

Ch. Satish Kumar

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Assistant Professor in Sociology

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Research interests:

I specialize in sociology of politics and regional historiography. My research has focused on the interaction between caste, region and polity in South India. The articles which I have published tried to establish the vital links between caste, the political economy of agrarian growth and the social history of regions. They also have explored the critical aspect caste and their interconnectedness with region and political power in different regions. My present and future research explores the role of colonialism in cultivating the caste consciousness, consolidations, different patterns of caste mobilisations, and the political economy of agrarian change. Methodologically, my research is rooted in sociology (by critically engaging with them) and also trespasses into other social science disciplines.

Present Research:

Currently working on a book tentatively titled 'Caste Mobilisation Processes and Political Power in South India'. The central argument of the book is to unravel or trace out the implications of the negotiations between Caste, Politics and Region.

I am also working on an article which traces the political economy of Godavari region, particularly the way dialectical relationship between social relations and economy were unfolded in pre-colonial, colonial and post-Independent India. It explores the shifts or the transitions from trade-textile to subsistence agriculture cultivation and from there to an intense commercial agriculture. The paper not only brings forth these shifts but also unravels the hidden social dynamics. Also it problematizes the concept of region by looking at it sociologically.

Teaching Experience:

Co-taught 'Debating Development' at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Kolkata for the semester July-Oct 2019

Taught 'Ethnography in Research Methods at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Kolkata for the semester July-Oct 2019

Co-taught 'Land Question in Development' at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Kolkata for the semester July-October 2018

Co-taught 'Institutions and Identities in Contemporary India at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Kolkata for the semester Jan-May-2018

Taught three classes 'Debating Development' optional course for MPhil Scholars at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Kolkata for the semester July-October 2017.

Taught Sociology for undergraduate law students at Symbiosis International University for a semester.

Taught for undergraduate and post-graduate students at Tata Institute of Social Sciences from August, 2015 to May, 2017.

Undergraduate Courses:

Compulsory

- a) Sociology and Social Anthropological Concepts
- b) Sociology and Social Anthropological Theories

Optional

- c) Understanding Indian Society
- d) Post-Reform Transformations in India

Post-graduate

Understanding Politics- compulsory course for MA students

Academic Qualifications

PhD: Awarded by the University of Hyderabad, in July 2015 for the thesis on “Caste, Mobilization Processes and Political Power: A Study of Kapus in Andhra Pradesh”, supervised by Prof. Purenra Prasad at the Department of Sociology. The thesis explores the inter-relationship between caste and politics and region. It has brought out the political economy of agrarian change and the role of caste with a detailed ethnographic field work in the Godavari Delta of Andhra Pradesh. It has emphasized the articulations, aspirations and different mobilizational strategies deployed by an Intermediary caste called Kapus in Andhra Pradesh. Though this work takes up the post-Independent period as the entry point, but does invigorates by extending to colonial and pre-colonial periods. The thesis has dealt with field quite extensively and also tapped the regional archive quite effectively.

M. Phil: Awarded by University of Hyderabad in 2008. The Dissertation titled ‘Village Power Structure and Social Dynamics: A study of two gram Panchayats in Nellore dist, (A P)’. The dissertation examined how local self-government i.e. *Panchayati Raj Institutions*, empowered or disempowered the marginalized groups politically. The study also explored negotiations between agents who manage social, economic and political power at various levels in the village structure. Intensive fieldwork was undertaken to collect data through multiple sources.

Publications:

“Social Power: A Sociological Trajectory of Intermediate Caste in South India” in Economic and Political Weekly, 2019

Forthcoming, “Sociology of Political Parties: Rise and Fall of Praja Rajyam Party, Andhra Pradesh” for the two volume anthology titled State of Democracy in India: Life and Politics in Contemporary Times edited by Manas Ray to be published by Primus Publishers: New Delhi, 2019.

With Purendra Prasad. Changing Caste and Power Relations in Andhra Pradesh during 1956-1996. In Ramakrishna Reddy (Ed). Comprehensive History of Andhra Pradesh, Vol.8. 2016, Telugu Academy, Hyderabad, 2016

Marginalized Groups and their Decision Making Power in PRI's: A Case Study from Andhra Pradesh in K. S.Bhatt and R.Venkat Ravi, Empowerment of SC's, ST's and Women in Panchayatiraj Institutions, Kaniska Publishers, Delhi, 2012.

