

Niharika Pandit

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EDUCATION

PhD candidate	Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (2018 – present) Dissertation: Gender, militarisation and narratives of home in Kashmir Valley
MA	Gender Studies (Distinction), SOAS University of London, UK (2016) Gender Policy and Planning course, Development Planning Unit, University College London Dissertation: Our Mourning is Real: The Politics of Memorialisation in Activism against Enforced Disappearance in Kashmir
Bachelor of Mass Media	Specialisation Journalism (First Class with Distinction), Sophia College, Mumbai University (2013)

EMPLOYMENT

2016 – 2018	Research Assistant, University of Melbourne Assisted Dr Amanda Gilbertson, Australia-India Institute, University of Melbourne on ‘Violence Against Women in Indian newspapers’ research project. Responsible for undertaking content and discourse analysis of news stories, coding of primary data, writing and presenting research results. The final output was published as an academic paper and report, disseminated with journalists, feminist and media scholars in a Delhi workshop Dr Gilbertson and I organised and chaired. In addition, I was part of UniMelb scholars research group to develop a framework for intersectional analysis of gendered violence in the media, funded by MAEVe.
2018	Consultant, UN Women Multi-Country Office, Delhi Research Consultant on Intergovernmental Processes and UN Coordination. Responsible for liaising with UN Women HQ, New York, civil society organisations and feminist groups in India. Drafted position paper for 62 nd Commission on the Status of Women on rural women and girls in India, and responsible for India civil society participation at CSW, organising/chairing workshops on gender rights, rural women and girls, gender-sensitive media coverage, CEDAW and UN coordination assemblies on gender equality. Prepared CEDAW in India multimedia tool and relevant material for public outreach campaigns on International Women’s Day and Sustainable Development Goals.
2017	Program Coordinator, Point of View, Mumbai Responsible for planning, coordination and implementation of Sexuality and Disability programme including global campaigns such as One Billion Rising, national training of trainers, sexuality and disability workshops. Additional responsibility included interviewing, writing and editorial support for Sexuality and Disability blog, social media and research assistance on sexuality and disability journal papers.
2013 – 2015	Journalist, Press Trust of India, Delhi Reported on Delhi politics, education, gender and edited national and international news stories. Additional assignments included feature articles on art, literature and culture.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2018	PhD Studentship, London School of Economics and Political Science
2015	Felix Scholarship, SOAS University of London
2015	Chevening Scholarship, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (withdrew over Felix)
2014	Silver Jubilee and Watumull Foundation Scholarship, Sophia College

CONFERENCES/TALKS

- 2019 Presented a paper on anti-disappearance activism in Kashmir at ‘Casual co-optations and small subversions: Feminist engagements with the state’, LSE
- 2019 Invited as a panellist on ‘Young feminist activism in Global South’, SOAS University of London
- 2019 Invited to speak on ‘Generations of Feminism?’, Ralph Miliband lecture series, LSE with Professors Clare Hemmings and Avtar Brah
- 2018 Presented ‘Violence against women in Indian newspapers’ at Sibeal Feminist and Gender Studies Network Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- 2016 Presented on anti-disappearance activism in Kashmir, LOVA School on gender, war and militarism, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2013 Co-authored and presented ‘Decoding Brand Bhandarkar: Interrogating the Women-Centric claim’ at national conference ‘Women’s Spaces, Women’s Voices’ Sophia College, Mumbai

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Gilbertson, A. and Pandit, N. (2019) ‘Reporting of Violence against Women in Indian Newspapers’, *Economic and Political Weekly*, LIV(19), pp. 41–48.
- Pandit, N. (2016). *Our Mourning is Real: The Politics of Memorialization in the Activism Against Enforced Disappearances in Kashmir*. [online] Critical Kashmir Studies Collective.
- Pandit, N. (2016). *Activism, Art, Research – A blog on Kashmiri Half Widows – Gender Studies at SOAS*. [online] Blogs.soas.ac.uk.

SELECTED NEWS ARTICLES & BLOGS

- Pandit, N. (2017). *Glimpses of Mumbai's first ever accessible Queer Pride* | *Skin Stories*. [online] Skin Stories. Available at: <https://blog.sexualityanddisability.org/2017/01/glimpses-mumbais-first-ever-accessible-queer-pride/> Republished on Gaylaxy Magazine.
- Pandit, N. (2017). *Understanding child sexual abuse* | *Sexuality and Disability India*. [online] Sexuality and Disability India. Available at: <https://sexualityanddisability.in/train-the-trainers-workshop-understanding-child-sexual-abuse/>
- Pandit, N. (2017). *Let's talk about sex and pleasure!* | *Sexuality and Disability India*. [online] Sexuality and Disability India. Available at: <https://sexualityanddisability.in/lets-talk-about-sex-and-pleasure/>
- Pandit, N. (2017). *The story of Kiran, a disability and trans rights activist* | *Sexuality and Disability India*. [online] Sexuality and Disability India. Available at: <https://sexualityanddisability.in/always-remember-that-you-have-reasons-to-smile-kiran-a-disabled-trans-activist/>
- Index on Censorship. (2016). *Street artists use anonymity to accentuate the message*. [online] Available at: <https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2016/09/youth-board-investigates-anonymous-art/>
- Pandit, N. (2014). *Twitter trolls in India: Sexist abuse as a tool to muzzle women*. [online] Index on Censorship. Available at: <https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2014/04/twitter-trolls-india-sexist-abuse-tool-muzzle-women/>

VOLUNTEER WORK

- The Community Library Project, Gurgaon, India (2017)
- Youth Advisory Board Member, Index on Censorship, London, UK (2016)
- Chetanalya, Delhi, India (2014)
- Independent trainer on gender and sexuality