

Mallika Chaudhuri

Sir Ratan Tata Postdoctoral Fellow (Junior) in Sociology

Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi - 110007

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Profile:

I am currently a Sir Ratan Tata Fellow (Junior) in Sociology at the Institute of Economic Growth. I completed my Ph.D. from the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University. My dissertation, based on an ethnographic study of villages in Delhi, explored the social realities of rural settlements in urban areas as they are shaped in relation to policy and administrative trajectories, and economic changes. My areas of interest are urban studies/the urban-rural intersection, mobilities/social stratification, governance, environment, and questions of policy and development. My current work, based in Delhi's villages, engages with the subject of community based associational action organised around urban development imperatives and policy.

Education:

Completed/awarded

Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences

2024

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Ph.D. in Sociology

Dissertation: The 'Rural' in the 'Urban': Governance and Social

Change in Delhi's Villages

(completed under the supervision of Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka)

Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences

2016

Jawaharlal Nehru University

M.Phil. in Sociology

Dissertation: 'Urban Transformations in India: Trajectories of

Development and the Environment'

(completed under the supervision of Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka)

Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University

2013

M.A. in Sociology

Fellowship: Awarded the UGC-Junior Research Fellowship

NET - Dec 2012

Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

2011

B.A. (Hons.) in Sociology

Was awarded the prize 'Best Student in Sociology' for academic excellence by Lady Shri Ram College in 2009-2010.

Publications:

'Delhi and its urban peripheries: associational life of the village', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46, no. 3 (2023): 560-577, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2023.2202070>

Research Conferences/Paper Presentations/Seminars:

Invited panelist in the session 'Land & Legitimacy in the Urban Village', at 'Beyond the Lal Dora: Land, Legitimacy and the Vanishing Commons in Delhi's Urban', 1-day conference organised by the Dilli Dehat Project, India International Centre. Delhi, August 22, 2026.

'The Push Towards Education: New Business Opportunities in a Delhi Village', IASP Annual Conference, Anthropological Survey of India. Kolkata, November 29, 2025.

Invited presentation, '“Rural” Work in an “Urban” Milieu: Negotiating Presence', at the National Seminar 'Contemporary India: Society, Culture, and Politics', Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU. Delhi, November 26, 2025.

'“Ye Hi Hamari Kheti Hai”—The Rent-Based Economy in a Delhi Village', All India Sociological Conference, Indian Sociological Society, BML Munjal University (Virtual). December 23, 2024.

‘Governance and Changed Livelihoods: A Village in Delhi’, International Conference on ‘Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development in Global South: International Experiences and Future Strategies’, Institute for Human Development. Delhi, August 12, 2023.

‘The Political Life of the Village’, Ph.D. Research Scholars’ Seminar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Delhi, April 27, 2019.

Presentation of Ph.D. research, internal research seminar, IIHS’ Centre for Land Governance, Delhi. Delhi, May 10, 2018.

‘Governance and Social Change in Delhi’s Villages’, workshop on ‘Rural Urban Entanglements in India’, Ambedkar University, Delhi, the University of Washington and the USIEF (United States India Educational Foundation). Delhi, April 28, 2018.

‘Technology at the Fringes: An Examination of Governmental Vision, and Experiences in Delhi’s Villages’, Urban ARC (Annual Research Conference), Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru. Bengaluru, January 11, 2018.

‘The “Environment” in the Urban’ at the Two Day UGC National Seminar on ‘Environment in Sociology: Emerging Trends’, Department of Sociology, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi. Delhi, April 7, 2016.

Current position:

Sir Ratan Tata Fellow (Junior) in Sociology, Institute of Economic Growth, August 2026 onwards.

Research/Teaching Assistance/Industry:

Editorial Associate, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, Institute of Economic Growth, October 2023 - August 2026.

UGC-DAAD project, ‘New Directions in “Active Ageing” and “Age-friendly Culture” in India and Germany’ from 2017-2019 between Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Heidelberg. Researcher/presenter:

- 'Political and Ethical Discourses on Responsibility in and for old age' (workshop). Berlin, February 27-March 2, 2019.
- 'Caring relations, caring for Ageing' (workshop). Delhi, September 19-26, 2018.
- 'Images of Age and Ageing' (interdisciplinary Winter School). Heidelberg, October 10-19, 2017.

Research Assistant to Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka in for a paper on student associations in a university campus titled 'Counter-cosmopolitan? Ethnic Formations in the Campus Life of JNU Students'. The work was presented at a workshop on 'Student Mobilities and Mobilizations in South Asia. Global Challenges' (June 16-18, 2016), University of Bielefeld. March-June, 2016.

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka, 'Techniques of Social Research' (MA IV semester), Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU, January-May, 2016.

Social Work:

Volunteer with the VIDYA (Vidya Integrated Development for Youth and Adults) under the National Service Scheme (2008-2009).

Skills:

Field-based qualitative research, surveys, archival research, MS-Office (Word, Powerpoint, Excel)

Membership of Professional Associations:

Indian Sociological Society (Life Member)

Languages:

English, Hindi, Bengali.

Updated in September 2026