality: The Tactics of Taming Protest”, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Research Symposium “From Local to Global: Narratives of Inequality and Power,” University of South Florida, March 20, 2015

2014

“Environment, Development and Resource Conflicts: Examining the Political Ecology of Resource Management Practices adopted by the State in Kerala,“ accepted at Tyndall Ph.D. Conference, University of Manchester, April 2014.(accepted)

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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Invited talk at the panel Environment, Labour and Justice: Perspectives from the Global South organized as part of the Webinar on Nature, Labour and the Struggle for an Eco-Social World organized by etui., UNRISD, GLU, USR.

Invited participant at JTRC Workshop in Bonn, Germany, organized by UNRISD, June 11-12, 2022.

Fighting in the Name of Workers: Understanding Labour-Environmental Conflicts in Kerala, University of West-England, November 8, 2021.

Environmental Movements in the Global South, Undergraduate course on Sustainability, School of Arts and Science, Azim Premji University, October 24, 2021.

Coding Qualitative Data, Session for undergraduate students, School of Arts and Science, Azim Premji University, India, July 19, 2021.

Farmworkers and fishworkers resistance to river pollution in India (Video Lecture and Workshop) for the course on Just and Green, Global Labour University, April 2021.

Environment, Development and Social Movements, Artha Lecture Series, NSS College, Cherthala, August 2020.

Social Movements in India, Inequalities in a Global Society, University of South Florida, November 18, 2019

Environmental Movements in India, Seminar in Social Movements, Honors College, University of South Florida, March 27, 2017.

#### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATES**

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**OIC Certificate (USF Certified Online Educator)**, Innovative Education, University of South Florida, 2020.

**PCT Certificate (The Preparing for College Teaching)**, Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida, August 2014

**Teaching Sociology**, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, Fall 2015

**Workshop on Microaggression**

Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, Tampa August 15, 2018.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AFFILIATIONS**

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Member, Community Engagement Committee, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, Tampa (2019-2020).

Member, Campus Sustainability Project, Department of Sociology, University of South Florida, Tampa (2014-2020).

American Sociological Association, 2015-Present

(Sections: Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Development, Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Global and Transnational Sociology, Political Economy of the World-System)  
Society for the Study of Social Problems

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

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- Proficient in qualitative data analysis and software (NVivo)
- Basic use of quantitative data analysis software (R, Ucinet, Stata, SPSS)