

DR. SILPA SATHEESH
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Sociology , University of South Florida, Tampa (US)	August 2020
MPhil	Applied Economics , Jawaharlal Nehru University (CDS)	June 2013
MA	Economics , University of Hyderabad	May 2011
BA	Economics , University of Kerala	May 2009

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

EMPLOYMENT

Current	Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India. (Affiliated faculty at School of Gender Studies, MGU) Joint Director, Graduate School, Mahatma Gandhi University (2024). Instructor, Just and Green (online course), Global Labour University.
2021-22	Assistant Professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, India.
2020-21	Assistant Director of Research, Thanal Trust, NGO, Trivandrum.

BOOKS

Satheesh, Silpa (forthcoming). *Labour, Nature and Capitalism: Exploring the Labour-Environmental Conflicts in Kerala*, University College London Press.

Foster Emma, Karen Bell and **Silpa Satheesh** (forthcoming) edited *The SAGE Handbook of Eco-Social Policy and Politics*, Sage UK.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Pradyumna A, Dileep, **Satheesh S**, Jayakumar C and Rakhil G. 2023. “No endosulfan-related health challenges in Kasaragod? Not a closed topic: A response,” *Economic and Political Weekly*,

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

Satheesh, Silpa (forthcoming) “Pesticides and Planetary Well-being: A Critical Exploration Using a Case of Pesticide Disaster in Kerala, India” In Petrikova, Cole and Thampi (eds) *Handbook of the Politics of Food Security: Through the lens of planetary health ethics*, De Gruyter.

Pal, Nieto-Fernandez and **Satheesh**.2024. “Postcolonial Qualitative Research in Organizational Communication,” *SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research in Organizational Communication* edited by Bryan Taylor, Sage.

Satheesh, Silpa. 2021. “Fighting in the Name of Workers: Exploring the Dynamics of Labor-Environmental Conflicts in Kerala,” In: Rätzl N, Uzzell D and Stevis D. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Labour Studies*: Palgrave Macmillan.

Satheesh, Silpa. 2021. “Environmental Movements in the Global South, In Bell, K (eds) *Diversity and Inclusion in Environmentalism*,” Routledge.

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

UNDER REVISION

Peer-reviewed articles

Satheesh, Silpa. “Environmental Inequalities and Fragmented Class Formations: A Study of Labour-Environmental Conflicts in Kerala, India,” *Social Movement Studies*, (Special Issue, Under Revision).

Satheesh, Silpa. “Debating the Desirability of Capitalism and its Linkages to Nature: Unpacking the Disputes between Trade Unions and an Environmental Movement in Kerala,” *PROKLA.A Journal for Critical Social Science* (Under Revision).

Book Proposal

Satheesh, Silpa. *Environmental Disasters, Health Impacts and Resistance*, Palgrave Macmillan (Received reviews, revision in progress).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS (ENGLISH & MALAYALAM)

Satheesh, Silpa and Manasi M. 2025. "Fighting Heat to Secure a Living: How Climate Change Affects Workers in Kerala," Berliner Gazette, February 5. <https://berlingazette.de/fighting-heat-to-secure-a-living-how-climate-change-affects-workers-in-kerala/>

Eswaran, Aparna, Silpa Satheesh and Arathi P.M. 2024. "Lights, camera, litigation: Hema Committee report spotlights Malayalam cinema's gender battleground," The Frontline, September 17. <https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/gender/malayalam-cinema-hema-committee-report-gender-discrimination-film-industry-amma-patriarchy/article68630136.ece>

Satheesh, Silpa. 2023. "Red-Green Rows: Making Sense of the Conflicts between Trade Unions and Environmental Movements in Kerala," Allied Ground, Berliner Gazette, October 20. <https://berlingazette.de/making-sense-of-the-conflicts-between-trade-unions-and-environmental-movements-in-kerala/>

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. 2022. "Climate Change and Social Inequality" (*Kalavasthaa Vyathianavum Agolathapanavum*), Truecopy Webzine. (Malayalam)

Satheesh, Silpa. 2020. "COVID and Anti-Lockdown Protests in the US" [*Covidum Anti-Lockdown Prathishedangalum*] Truecopy Think (Malayalam)

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>

RESEARCH GRANTS AND INTERVENTIONS

Nodal Officer, Rapid Round II of Capacity Building for Central and State Universities, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, Niti Aayog (2,14,858 INR) from July 2024.

Major Project grant from Kerala Women's Commission for the project "Malayalam Film Industry as a Gendered Workspace: Understanding Issues, Interventions and Policies" (2,00,000 INR) 2023

Grant Application developed in collaboration with HWR, Berlin and University of Witwatersrand shortlisted by the Volkswagen Foundation (finalist) 2023

Faculty Seed Funding, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Mahatma Gandhi University (50,000 INR) 2022

Grant funded by Azim Premji University, School of Development Small Grants, "Surviving the Floods: Understanding the Social Vulnerability to Extreme Weather Events in Kerala." (2,00,000 INR) (2021-22)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mahatma Gandhi University:

Political Economy and Cultural Dynamics (Sem I)
Social Theory (Sem III)
Global Environmental History (Sem II)
Social Science Methodology (Sem IV)
Modern Processes: Capitalism and Colonialism (Sem III)
Invitation to Sociology (UG, Sem I)

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)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

2024

“Migration and Collective Action: Understanding the Mobilizing Experiences of Malayali Diaspora Organizations”, Kerala Migration Conclave, Thiruvalla, January 20th, 2024.

2022

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.

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. (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),” 9th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, University of South Florida, March 20, 2017

“Postcolonial Development and Resource Alienation: The Political Ecology of Endosulphan Disaster in Kasaragod,” 7th 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

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.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATES

Faculty Development Programme in Critical Humanities and the Future we imagine, UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Central University of Kerala (28th January-3rd February), 2025.

Faculty Induction Programme, UGC-MMTTC, Jawaharlal Nehru University, (24th January-21st February) 2024.

Short-Term Training in OBE (Outcome Based Education), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, 2024.

PCT Certificate (The Preparing for College Teaching), Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, August 2014

Teaching Sociology, Department of Sociology, Course Training offered by Dr. Marlee Mayberry, Fall 2015

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

PHD SUPERVISION (ONGOING)

Sachu Som, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University (Making of a City: Role of Migrant Workers in City Building).

Meenu Theresa, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University (Understanding the Interface between Gender and Climate Change in Kerala).

Manasi D, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University (Examining the Experiences of Street Vendors in City Spaces in Kerala).

MASTERS AND UNDERGRADUATE PROJECTS (ONGOING & COMPLETED)

4 students are currently pursuing their MA Dissertation projects under my guidance.

20 students have completed their MA projects under my guidance (2022-2024)

2 students have completed their UG projects (Integrated Masters Programme in Social Science students)