

Neeraja Kulkarni

RESUME 2024

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Researcher, writer, and development practitioner with 4+ years of experience in climate change mitigation and socio-economic development. Research interests include the intersection of critical minerals, human security, and energy transition governance.

Education

Masters of Global Affairs (MGA) in International Development and Environmental Policy *August 2022- December 2023*

[The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University](#), GPA: 3.8/4.0

Cross-registrant (6 credits), [Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University](#)

Core Coursework: Managing NGOs and Social Enterprises, Development Economics: Policy Analysis,

Introduction to Statistics, Law and Development, Processes of International Negotiations

Working Paper: Geopolitical Dissonance: Cobalt in the Energy Transition

Bachelor of Design (B.Des) - Human-Centered Design *June 2015 - June 2019*

[Maharashtra Institute of Technology Institute of Design \(MIT ID\), MIT-ADT University](#)

Focus Areas: Qualitative Research, Human-Centered Design (HCD), Visual Design

Thesis: Organic Farming Systems in Sikkim, India

Professional Experience

Policy Researcher and Writer /+ Program Assistant

Staff Assistant Intern, [Environmental Change and Security Program at the Wilson Center](#)

(Washington DC) June 2024 - Present

- Provided research support to senior staff on the intersection of climate change, population, and global health
- Conducted independent research on critical minerals governance, the energy transition, and human security
- Provided event management support, including creating social media deliverables

Graduate Consultant, [UN-EOSG \(Remote\)](#) September - December 2024

- 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

Communications Assistant, [Fletcher Russia & Eurasia Program](#), The Fletcher School August 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
- Traveled to Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey for cultural immersion.
- Contributed research, focusing on the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Turkey's energy geopolitics

Qualitative Researcher, Writer, and Human-Centered Designer (HCD)

Research Associate, [Quicksand](#) (Remote, Delhi) December 2020 - January 2022

- 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 around 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) September 2019 - March 2020

- Conducted ethnographic research, and 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 the cold chain ecosystem of India by evaluating current practices within the socio-cultural context for IKEA

Graduate Intern, [Ecbostream](#) (Gangtok, Sikkim) January - June 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

Publications

[Systems 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 & Technologies 223," Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. Presented at ICoRD'21 - jointly organized by IIT Bombay & IISC Bangalore

Orchestration Mechanisms for Elephant Conservation Management in Eastern Ethiopia

Under review, Relating Systems Thinking & Design 2024 - RSD13

[Highlighting The Lost Dimensions of The Energy Transition: The Case of Cobalt](#)

Blogpost, Climate Policy Lab

[The Implications of the Arctic Energy Race](#)

Blogpost, Fletcher Russia & Eurasia Program

[The Truth About Indian Farmer Suicides](#)

Op-ed, Fair Observer

[Why is Killers of the Flower Moon relevant today?](#)

Blogpost, Climate Policy Lab

[A Quest for Equality: Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough](#)

Blogpost, Climate Policy Lab

Teaching Experience

Managing NGOs and Social Enterprises, [Dr. Alnoor Ebrahim](#) - The Fletcher School

Student Coach, Class and Workshop on Human-Centered Designer (HCD)

Grant Recipient

[Tufts Elephant Conservation Alliance](#) (TECA) Grant Recipient

Area of Research: Ethiopia, Wildlife Management, Elephant Conservation, Human Security

[Center for International and Environmental Resource Policy](#) (CIERP) Internship Fund

Summer Intern, [10G](#) Green Gigawatt for Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) June-July 2024

Area of Research: Ethiopia, Renewable Energy Policy, Solar Deployment, Consulting Internship

Volunteer Experience

[Sadhana Forest](#)

Short-Term Forest Volunteer (Auroville, Tamil Nadu) May - June 2016

Technology

MS Office Suite: *Outlook, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel*

Adobe Design Suite, Figma, Canva - *Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Audition, Premiere Pro*

Asana, Trello

QGIS

Languages

Marathi, Hindi, English