

## Naomi Adiv

Curriculum Vitae – June 2026

Department of Political Science  
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### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2020 - Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Political Science, University of Toronto Mississauga
- 2018 – 2020 Assistant Professor (CLTA), Faculty of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
- 2014 – 2018 Assistant Professor, Nohad A. Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University

### EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. City University of New York, Graduate Center: Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geography). Supervisor: Dr. Setha Low
- 2008 M.S., Community Development, Community Development Graduate Group, University of California, Davis
- 2002 B.A., Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Berkeley, with honors

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 Adiv, N. and H. Sasikumar (2026). What Is Worth Asking About Our Cities?: An Interview with Anant Maringanti on Southern Urbanism, *Metropolitica*, March 3, 2026. (<https://metropolitica.org/What-Is-Worth-Asking-About-Our-Cities.html>)
- 2022 Adiv, N. (2022). The Archive and the Square: access to archival records surrounding privatized public space. *The Professional Geographer*.
- 2018 Adiv, N. and L. Wolf-Powers. (2018). User fees, public life, and the permeability of public space at municipal pools and bathhouses in New York City, 1870 – present. *Urban Geography*. Fall 2018.
- 2017 Adiv, N. (2017). Goodbye to the National Endowment for the Arts?, *Arts and International Affairs*, 2:3. Autumn/Winter 2017.

Adiv, N. (2017). On being groped and staying quiet. Or, what kind of place an airplane can be. *Gender, Place and Culture*.

2015 Adiv, N. (2015). *Paidia* meets *Ludus*: New York City Municipal Pools and the infrastructure of play. *Social Science History*, 29:3.

Adiv, N. (2015). Hardening Racial Lines in Public Space. A Comment on the McKinney Pool Episode, *Metropolitiques*, July 7, 2015. (<http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Hardening-Racial-Lines-in-Public.html>)

Adiv, N. (2015). Paying to Play in the Mission District, *Metropolitiques*. February 16, 2015. (<http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Paying-to-Play-in-the-Mission.html>)

2010 Rios, M., & Adiv, N. (2010). Geographies of Diaspora: A Review. Davis, CA: UC Davis, Center for Regional Change.

### Manuscripts in preparation

Learning how to learn with guest speakers in the Community Development Classroom (Submitted for review April, 2026)

Rail walking: score, impulse, gait (Submitted for review March, 2026)

### Book reviews

2026 Adiv, N. (forthcoming) Review of *The Beach Cure: A History of Healing on Northeastern Shores*, Meghan Crnic (2025). *H-Environment Roundtable*.

2018 Adiv, N. (2018). Review of *City Unsilenced: Urban Resistance and Public Space in the Age of Shrinking Democracy*, Jeffrey Hou and Sabine Knierbein, Eds. (2017). *Urban Studies*.

2015 Adiv, N. (2015). Review of *Globes – 400 Years of Exploration, Navigation, and Power* by Sylvia Sumira (2014), *Historical Geography*.

2014 Adiv, N. (2014). Review of *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction* by Tim Cresswell (2013), *Journal of Cultural Geography*.

2012 Adiv, N. (2012). Review of *Precious Commodity: Providing Water for America's Cities* by Martin Melosi (2011), *Journal of Urban Technology*, 19(4): 105 – 8.

## ACTIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

### **2024+ Paying for Parks: Public Space in the Urban Landscape**

This project asks how changing revenue streams have affected the spaces and character of the urban public realm in North American cities over the past four decades, using urban parks as a proxy for state investment. Data include a review of the multi-disciplinary literature on public space, municipal revenues and privatization; discourse analysis on public space investment in news media and grey literature; and comparison of the municipal budget shares of parks departments over time across medium and large North American cities. (*Status: Supported by the Institute for Municipal Governance at the University of Potsdam, Summer, 2024; Funded as a Jackman Scholars-in-Residence project at the University of Toronto Mississauga in May 2025*)

### **2024+ Assessment of public space interventions, Hyderabad, Telangana, India**

Hyderabad Urban Labs is an NGO in Hyderabad, India, which supports interdisciplinary research, and promotes small-scale interventions in urban areas. This project aims to evaluate their 2024 Imagine @ Low-cost Action Lab (i'Local), an ongoing urban regeneration project, which supports placemaking efforts within identified locations in Hyderabad. With colleague Dr. Harikrishnan Sasikumar, I traveled to observe the sites in Hyderabad, to assess the political, ecological and social structures and challenges surrounding these spaces. We ask: who counts as a public in contested spaces, and how can an NGO intervene in meaningful ways on scales from the neighborhood to the state? (*Status: funded by a School of Cities India Research Catalyst Travel Grant at U of T; interview with HUL co-founder Anant Maringanti published 2026; writing for publication ongoing.*)

