

## Ayushman Bhagat, PhD., MBA.

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Ayushman Bhagat is a Lecturer in Human Geography at Edge Hill University, UK. He holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Durham, UK. Before finishing PhD, he received a year-long post-doctoral Fellowship in TraffLab (ERC) project anchored in Buchmann Faculty of Law at Tel-Aviv University, Israel. Before joining academia, he worked as rural development professional in India. After completing a two-year-long MBA programme in Rural Development at Xavier Institute of Social Service, India in 2012, he implemented and evaluated a range of social development programmes on human trafficking, forced labour, and migration at the policy level (the United Nations-ILO, social sector consultancies, and Government departments), and community development programmes in and around wildlife sanctuaries at the grassroots level (NGOs). With more than eleven years of social issue-based passionate engagement across multiple geographic locations (India, Nepal, UK, and Israel), Ayushman positions himself as an action-oriented research scholar.

*Research Interests: Labour Exploitation (Trafficking/Forced Labour/Modern Slavery), Labour Migration, Borders, Development, Participatory Action Research.*

### Education

**2020 – 2021 Post Doctoral Fellow at TraffLab (ERC). Tel Aviv University, Israel.**

**Project Investigator:** Professor Hila Shamir (The Buhmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University).

**2016 – 2020 PhD in Human Geography. Durham University, UK (passed with minor corrections).**

**Supervisors:** Dr Siobhán McGrath (Department of Geography, Durham University), Dr Lauren Martin (Department of Geography, Durham University), Professor Deirdre McCann (Durham Law School, Durham University).

**Examiners:** Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson (Department of Sociology, University of Bristol) and Professor Anna Secor (Department of Geography, Durham University).

**2010 – 2012 Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (MBA-RD). Xavier Institute of Social Service, India (72%).**

**Supervisor:** Professor D.K Panda (Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad, India).

**2006 – 2009 Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA). Sikkim Manipal University, India (83%).**

### **Experience: Teaching and Demonstration**

**2021 - Lecturer in Human Geography in the Department of Geography and Geology at Edge Hill University**

- Teaching the following BA Geography Modules:
  - Introducing Human Geographies, Practicing Human Geographies, Research Methods in Human Geography, Disaster Recovery Landscape, Sustainable Urban Futures, Contemporary Geography Skills, Retail and Consumption Geographies, Disaster Management and Risk Reduction, Urban and Rural Geographies, and Human Geography Research in Practice;
- Convening the following BA Geography Module as Module Leader
  - Introducing Human Geographies, Practicing Human Geographies, Research Methods in Human Geography, Disaster Recovery Landscape.
- Supervising 1 PhD student.
- Supervising 7 undergraduate students in the academic year 2021-22.
- Tutoring and providing pastoral support to 13 BA Geography students.
- Designing two modules entitled, “Critical Geographies of Modern Slavery” and “Political Geography” for Year 3 and Year 2 BA Geography students respectively.
- Conducting human geography research following my areas of expertise.
- Performing administrative duties.

**2020-21 Post Doctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University, Israel.**

- Delivered a ninety-minute long lecture entitled, ‘*Field-based research on Human Trafficking*’ (via Zoom) in ‘Human Trafficking: a labour approach’ in the Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

**2016 – 2020 PhD Student (and Graduate Teaching Assistant) in the Department of Geography at Durham University, UK.**

- 2020: Tutorial: Specialised Human Geography module, ‘*Unfreedom in Labour Relation*’ Module for level III student in the Department of Geography.
- 2020: Tutorial: Human Geography module, ‘*Social Research*’ for level II student in the Department of Geography, Durham University, UK.
- 2020: Tutorial: Guest Lecture on ‘*Invisible Methods*’ in *Social Research in Geography* Module at Durham University, UK.
- 2019: Tutorial: Specialised Human Geography module entitled, ‘*Unfreedom in Labour Relations*’ Module for level III student in the

Department of Geography, Durham University, UK. I ran 18 tutorial sessions for 87 students.

- 2019: Delivered a ninety minutes long lecture entitled, '*Transgressing the Trafficking Debate*' in *Research Frontier* Module for level IV Students in the Department of Geography, Durham University, UK.
- 2019: Delivered a guest lecture on '*Negotiating Ethics while using Moving Methods*' in *Social Research in Geography* Module the Department of Geography, Durham University.
- 2017: Demonstration: '*Introduction to Geographical Research*' Module for level I student in the Department of Geography, Durham University.
- 2016-17: Demonstration: '*Geographies of Development*' Module for Level II undergraduates in the Department of Geography, Durham University.

