

## VINAY SUHALKA

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### AREAS OF INTEREST

Disability Studies, Sociology of Religion, Disability History, Qualitative Research, Aging Studies, Plant Humanities

### EDUCATION

- PhD in Sociology, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai.
- MA in Social Work (with specialization in Health and Development), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (2009-11).
- BA (H) in Economics, Hans Raj College, University of Delhi (2006-09).

### ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor (Sociology), Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (May 2025)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Social Sciences, FLAME University, Pune (joined April 2024- April 2025)
- Research Associate, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay (September 2023- March 2024)
- Assistant Professor (temporary), Department of Social Work, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, Rajasthan (January 2014- January 2016)

### PUBLICATIONS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Suhalka, V. (co-authored with Samanta, T.). 2024. Disability's Discontents for *Doing Sociology: Building the Sociological Imagination*  
<https://doingsociology.org/2024/08/22/disabilitys-discontents-vinay-suhalka-and-tannistha-samanta/>
- Suhalka, V. 2024. Social Work in Disability Studies: Insights from anthropology, for *TISS Journal of Disability Studies*, a peer reviewed journal published by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Volume IV, Issue I.

- Suhalka, V. 2023. Embodying faith: Religion and disabled bodies in Mumbai (article submitted and in process) for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Special Issue on Religion and Bodies), a peer reviewed journal published by Wiley.
- Suhalka, V. 2022. Pilgrimage versus Tourism in Jharkhand. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol LVII, No. 53. December 31.
- Suhalka, V, & Ansari, S. 2021. Disability Legislation in India: Too little, Too late. Working papers 405, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode.
- Jadhav, J., & Suhalka, V. 2016. University- Community Engagement: Insights from Fieldwork Practices. *Indian Journal of Sustainable Development*. 2(1): 22-28.
- Suhalka, V. 2015. NGO Profile: Urivi Vikram Charitable Trust. *Indian Journal of Sustainable Development*. 1(2): 49-51.
- Jadhav, J., & Suhalka, V. 2015. Skill Development and Competency Building of Social Work Students. *Conference Proceedings of Sixth International Life Skills Conference* held in Gauhati, Assam, February.

## **MEDIA ARTICLES/BLOG**

- 2024. ‘On Kishori Amonkar’s birth anniversary’ (written in Hindi) for The Wire Hindi. <https://thewirehindi.com/271980/remembering-indian-classical-vocalist-kishori-amonkar/>
- 2023. ‘On Professor Claudia Goldin’s Economics Nobel 2023’ (written in Hindi) for The Wire Hindi. <https://thewirehindi.com/259612/nobel-prize-professor-claudia-goldin-pay-gap-women-s-participation-in-the-labour-market/>
- 2021. ‘Death Rituals and Covid 19’ on The Wire’s Livewire. <https://livewire.thewire.in/personal/death-rituals-and-covid-19/> May 6.
- 2021. ‘Falling in Love with Trees at Academic Campuses’ on The Wire’s Livewire <https://livewire.thewire.in/campus/falling-in-love-with-trees-at-academic-campuses/> January 19.
- 2020. ‘The Tyranny of ‘Normal’’ on The Wire’s Livewire <https://livewire.thewire.in/politics/the-tyranny-of-the-normal/> June 6.
- Blogs on nature, heritage, and other aspects of everyday life-<https://wordpress.com/view/vinaysuhalka1.wordpress.com>

## **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS**

- Suhalka, V. 2025. Crippling Ageing Studies: What can gerontology learn from disability studies?, as part of a symposium titled *Integrating Critical Disability Studies with Ageing Research: Insights from South Asia*, at 54th British Society of Gerontology Conference held at Surrey (UK) June 26, 2025 (presented virtually).
- Suhalka, V. (co-presented with Tannistha Samanta) 2025. Mobility without prostheses: Specters of disability in the ‘world-class’ city of Mumbai, for a panel titled *Diffraction Disability:*

*Dis/Enabling Diffraction* at the STS Hub 2025 held at the Humboldt University, Berlin- Germany, March 11-14.

- Suhalka, V. 2025. Finding a lost botanical garden: Notes for an educational institute's future ecology, for a panel titled *Diffraction Colonial Legacies* at the STS Hub 2025 held at the Humboldt University, Berlin- Germany, March 11-14.
- Suhalka, V. 2024. “No Bigger than Dwarf”: Disability in Princely Colonial India and the Life of Maharana Bhupal Singh of Udaipur, at a conference on *Disability History: New Perspectives and Interdisciplinary Approaches* (organized jointly by Uppsala University and Jonkoping University), at Munster, Germany, November 6-8 (presented virtually).
- Suhalka, V. 2024. Participant. Social Sciences Winter School at Institut Francais de Pondicherry, *Audiovisual Methodologies in Social Sciences*, organized by the French Institute of Pondicherry, Puducherry, November 11-15.
- Suhalka, V. 2024. Disability and prosthetic use: contestations of technology by people with disability, for a panel titled *Medicine and Technology* at the *11th Creative Theory Colloquium* held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, 5th-7th September, 2024.
- Suhalka, V. 2023. Embodied Faith: Exploring Relationality and Interdependence through Disabled Bodies in Mumbai. *2<sup>nd</sup> Accessing the Divine Conference*, organized by Boston College School of Theology and Ministry Library, Chestnut Hill, Boston, March 3, 2023 (presented virtually).
- Suhalka, V. 2023. A Disabled Maharana: Exploring the life of Maharana Bhupal Singh of Udaipur. *Disability History Graduate Writing Workshop*, conducted by the Disability History Association based in the US, March 29, 2023 (participated and presented virtually).
- Suhalka, V. 2022. Story of a Museum: Victoria Hall in “Oodeypore”. *Maharajas and their Museums*, annual national conference jointly organized by the Museums Association of India and The City Palace Museum, Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur. August 6-7, 2022.
- Suhalka, V. 2020 (event canceled due to COVID 19). Disability and the Practice of Socially Embedded Faith. *Summer Institute on Theology and Disability*. Event was to be held in Holland, Michigan, USA. May 18-21, 2020.
- Suhalka, V. 2021. Disability and Food Culture: Understanding Rajasthan’s Jeeman. *First Online ‘Young Graduate Meet 2021’*, organized by School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, May 29-30.
- Suhalka, V. 2019. Participant. Winter School at NALSAR, Hyderabad. *Fostering Research in Disability*, jointly organized by NALSAR University of Law and BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad. December 16-21.