### **2023+ Theatre and Urban Politics in the undergraduate classroom**

Since 2023, I have been taking students in POL 346: Urban Politics (and other courses) to see live theatre about contemporary conflicts around urban politics and policy. Through a variety of grants, I have begun to incorporate dramatic narrative into my courses more fully – including bringing a playwright into my classroom – in order to consider how this form can increase students' understanding of the human stakes surrounding contemporary urban issues. (*Status: Funded by Experiential Learning Development Grants in 2023 and 2024, and a Teaching Development Initiative Grant in 2024 (including survey data); LEAF Grant for 2026 under review; data collection and writing for publication ongoing.*)

### **2012+ The Big Swim: Municipal Bathing and Public Life in New York City since 1870**

*The Big Swim* explores the interplay between the social ideas, built structures and political moves that have shaped public swimming and bathing in New York City over time, in order to broaden our understanding of public spaces, and the ways they shape the city. The study of municipal bathing spaces offers new insights into commonsense notions of public life: the ways we share the spaces of the city daily, across many kinds of social difference. This work ties bathing access to the networked infrastructures of pipes, water, concrete and urban land, as well as hygiene, wellness, and identity so that a narrative of public life emerges beyond the parks and sidewalks of the everyday urban environment. (*Status: Presented sections at a variety of conferences, two paper publications, book proposal submitted in 2026.*)

## AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.
- 2008 – 2013 Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$18,000/year + tuition remission)

## GRANTS

- 2021 – 26 Instructor grantee, *Writing Development Initiative*, University of Toronto Mississauga to support TA hours in augmenting writing instruction.
- 2025 Jackman Scholars in Residence, University of Toronto, for *Paying for Parks* quantitative research study (\$2000 + five student RAs for one month)
- 2024 School of Cities India, University of Toronto Research Catalyst Travel Grant (\$12,790) for Hyderabad Urban Labs (HUL) i'Local evaluation and study
- School of Cities, University of Toronto, Small Grant Initiative (\$5000) for *Metropolitiques* journal partnership with *Metropolitiques*
- Teaching Development Travel Grant, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$2000) for Prairie Political Science Association conference 2024 *Roundtable: Preparing Students for Careers: Bridging Classroom to Experiential Learning*
- Teaching Development and Innovation Grant, Office of the Dean, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$4500), for POL 346: Urban Politics to see *The Master Plan* at Soulpepper Theatre, with integrated learning opportunities
- Experiential Learning Development Grant, Experiential Education Unit, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$1750) for “POL 116: Politics and Social Justice” to attend *Casey and Diana* at Soulpepper Theatre
- 2023 Co-operative Education and Work Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Innovation Hub (iHub) funds (\$22,000) to provide honoraria supporting POL 405 – Political Science Internship students in Fall 2023
- Experiential Learning Development Grant, Experiential Education Unit, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$846) for “POL 346: Urban Politics” to see *The Master Plan* at Crow’s Theatre

- 2022 Teaching Development Travel Grant, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$2000) for American Association of Geographers Conference 2023 paper presentation, *Ethics in Public Space Research and Pedagogy*
- 2021 Experiential Learning Development Grant, Experiential Education Unit, University of Toronto Mississauga (\$1300) for POL 405: Political Science Internship
- Global Classrooms Initiative, University of Toronto Learning Abroad (\$2950) for POL 402: Public Space
- University of Toronto School of Cities Outreach and Education grant (\$2500) for *Metropolitica Summer Writing Program*
- 2020 SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) award for “Ethics and Equity in Public Space Research Pedagogy” (\$720)
- 2017 Interdisciplinary Cooperative in Applied Social Sciences (I-CASS) Early Career Grant Development Award for Developing Interdisciplinary Grants in the Social Sciences (\$1500)
- 2016 Faculty Enhancement Grant, Portland State University (\$15000)
- 2015 Faculty Development summer travel grant, Portland State University, for research in the library of the New York Academy of Medicine (\$1500)
- Dean’s Travel Grant, Portland State University, College of Urban and Public Affairs (\$1500)

#### SELECTED CONFERENCES AND PAPERS

- 2025 Presenter, “Last bathhouse standing: the Allen Street public bath, New York City, 1905-1975,” **Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine**, Urban Health and Environments Working Group (online), March 6, 2025.
- Presenter, “Swimming and Bathing in North American Cities,” **Collaborative Digital Research Space (CDRS) Research Spotlight**, University of Toronto Mississauga, January 28, 2025.
- 2024 Presenter, “Wading Pools, Splash Pads and the Public of Children in New York City, 1925-present” **Social Science History Association**, Toronto, ON, Canada, Oct 31 – Nov 3, 2024.