## Experience: Research

### 2017 **Research Assistant – IAA-ESRC**

Evaluated the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) funded project entitled 'Policy Brief Launch: Four Principles for Addressing Trafficking, Forced Labour and Slavery in Supply Chains'.

### 2016-2017 **Research Assistant – demandAT-EU**

Worked as a Research Assistant in the project 'Globalised Production of Goods' which was part of a wider network of universities and organisations called 'Demand Side Measures against Trafficking (demandAT)' funded by the European Union.

## Experience: Policy and Practice

### 2016 **Senior Consultant**

#### **Thinkthrough Consulting.**

Conducted several impact assessments and feasibility studies for social sector projects/organisations led by Corporate Social Responsibility groups.

### 2013- 2016 **Consultant**

#### **United Nations – International Labour Organisation.**

Worked in ILO-DFID Labour trafficking programme *Work in Freedom* as an external collaborator (consultant). I coordinated with placement agencies, resident welfare associations, trade unions, government departments, NGOs to assist in the development and implementation of the programme.

#### **Labour Resource Cell – Government of Uttar Pradesh, India.**

Worked in ILO programme *Reducing Vulnerability to Bondage in India* as an external collaborator (consultant) of the ILO to provide technical support to the labour department, government of Uttar Pradesh. I worked with district-level labour departments, trade unions, and employer's associations to implement the project in Brick Kilns of Uttar Pradesh.

## 2012 – 2013 Project Officer

### Foundation for Ecological Security.

Worked directly with the community in and around two wildlife sanctuaries (now National Parks) on common property resources and local self-governance through community mobilisation, capacity building, awareness generation, and project implementation.

## 2011 Intern

### DSAG - Tribal development department, Government of Gujrat, India.

Conducted socio-economic impact assessment of a government's flagship project 'Jeevika' in Tribal belts of Gujarat for my master's thesis. In addition to that, I conducted additional research on the Impact of Project Jeevika on seasonal migration in southern districts of Gujarat.

## Teaching Feedbacks (Unfreedom in Labour Relations Module)

### ❖ *Passionate research-based teaching*

- *"Hi Ayushman [...] Thanks for delivering an excellent tutorial! It's really inspiring to see how passionate you are about this field of study".*
- *"thought the module was very interesting and it was great to have Ayushman helping run the tutorials as he clearly was very engaged in the research as well".*
- *"I liked the expertise of the tutor in the debates we had, discussing the current issues was really engaging".*
- *"I liked that the seminar leader gave his own experience and knowledge to us".*

### ❖ *Engaging Students in the classroom:*

- *"the seminars led by Ayushman were very interesting and engaging. He really helped when it came to clarify certain concepts".*
- *"I liked the enthusiasm of Ayushman, and his willingness to shamelessly challenge what we were saying in order to think deeper about the point. Really engaging".*
- *Tutor is very friendly, encouraging people to speak".*
- *Got everyone to speak + discuss their perspectives + entertaining, friendly, makes the content interesting".*

### ❖ *Explaining key concepts:*

- *"Good Tutorial Leader – really helped to provide a good understanding of key module topics covered very briefly in the lecture... Clarified some murky definitions + topics".*
- *"I liked the expertise of the tutor in the debates we had, discussing the current issues was really engaging".*

- “More Tutorial – V. Useful compared to lectures”.
- “He explained everything we didn’t understand”.

## Prizes and Awards

<b>2020</b>	Parasol Foundation Fellowship: \$10000
<b>2016-2019</b>	Christopher Moyes Memorial Scholarship Award: PhD tuition fees, Subsistence, fieldwork, conferences, seminars.
<b>2019</b>	Participatory Geographies Research Group, RGS-IBG: £90.
<b>2019</b>	Van Mildert College, Durham University: £250.
<b>2019</b>	Won the best public speaker award in an International Public Speaking Competition organised by Toastmasters International.

## Publication(s)

Bhagat, A. (2020) **Departure Avenues: The Politics of (Anti-) Trafficking and Emigration Control in Nepal**. *Doctoral thesis*, Durham University, UK.

Bhagat, A. (2021) **Labour migrants’ struggle to subvert Anti-Trafficking Interventions in Nepal**. *Open Democracy: Beyond Trafficking and Slavery*

Bhagat, A. (forthcoming) **Trafficking Borders: Political Geography**.

## In Review

- **Entrapment processes in an emigration regime: The absence of Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) and the presence of Migration bans in domestic work Nepal**: Accepted with revisions: *Theoretical Inquiries in Law*
- **Casting “Human Traffickers” as internal threats: Implications of criminalising sex work and domestic work mobility facilitators in Nepal** In review: *Antipode*.
- **Participatory Action Research (PAR) on “Human Trafficking”: A field-based critical anti-trafficking research framework**. Accepted as a Book Chapter: *Modern Slavery in Global Context: Understanding the Machine (Theme: Knowledge Production and Modern Slavery)*.