- Suhalka, V. 2019. Clash with the Personal Laws: Indian State, Religious Freedoms and Women's Rights. Sixth International Conference on *Intersectionality, Religious Minorities, and Development of Women* in India at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, March 26-27, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Suhalka, V. 2019. Disability Inclusive Disaster Preparedness: How accounting for Disability could be beneficial for everyone. Fourth *World Congress on Disaster Management* at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, January 29- February 1, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Suhalka, V. 2018. Disability and Language Use: Interrogating the Idea of *Divyang*. National Conference on *Disability, Accessibility, Inclusion and Wellbeing* at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, December 16, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Suhalka, V. 2018. *Divyang* yet Marginalized: Persons with Disabilities as Inspiration. International Conference on *Moving Beyond the Margins: The Politics of Exclusion and Assimilation* at Central University of Rajasthan, November 15-16, Kishangarh (Ajmer), Rajasthan.
- Suhalka, V. 2015. Stigma of Disability: Issues of Inclusion of Persons with Disability. 22<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on *Emerging Social Issues and Problems of Contemporary Indian Society* at Department of Sociology, MLV Government College, December 18-19, Bhilwara, Rajasthan.
- Jadhav, J., & Suhalka, V. 2015. Community Engagement and Social Work Practice: A Case study of Department of Social Work, Central University of Rajasthan. Third *Indian Social Work Congress* at Jain Vishwa Bharati University, October, Ladnun, Rajasthan.

#### **WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED/INVITED SPEAKER**

- Delivered an online lecture titled *Talking about Disability: The What and How* for the Department of Sociology, GITAM University, Hyderabad, January 6, 2026.
- Speaker for a lecture titled "Tree Stories of IIT Bombay" conducted by The Environment and Ecology Research group @ C-TARA DST-GISE Hub Films & Talk Series on *Wildlife in India* (Season 2) at IIT Bombay, January 31, 2024.
- A facilitator for the workshop titled *Possibilities: A Journey into Self* organized as part of the three day orientation programme at Mudra Institute of Communication Technology (MICA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat. June 2018.
- Conducted workshop (jointly with Abhishek Thakur) titled *Possibilities: A Journey into Self* at the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi (2015), Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi (2015) and at Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal, Ajmer, Rajasthan (2015).

## **COURSES TAUGHT/ SERVICES (Central University of Rajasthan 2014 -2016/FLAME University 2024-25)**

SOCY 158: Self and Society (FLAME University)

MSW- 105: Foundations of Social Work Education (Semester 1)

MSW-304: Social Welfare Administration(Semester 3)

MSW- 401: Policy, Law and Governance(Semester 4)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Conducted a number of tree appreciation walks at IIT Bombay Campus, known for its rich tree diversity; A tree walk titled *Sair-e-Darakht* on trees of Gulab Bagh (a princely heritage garden in Udaipur), Online (2020)
- SPIC MACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture amongst Youth) Activities- Coordinator at TISS, Mumbai.

## **INTERNSHIPS/PRACTICUM/FIELDWORK**

- Children's Aid Society's Bal Kalyan Nagari (an NGO on child welfare), 2009-10, Concurrent with MA in Social Work.
- Tata Memorial Hospital, Department of Medical Social Work, 2010-11, Concurrent with MA in Social Work.
- Vivekananda Girijana Kalyan Kendra, 2010 (fifteen days), BR Hills, Mysore, Rural Practicum.
- SPIC MACAY's Heritage Appreciation Course (2008), held at University of Delhi.

## **PROFESSIONAL HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Awarded the 'Prize and Shield for Best Student', MA in Social Work (Health and Development) at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
- Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and NET (National Eligibility Test) in Social Work; NET in Sociology from the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Institute Teaching Assistantship (2017-2022) at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

### **Activities at IIT Bombay, TISS Mumbai, Hans Raj College, Delhi**

- Teaching Assistant for British Council English language Programme for B.Tech. Students (2017) at IIT Bombay.
- Post Graduate Student member (2018-2020) of the Gender Cell and its Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at IIT Bombay.
- Awarded ‘Elite’ certification for an online course ‘Understanding Ethnography’ conducted by NPTEL-SWAYAM.
- ‘Peer Supporter’ at TISS (2009-10); Class Representative (Semester 1, 2 and 3) for MA in Social Work; Coordinator (Logistics) for *Sameeksha*- Annual student festival of the SSW, TISS.
- Coordinator- Alumni Board (Economics Department, Hans Raj College); Member (Economics Society Council); Member- *Swaranjali* (Indian Music Society, Hans Raj College).

### **Languages**

English, Hindi, Mewari