A book review on 'Dividing Dalits' in *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, Volume, 45, 3, 2011.

Conference/Seminars Presentations:

Invited to present a paper titled "Region as a conceptual category in Sociology" at the Explorations in Domains of Indian Sociology organised by the Department of Sociology, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, February 4-8, 2019

Presented a Paper titled "The Political Economy of Agrarian Change and Caste in Godavari Region, Andhra Pradesh at the Yale Modern South Asian Workshop sponsored by the South Asian Studies Council, Yale University organised at Ashoka University, New Delhi, July, 9-10, 2018

Presented a Paper titled "Cleavages and Leakages in implementing the Democratic Decentralisation in Andhra Pradesh" at the Conclave "Transforming India through strengthening PRIs by continuous training and e-enablement organised by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad January 18-19, 2018.

Presented a paper titled 'Independent Media: Independence from the State or from within? in the Seventh Anjan Ghosh memorial seminar titled "How Do We defend the Independent Media" organised by Centre for Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta on 16th Sep, 2017

Presented a paper titled 'caste, region and politics: political economy of Godavari delta in the National seminar on Caste, Tribe and Region: Indian Nation State and its discontent organized by Centre for Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta on 28th and 29th March, 2016.

Presented a paper titled 'methodological limitations-a personal narrative' in the National level Young Researchers Workshop organized by the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad on 21st and 22nd January 2015.

Presented a paper titled Caste Movements in Andhra Pradesh in Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram, Conference organised on the occasion of centenary celebrations of P. Sundarayya at Hyderabad on April, 2013.

Presented a paper titled 'The Rise and Fall of PrajaRajyam Party in Andhra Pradesh' organized by the University of Daikin and University of Hyderabad in Dec, 2012

Presented a paper in the Council for Social Development (CSD) on the Marginalized Groups and their Decision Making Power in Panchayati Raj Institutions, A study in Two Villages in Andhra Pradesh, March, 2009.

Participations in Workshops:

Participated in the two day workshop titled 'Writing-Intensive Courses: Concept and Practices' organized by Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad on February 12th and 13th 2015.

Participated in the four days' workshop on Indian Philosophy at Manipal University in the month of July, 2015.

Research Experience:

Worked as Research Associate for the book project 'Health Care Studies in India' supported by David and Lucile Packard Foundation from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015

Worked as a Project Associate in the project "The Globalizing State, Public Services and the New Governance of Urban Local Communities in India". It was supported by IIM, Ahmadabad, India. This study focused on the influence of globalization on the urban local bodies, particularly two non-metropolitan cities of Andhra Pradesh.

Worked as Student Co-coordinator for the International Faculty Development Seminar on "A Cross-Disciplinary Look Today's India" 29th July – 11th August, 2007 and also for the year 2008.

Worked as a research assistant in the Project "Panchayati Raj Institutions – Inclusion and Exclusion of social Groups: A Study in Nellore District (A.P)" during 1st Oct 2006-31st March 2007. This project was supported by UPE, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad.

Worked as a translator for 'Anthra' (NGO) working on Livestock during April 2006-June 2006. Primarily focused on how the sheep rearing community coped with the modern medicine. This study also focused on the conflict between the state and the local people on issues related to the forest land.

Reviewer

Reviewed a manuscript for AN Sinha Institute of Social Sciences, Patna, Bihar

Reviewed a project proposal for ICSSR, Eastern Region, Kolkata.

Newspaper articles

Why Pawan Kalyan's Political Debut Flopped, Wire, <https://thewire.in/politics/pawan-kalyan-andhra-pradesh-elections-2109>, May 31, 2019.

Pragmatism triumphs ideology, Telugu Trending News, April 04, 2019

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/the-futility-of-modi-s-reservation-move/cid/1683597>, published on Feb, 4, 2019

Shifting Course, The Telegraph, <https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/shifting-course/cid/1467196>, July, 06, 2018