Panelist, “Preparing Students for Careers: Bridging Classroom to Experiential Learning,” **Prairie Political Science Association**, Banff, AB, Canada, September 20 – 22, 2024.

Presenter “Who Pays for the Parks Department? Shrinking municipal budgets and public space privatization in North American Cities,” International Workshop: Local Governance in Times of Crisis, **Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Potsdam**, Potsdam, Germany, July 17, 2024

Presenter, “Last Bathhouse Standing: the Allen Street public bath, New York City, 1905 – 1975,” **Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)**, Paris, France, July 8 – 12, 2024

2023 Roundtable participant, “Public Space in Transition: New Meanings and Configurations,” **American Anthropological Association (AAA)** with the **Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA)**, Toronto, ON, Nov 15 – 19, 2023.

Presenter “Ethics in public space research and pedagogy,” and session organizer “Critical Research Pedagogies,” **American Association of Geographers**, Denver, CO, March 23 – 27, 2023.

2019 Presenter, “Citizen Dollars and Municipal Space: The Case of Portland’s River Baths,” **Social Science History**, Chicago, IL, November 21 – 24, 2019.

Presenter, “Practitioners guests in the CD classroom: orienting speakers to pedagogical goals in the classroom,” **Community Development Education Symposium**, Detroit, MI, May 16 – 18, 2019.

Presenter, “Privatization of municipal public space and access to archival budgetary records”; Panelist, “Innovations in teaching qualitative methods in geography,” **Association of American Geographers**, Washington DC, April 3 – 7, 2019.

2018 Organizer for paper session “Order, Control and Transgression in Urban Public Spaces”; presenter, “Municipal Provision of public toilets in American cities and their effect on access to public space by various user groups”; panelist, author meets critics *Who Cleans the Park* (Krinsky and Simonet, 2017); discussant, Gulf South Geographies of Freedom: Rethinking the Politics and Practices of New Orleans Research in the Geographic Imagination, **Association of American Geographers**, New Orleans, April 9 – 14, 2018.

2016 “The effect of private programming on public life in Portland’s ‘living room’ – the case of Pioneer Courthouse Square,” **Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning**, Portland, OR, November 3 – 6, 2016.

- Co-organizer for paper session, "Urban Waters: private bodies in public aquatic spaces"; presenter, "Infrastructures of hygiene: municipal bathing waters in New York City 1870 – present." **Association of American Geographers**, San Francisco, March 29 – April 2, 2016.
- 2015 "Public at a price: user fees and access to public swimming spaces in New York City," **Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning**, Houston, TX, October 22 – 25, 2015. (Accepted)
- "Rivers, filth and heat: the conflict over the closure of New York City River Baths, 1901 – 1938," **International Conference of Historical Geographers**, London, UK, July 5 – 10, 2015.
- "Urban schools, urban swimmers: Swimming Lessons in the New York City Public Schools, 1908 – 1959," **Association of American Geographers**, Chicago, IL, April 21 – 25, 2015.
- 2014 "Cultivating the swimming body – drownproofing, stroke, fitness," **Association of American Geographers**, Tampa, FL, April 8 – 12, 2014.
- 2013 "Notes from the Amphibious Public," **Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) and the American Council of Schools of Planning (ACSP)**, Dublin, Ireland, July 15 – 19, 2013.
- "The Harlem Honeys and Bears: building a community of seniors in public space," **American Ethnological Society**, Chicago, IL, April 11 – 13, 2013.
- 2012 "The Amphibious Public: Historical Geographies of Swimming Pools in New York City," **Social Science History Association**, Vancouver BC, November 1 – 4, 2012.
- "Beach Privatization and Social Protest in Israel," **Association of American Geographers**, New York City, February 24 – 28, 2012.
- 2011 "The Amphibious Public: Social Geographies of Swimming Pools in New York City," **Public Space Working Group Miniconference**, CUNY, May 10, 2011.
- "The Amphibious Public: Public swimming pools, municipal infrastructure and urban citizenship," **Urban Affairs Association**, New Orleans, LA, March 16 – 19, 2011. (Also, Moderator of the panel "Health, Safety and Recreation in Urban Communities")
- 2010 "Pedagogy and Field Methods in Human Geography," **Association of American Geographers**, Washington DC, April 14 – 18, 2010.

