

NEERAJA KULKARNI

www.neerajakulkarni.com | 227 Boston Ave, Medford 02155 | 8573812793 | www.linkedin.com/in/neerajakulkarni

EDUCATION

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Medford, Massachusetts

Master of Global Affairs (MGA), GPA 3.8/4.0

December 2023

- *Field of Study:* International Development and Environmental Policy
- *Core Coursework:* International Energy Policy, Development Economics: Policy Analysis, Introduction to Statistics, Law and Development, Processes of International Negotiations
- *Working Paper:* A Foucauldian lens to AI; Power, Knowledge and Institutions
- *Extracurriculars:* Core Member: Fletcher Music Diplomacy, Fletcher Eurasia Club

Maharashtra Institute of Technology Institute of Design

Pune, Maharashtra

Bachelor of Design (B.Des.)

May 2019

- *Coursework:* Qualitative Research, Human-Centered Design (HCD), Visual Design
- *Thesis:* System Mapping: Understanding the Value Chain of Organic Farming in Sikkim, India

Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cross-registrant

- HKS DEV308 Social Institutions and Economic Development
- HKS DPI207 Philosophy of Technology: From Marx and Heidegger to AI, Genome Editing, and Geoengineering

PUBLICATIONS/CONFERENCES

[System Mapping: Understanding the Value Chain of Organic Farming in Sikkim, India](#)

- Published as a book chapter in "Design for Tomorrow-Volume 3, Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies 223" by Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. Presented at the International Conference on Research into Design (ICoRD'21 - jointly organized by IIT Bombay and IISC Bangalore)

[Cobalt as a Political Artifact: Revealing the Equity Gaps of the Sustainability Movement](#)

- This paper illustrates the intersection of cobalt extraction and energy justice, comparing policy outlooks in the USA, China, India, and DRC. Presented at the Third Global STS (Science, Technology and Society) 2024 Conference organized by Nanyang Technological University (NTU-NISTH), Singapore

[The Implications of the Arctic Energy Race - Fletcher Russia & Eurasia Program](#)

- Authored and published a blog on Arctic Energy politics for the Fletcher Russia & Eurasia Program, illustrating causal developments in domestic policies and geopolitics between the Arctic nations, particularly Russia and the USA

[The Truth About Indian Farmer Suicides - Fair Observer](#)

- Authored and published an op-ed, written for the class 'Law and Development' as an op-ed in the Fair Observer. The article illustrates the neglected human dimensions of rising farmer suicides as repercussions of politicizing data in India

[Why is Killers of the Flower Moon relevant today? - Climate Policy Lab](#)

- Authored a blog for CPL at The Fletcher School to describe the recurrence of discrimination faced by Native Americans in the U.S. reviewing the book and movie 'Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI'

[A Quest for Equality: Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough - Climate Policy Lab](#)

- Conducted an in-depth interview with the chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) and a Fletcher alumna. Authored a blog for CPL at The Fletcher School to describe her concerns on advocating Native American rights

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GRADUATE CONSULTANT | [United Nations – Executive Office of the Secretary-General](#) **Remote**

The semester-long practicum aimed at assisting the UN EOSG with Our Common Agenda.

EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM; POLICYMAKING; GLOBAL GOVERNANCE Sep 2023 - Dec 2023

- Contributed to research and co-authored a report for the EOSG on mapping the progress of member states for future generations, advising the Envoy for Future Generations in line with the 2024 Summit of the Future

STUDENT COACH | PROF. ALNOOR EBRAHIM, THE FLETCHER SCHOOL **Medford, USA**

Dr. Alnoor Ebrahim is a well-renowned Professor of Management at The Fletcher School Jan 2024 - Present

IMPACT MEASUREMENT; BUSINESS & STRATEGY; SCALABILITY

- Coaching a team of students with their live NGO client project – ABAARSO Network, Somaliland
- Guest lecturer - People-Centered and Systems Thinking Practices for Social Impact
- Assisting with other administrative functions

COMMUNICATIONS ASST. | [FLETCHER RUSSIA & EURASIA PROGRAM](#) **Medford, Massachusetts**

The program is dedicated to teaching and researching on a broad range of historical and contemporary issues related to Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

COMMUNICATIONS; WRITING; ADMIN SUPPORT Aug 2022 - Present

- Contributed research concerning Eurasian and Russian energy geopolitics
- Provided overall administration support and photography for more than 30 events
- Created more than 30 communication design deliverables such as posters and videos

RESEARCH (ASSOCIATE) | [QUICKSAND](#) **Delhi, Remote**

Quicksand is a leading research consultancy in India, recognized globally for its expertise in user-centered research for corporate and nonprofit clients.