## In preparation

- **Departure Avenues: Rethinking Transit Migration**. Target: *Territory, Politics and Governance*.
- **Destination bias in the critical (anti-) trafficking literature<sup>1</sup>**: Target: *International Migration Review*.

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<sup>1</sup> I am confident that this review article will change the landscape of the critical enquiry on (anti-) trafficking/slavery.

- **The space-times of migration decisions for labour employment from a trafficking prone area of Nepal:** Target: EPD - Society and Space.
- **The subjectivity of Exploitation** Target: Work, Employment and Society (Co-author: Professor Hila Shamir).

### Special Issues

- Editing Special Issue on **Trafficking Borders: Interrogating the dynamic relationship between trafficking, anti-trafficking and bordering processes** with Dr Sallie Yea (La Trobe University, Australia) in **Geopolitics** journal
  - **Everyday carcerality of trafficking borders.** Target: Geopolitics

### Future publication plans:

- **Participatory Action Research in a post-structural vein: Unsettling the discourse of trafficking and anti-trafficking in Nepal:** A methodology focused book.
- **Escape Mobilities:** Target: *Mobilities*
- **Co-constitution of mobility and control: Moving beyond the mobility bias and control bias in migration scholarship.** Target: *International Migration Review*
- **Irregular Labour migration infrastructure in Malaysia.** Target: EPD – society and space.
- **Geography of Subversions: power, agency and hyper-precarious lives in Qatar and Malaysia.** Target: *Progress in Human Geography*.

### Academic Conferences/Workshops/Seminars

#### Guest Lectures

- ❖ December 10, 2021: Delivered a guest lecture entitled, “**Escaping Trafficking Borders**” at Sustain Net webinar in Edgehill University, UK
- ❖ June 16, 2021: Delivered a lecture entitled “**Trafficking Borders: Reflections from a participatory action research conducted in a ‘Hot-Spot’ of ‘trafficking’ in Nepal**” in Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University, India.
- ❖ September 29, 2020: Delivered a lecture entitled “**Departure Avenues: the politics of (anti-) trafficking and emigration control in Nepal**” in International Webinar Series, School of Geography, Gangadher Mehar University, India.

#### Invited contributions

- ❖ July 07<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Paper entitled “**Destination-Bias in the literature of Human Trafficking**” in *Entangling Histories of International Trafficking*, University of Erfurt, Germany.
- ❖ June 6, 2021: Presented a paper entitled, “**Migration Bans on Domestic work in Nepal: Absence of BLAs in domestic work and spaces of entrapment and exclusion**” in *Bilateral Labour Agreement conference*, Tel Aviv University, Israel.
- ❖ February 21, 2020: Presented a paper entitled “**Trafficking Borders: Control and Subversion**” in *International Development Conference 2020*, Durham University, UK.

- ❖ January 24, 2020: Presented a paper entitled “**Researching migratory mobilities in a trafficking prone area of Nepal**” in *Anthropology Student Seminar*, Anthropology Department, Durham University, UK
- ❖ April 22, 2018: Presented a paper entitled, “**Exploring vulnerabilities created through post-disaster anti-trafficking interventions in Nepal**” in Blood Bricks workshop: *Making Connections: Modern Slavery, Environmental Destruction, and Climate Change* at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

### Organised sessions

- ❖ 31 – September 3, 2021: Convened a session on “**Interrogating the dynamic relationship between trafficking, anti-trafficking, borders, and borderings, and their implications.**”<sup>2</sup> with Dr. Sallie Yea in the RGS IBG Annual International Conference 2021, Royal Geographical Society, London, UK