- 2008 “Beating the Bounds: Exploring Rail on Foot,” as part of the organized paper session ‘Visceral Geographies,’ **Association of American Geographers**, Las Vegas, NV, March 22 – 27, 2008.
- “Local Arts: The Role of the Arts in Community Cultural Development,” **Identity, Performance, Representation, Davis Humanities Institute**: UC-Davis, May 16, 2008.

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Guest lecturer, “Ways of Asking and Thinking about Public Space,” **Université Paris Cité**, Urban Studies and Planning, November 20, 2025.
- 2024 Guest presenter, “New York City Public Pools: An Overview,” Studio course: Pool Time – Collective Equipment for Living, **Harvard Graduate School of Design**, September 13, 2024.
- 2020 Panelist: **Green Hope Foundation** “*Quality Education in the New Normal*,” August 29, 2020.
- “The 5 C’s: Mobilizing Principles of Youth Development to Support Learning in the Undergraduate Classroom,” **Arts and Science Teaching and Learning Community of Practice**, University of Toronto, April 9, 2020.
- 2019 “Scaffolded writing in Qualitative Research Methods,” faculty representative for Arts and Sciences, **Writing Instruction for TAs Annual Showcase**, University of Toronto, April 12, 2019.
- 2018 Post-show talkback for THE ARTS (based on AIA article, “Goodbye to the NEA?”), New York City, September 15, 2018, **LaMama theatre**.
- “Social sustainability and urban public spaces,” **Institute for Sustainable Solutions** student fellows, May 7, 2018, Portland State University.
- 2016 “Rivers, Filth and Heat: the conflict over the closure of the New York City River Baths, 1901 – 1938” at **PARLOR, New York City** *A series of conversations about public space*, August 27, 2016.
- “Archival Research and Organizational Strategies,” **First Friday Talks**, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University, May 16, 2016.
- 2015 Walking as geographical social practice, **MFA in Art and Social Practice**, Portland State University, November 17, 2015.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – 25      Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Toronto Mississauga  
                  **Politics and Social Justice**, Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Fall 2024  
                  **Urban Politics**, Fall/Winter 2020 – 21, Fall 2021 [remote], Fall/Winter  
                  2023 – 24, Fall 2024  
                  **Political Science Internship**, 2021 – 22 [remote], 2023 – 24, 2024-25  
                  **Topics in Political Science: Public Space**, Fall 2020, Fall 2021 [remote]  
                  **Topics in Political Science: Urban Politics Seminar**, Winter 2021 [remote]
- 2018 – 20      Assistant Professor, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto  
                  **Urban Planning Processes**, Fall 2018, 2019  
                  **Planning Decision Methods**, Fall 2018, 2019  
                  **Public Space and Planning**, Spring 2019, 2020  
                  **Social Research Methods**, Spring 2019, 2020
- 2014 – 18      Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University  
                  **Public Space**, Fall 2017  
                  **Portland! Freshman Inquiry**, 2015 – 17  
                  **Introduction to Community Development**, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall  
                  2017, Winter 2018  
                  **Understanding Communities**, Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Winter 2018
- 2013 – 2014    Instructor, Sustainable Interior Environments, Fashion Institute of Technology  
                  **Environment Behavior Research Methods**, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring  
                  2014
- Instructor, Urban Studies, Queens College, CUNY  
                  **Intro to Urban Studies**, Fall 2013
- Instructor, Macaulay Honors College, Queens College, CUNY  
                  **Urban Futures**, Spring 2014
- 2012 - 13      Founding Writing Fellow, the New Community College, CUNY
- 2012            Instructor, Geography, Hunter College, CUNY  
                  **Political Geography**, Summer 2012  
                  **Geographies of Public Space**, Spring 2012
- 2009 - 11      Instructor, Urban Studies, Hunter College, CUNY  
                  **Intro to Urban Studies**, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011  
                  **Exploring Public Space**, Fall 2010  
                  **Community Arts and Community Development**, Spring 2011

2006 - 7 Reader, Community Development, African-American Studies, UC-Davis  
**Ethnicity in American Communities**, Fall 2006  
**Community Change Organizations**, Winter 2007  
**African Diasporas**, Fall 2007

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

2017 - 26 Corresponding Editor, **Metropolitics**; Lead organizer on Summer Writing program (2021)