KEYWORDS: CONSULTING; QUALITATIVE RESEARCH; PUBLIC HEALTH; Dec 2020 - Dec 2021

- Designed business and strategy of an early-stage incubator targeting family planning and reproductive health (FP&RH) start-ups in India for Jhpiego
- Conducted in-depth interviews and focus group discussions of more than 80 transgender persons across India for USAID. Co-authored a 3-staged sensitization report to be utilized by medical practitioners while overseeing preventative HIV biomedical clinical trials among marginalized transgender communities of India
- Cultural field context research for IDEO

RESEARCH FELLOW | [SELCO FOUNDATION](#)

Bangalore, Karnataka

SELCO Foundation is an NGO works towards poverty alleviation and combating climate change through decentralized renewable energy solutions.

KEYWORDS: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH; WRITING; ENERGY POLICY

Sep 2019 - Mar 2020

- Conducted ethnographic research, qualitative data collection of more than 65 marginal farmers to scope renewable energy access solutions in horticulture value chains in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for GIZ India
- Formulated cost-benefit analysis and business strategy to deploy 5 renewable energy technologies and supporting infrastructure to aid associated rural agri-entrepreneurs
- Contributed research to report on 8-10 technological advancements in cold chain ecosystem of India by evaluating current practices within the socio-cultural context for IKEA

RESEARCH INTERN | [ECHOSTREAM](#)

Gangtok, Sikkim

Echostream is a multidisciplinary design studio innovating community-centric research and development primarily for the Sikkimese community.

KEYWORDS: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH; DESIGN; SUSTAINABILITY

Jan 2019 - May 2019

- Co-authored and published a peer-reviewed research paper about organic farming systems in Sikkim
- Conducted ethnographic research, and qualitative data collection of 25 diverse stakeholders including local farmers, entrepreneurs, and government officials across Sikkim
- Contributed to designing culturally relevant graphic visuals for 3 SCERT Government primary school textbooks

PROJECTS

[Tufts Elephant Conservation Alliance](#)

Harar/Babile, Ethiopia Research Grant Recipient

Fellowship Winner

Jun 2023 - Aug 2023

- Received a \$5,000 grant to research elephant conservation practices in Eastern Ethiopia
- Conducted ethnography and informal interviews of diverse stakeholders such as forest guards, government officials, and residents
- Authored a report on the improvement of organizational management and transnational stakeholder collaboration jointly conserving elephants and uplifting the socio-economic conditions of locals residing in the Babile Elephant Sanctuary (BES)

[Fletcher Russia & Eurasia Program](#)

Istanbul, Turkey / Medford, USA

Research Contributor

Mar 2023 - Jul 2023

- Traveled to Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey for cultural immersion
- Contributed research for a working paper, focusing on the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Turkey's energy geopolitics

[Youth Suicide Crisis in India - Systems Mapping](#)

Remote

Research Contributor

March 2020 - September 2020

- This group project aimed at understanding the suicide crisis in India among youth on a systemic scale and identify gaps and levers. We were selected in the top 31 teams in the Map the System competition organized by the Skoll Centre of Social Entrepreneurship at the Saïd Business School, Oxford University.
-

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Sadhana Forest

Forest Volunteer

Auroville, India

Jun 2017 - Jul 2017

- Afforestation and water conservation in a semiarid region. Activities included building bunds, planting trees, and cooking vegan food for the community

LANGUAGES & TECHNOLOGY

- MS Suite (MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel)
- Adobe Design Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Audition, Premiere Pro), Figma, Canva
- ArcGIS Pro
- Languages - English (Fluent), Marathi (Native), Hindi (Native)