### Additional conference and seminar presentations

- ❖ August 31, 2021: Paper entitled, “**Everyday Carcerality of Trafficking Borders**” in the RGS IBG Annual International Conference 2021, Royal Geographical Society, London, UK.
- ❖ November 19, 2020: Paper entitled, “**Departure Avenues: Addressing destination bias in the autonomy of migration and critical (anti-) trafficking literature**” at TraffLab seminar series, Tel Aviv University, Israel.
- ❖ June 17-19, 2020: Paper entitled, “**Borders of ‘Trafficking’**” in *British International Studies Association Annual Conference* at the School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology, Newcastle University, UK [cancelled due to covid -19].
- ❖ March 12-13, 2020: Paper entitled, “**Navigating the mess: Geographies of failure**” in *NineDTP Postgraduate Training workshop on Doing International Fieldwork in Development Contexts* at Newcastle University, UK [cancelled due to covid-19].
- ❖ January 15, 2020: Presented two posters entitled, “**Participatory Action Research and multi-site Border ethnography to examine mobility from a ‘trafficking prone’ area of Nepal**” and “**Moments...**” in *Research Home Day* at Durham University, UK
- ❖ October 30, 2019: Presented a paper entitled, “**Polymorphic Borders of Trafficking: control and subversion**” in *Critical perspective of Modern Slavery conference* at Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull, UK
- ❖ June 19, 2019: Presented a paper entitled, “**Escape Mobilities: Rethinking the Autonomy of Migration**” at *The Migration Conference 2019*, Bari, Italy.
- ❖ May 24, 2019: Presented a paper entitled, “**Participatory Action Research on Human Trafficking in Nepal**” in *Participatory Away Weekend* organised by RGS-IBG (PYGYRG) at Fort Williams, Scotland, UK.

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<sup>2</sup> The session is sponsored by Development Geography Research Group (DevGRG) and Geographies of Justice Research Group (GJRG). Further, I and Sallie Yea plan to pitch in for a special issue in *Environment and Planning C – Politics and Space or Geopolitics*.

- ❖ April 06, 2019: Presented a paper entitled “**Escape Mobilities: Rethinking the Autonomy of Migration**” in the session entitled, *Liquidity of borders: Exploring meanings and effects of (non)autonomy of contemporary migrations II* at the AAG Annual Meeting 2019, Washington D.C.
- ❖ April 05, 2019: Presented a paper on “**Escape Mobilities: Rethinking the Autonomy of Migration**” in the session entitled, *Migration policies: illegalization and criminalization of bodies, solidarity and practices of resistance I* at the AAG Annual Meeting 2019, Washington D.C.
- ❖ November 30, 2018: Presented a Paper entitled, “**Doing proper research vs Doing research properly: Geographies of Failure**” in *NineDTP Postgraduate Training workshop on Doing International Fieldwork in Development Contexts* at Newcastle University, UK
- ❖ November 15, 2019: Presented a Paper entitled, “**Translating Silences**” In *Methodological Approaches for 'Ambivalent' research conference* organised by Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University.
- ❖ November 02, 2018: Presented a paper entitled, “**Moving beyond ‘the new Tyranny’: Reflections on a PAR project**” in a *Post-Graduate Forum* organised by Centre for Social Justice and Community Action (CSJCA), Durham University.
- ❖ October 10, 2018: Presented a paper entitled, “**Human Trafficking: Think Again?**” in *Institute of Hazard Risk and Resilience’s (IHRR) annual workshop*, Durham University, UK
- ❖ July 18, 2018: Presented a paper entitled, “**Glimpse of militant research: Mobility struggles of people living in a trafficking prone area of Nepal**” in *postgraduate research forum* of Geography Department at Durham University.
- ❖ 30 August 2017: Presented a poster entitled, “**Pre- and Post-disaster risk of Human Trafficking? Exploring mobility governance through PAR in Nepal**” in *the RGS IBG Annual International Conference 2017* in London.

### Professional Associations and Affiliations

- ✓ Member of the Royal Geographical Society, Institute of British Geographer, UK.
- ✓ Member of the American Association of Geographers, USA
- ✓ Member of Britain Nepal Academic Council (BNAC), a platform for British academics and researchers interested in various aspects of Nepal.
- ✓ Regular reviewer of the international peer-reviewed Journals like *Mobilities*, *Globalizations*, and *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- ✓ Member of ESRC Strategic Network on “*Unacceptable Forms of Work: Global Dialogue/Local Innovation*”, a global impact-oriented network of researchers and policy-makers interested in ineffective regulation of low-waged and insecure work.
- ✓ Member of “*Solution Exchange: Work and Employment Community*”, an initiative by the United Nations to provide a knowledge and ideas exchange platform among development professionals.

### Professional Skills

Research Designing and Implementation; Strategizing development intervention and evaluating performance; Programme Management; Product Designing - Project Proposals, SOPs, TORs, Training modules, Handbooks, Process Documents, Case Studies; Community Mobilization; Training and Capacity Building; Campaigning.



## **Computer Skills**

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Languages: VB.Net, Java, ASP.Net, C++, C+

Databases: Oracle, SQL Server, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel

Softwares: Microsoft - word, excel, PowerPoint, outlook; Nvivo 10

## **Interests**

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World Travelling, Public Speaking, Yoga and Meditation teaching, Salsa Dancing and Guitar Playing.

## **Languages**

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Hindi (Mother Tongue), English (Fluent), Nepali (Basic), Urdu (Basic), and several regional Indian Languages.