2025-26 Editorial Board Member, International Review of Administrative Sciences

2023 – 26 Member, Consortium for the History of Science (online)

2019 – 2023 Collaborator, **Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS)**, Toronto (postponed from summer 2020 to summer 2023)

2016 – Reviewer: **ACME**  
**City and Community**  
**Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space**  
**European Journal of Sport and Society**  
**Geohumanities**  
**International Review of Administrative Science**  
**Journal of Public Pedagogy**  
**Space and Culture**  
**University of Toronto Press**  
**Urban Affairs Review**  
**Urban Design International**  
**Urban Geography**  
**Urbani Izziv**

2009 – 2018 Member, **AESOP Thematic Group on Urban Cultures and Public Spaces**, Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)

2008 – Member, **Association of American Geographers**

#### **DEPARTMENTAL and UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**Department of Political Science**, University of Toronto Mississauga

2024 – 25 Co-organizer, UTM Political Science Public Affairs Lecture

2024 – 25 UTM Commencement reader

- 2023 – 25 Validator: student Health, Law and Business Association
- 2020 - 2024 Advisory group: UTM Innovative Mobility Lab
- 2023 Departmental Workload Advisory committee  
Student Awards Committee
- 2021 – 22 Curriculum committee
- 2020 – 21 Hiring Committee (IR)  
Advisory group: tri-campus Queer and Trans Research Lab

**Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto**

- 2019 – 20 Graduate Professional Development Committee  
Delegated Ethics Review Committee
- 2018 – 19 Graduate Planning Admissions Committee  
Graduate Professional Development Committee  
Graduate Planning Committee

**Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University:**

- 2017 – 18 Chair, Undergraduate Executive Committee, Portland State University  
Co-coordinator, Graduate Certificate in Urban Design
- 2015 – 17 Undergraduate Executive Committee, Portland State University
- 2014 – 2015 Recruitment and Diversity Committee, Portland State University

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2025-26 Invited researcher, Géographie-cités, Université Paris Cité, Paris, France  
  
French language course at the Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne, Paris (Sept-Oct, 2025), and with private tutor (Jan-April, 2026).
- 2025 Jury member (invited), TO the Loo! Toronto Toilet Challenge, Toronto Public Space Committee, Toronto, Summer 2025.
- 2024 Guest researcher, Institute for Municipal Governance, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany. June 15 – August 4.
- 2023 Participant, Jackman Humanities Institute, the Toronto Workshop: Public-Facing

Writing for Academics, Toronto, May 8 – 12.

Participant, Council on Foreign Relations College and University Educators Workshop, New York City, April 28 – 29.

2016 Participant, Tin House Summer Workshop, Poetry, Reed College, Portland, OR.

2015 Participant, Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS), cities@manchester, Manchester, England, June 26 – July 2.

2013 Faculty Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in Education, CUNY Science Now Professional Development Workshop, August 5 – 15.

2011 – 2012 Fellowship in Nonfiction writing, CUNY Writers Institute, New York

## **MEDIA**

2025 Op-Ed (with Ahmed Allahwalla), “Closing These Toronto Pools Would Be a Terrible Mistake,” Toronto Star, May 9, 2025.  
<https://tinyurl.com/54eha5ez>

Interview, “City Hall wants to make Toronto more beautiful. Here’s what experts say we can do,” Toronto Star, April 23, 2025  
<https://tinyurl.com/amua3rxk>

2024 Interview, “A section under the Gardiner is being transformed into a public space,” CBC, Sept 26, 2024.  
<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6521249>

Interview, “We swapped baths for showers – but which one is better for you?,” *National Geographic*, April 11, 2024.  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/baths-showers-clean-history-health-psychology>

2021 Interview “Beyond business-as-usual,” *the Canadian City Parks Report*, 2021. Parks People.  
<https://ccpr.parkpeople.ca/2021/sections/activation/stories/beyond-business-as-usual>

2018 “Rivers, Filth and Heat: Riverbaths and the fight over public bathing.” *Gotham Blog* (<https://www.gothamcenter.org/blog>). April 24, 2018.

2010 New York Times Letter to the Editor: “Raising Public Recreation Fees in New York,” December 19, 2010.

2008 Organizer and curator, RAIL: Art on the Tracks, the Log Cabin Gallery (John Natsoulas annex), Davis, CA, June 12 – 14, 2008.

## **LANGUAGES**

Proficient in speaking, reading, writing **Spanish**.

Conversational in speaking, intermediate reading, writing **Hebrew**.

Beginning speaking, beginning reading, writing **French** (A2 CEFR)