

PAVITHRA VASUDEVAN

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Geography
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220
214-796-6458 pavithra@email.unc.edu

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Department of Geography. Chapel Hill.
“Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies & Industrial Toxicity in North Carolina”
- 2013 M.A. University of North Carolina, Department of Geography. Chapel Hill.
“Memory and the Re-invention of Place: The Legacies of Environmental Justice in Warren County, North Carolina”
- 2008 Post-baccalaureate program: Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology, Columbia University. New York.
- 2003 B.A. *cum laude* Duke University. Durham, North Carolina.
“Social Movements & Representation” (Individualized program)

PUBLICATIONS / PRODUCTIONS

Edited special issues of refereed journals

- 2017 Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan, eds (Equal authorship). “Race, Biopolitics and the Future: Introduction to the Special Section.” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 35 (2): 210-221.

Refereed journal articles

- 2018 Mabel Gergan, Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan (Equal authorship). “Earth Beyond Repair: Race and Apocalypse in Collective Imagination.” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.
- 2015 Pavithra Vasudevan and William A. Kearney (First author). “Remembering Kearneytown: Race, Place and Collective Memory in Collaborative Filmmaking.” *Area* 48 (4): 455-462.

2012 Pavithra Vasudevan. "Performance and Proximity: Revisiting Environmental Justice in Warren County, North Carolina," *Performance Research* 17 (4): 18-26.

Book chapters in edited volumes

2018 Donna Houston and Pavithra Vasudevan. "Storytelling Environmental Justice: Cultural Studies Approaches." In *Handbook of Environmental Justice*. Ryan Holifield, Jayajit Chakraborty, and Gordon Walker, eds. Routledge.

Under review in refereed journals

Pavithra Vasudevan. "An Intimate Inventory of Race and Waste." *Antipode*. (Revise and resubmit)

Pavithra Vasudevan and Sara Smith (First author). "The Domestic Geopolitics of Racial Capitalism." *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*. Special issue: "Feminist Political Geographies: Critical Reflections and New Directions," Caroline Faria, Vanessa Massaro, and Jill Williams, eds. (Reviewed by special issue editors; Submission to journal by February 2018)

In preparation for edited volume

Chris Neubert, Sara Smith and Pavithra Vasudevan (Equal authorship). "The Intimate Geopolitics of Race and Gender in the United States." *Routledge International Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*, Anindita Datta, Peter Hopkins, Lynda Johnston, Elizabeth Olson, and Joseli Maria Silva, eds. (Under review by editor)

Omololu Refilwe Babatunde, Blanche Brown, Pavithra Vasudevan, Altha Cravey and Taylor Webber-Fields. "Contesting White Supremacy in the Landscapes of Higher Education: Lessons From the Struggle for Hurston Hall." *Campus Rebellions and Plantation Politics: Power, Privilege, and the Emancipatory Struggle in Higher Education*, Frank Truitt, Bianca C. Williams, and Dian Squire, eds. (Under review by editor)

Renee Alexander Craft and Pavithra Vasudevan (Equal authorship). "Racial Bodies, Myriad Selves: Examining the Human and the Other in Nnedi Okorafor's Imaginative Geographies." *Unknowable: Geography and Black Feminisms*, LaToya Eaves eds. (Submission invited by June 2018)

Other publications

2014 Siobhan Senier, Anthony Lioi, Mary Kate Ryan, **Pavithra Vasudevan**, Angel Nieves, Darren Ranco and Courtney Marshall. "The Resilience of Race: A Cultural Sustainability Manifesto." *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 1 (2).

Pavithra Vasudevan. "Conscience of the Nation: the Leadership of Dollie Burwell and Naeema Muhammad." *Practical Visionaries: Women of Color and Indigenous Women in the North American Environmental Movement*, Anuja Mendiratta and Beth Rose Middleton, eds. (Forthcoming).

Public scholarship

- 2016 Atiya Husain, **Pavithra Vasudevan** and Neel Ahuja. "Islamophobia & Anti-Blackness: A Call to Action at UNC." *Monsoon: A Platform for South Asian Affairs*, 3: 6. Available: <http://monsoon.web.unc.edu/islamophobia-anti-blackness-a-call-to-action-at-unc-by-atiya-husain-pavithra-vasudevan-and-neel-ahuja/>
- 2013 Vasudevan, Pavithra. "Linking Struggles to Build the Movement – Report-back from the NCEJN Summit." Blog post. Available: <http://www.ncejn.org/>
- 2008 Women's Environment and Development Organization. "Gender, Climate Change and Human Security: Lessons from Bangladesh, Ghana, and Senegal" (Unpublished working paper), Contributor. Available: <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/hsn-study-final-may-20-2008.pdf>

Performance

- Pavithra Vasudevan (Playwright). "Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town." Research play (90 min), directed by Joseph Megel.
- Feb 2017 Swain Studio 6 Productions, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- Oct 2016 North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Summit, Whitakers, NC
- Apr 2016 Community performance, New London, NC
- Vasudevan, Pavithra (Writer & Performer). "Take Me to the Water." Solo ethnographic performance (10 min).
- Nov 2013 National Communications Association Convention, Washington, DC
- Jul 2013 Community performance, Connecticut Artists Initiative, Hartford, CT
- Mar 2013 Across the Threshold Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC
- Nov 2012 Critical Geography Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, NC
- May 2012 International Conference on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Multimedia

- 2012 Pavithra Vasudevan and William A. Kearney. "Remembering Kearneytown." Film (17 min). Available: <https://vimeo.com/115070233>

Media interviews

- 2017 Featured in "Environmental Racism and Oral History." *Press Record* Podcast, Episodes 14 & 15. Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Available: <http://sohp.org/podcast/>
- 2017 Featured in "Carolina Chronicle." The Graduate School, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Available: <http://carolinachronicle.unc.edu/2017/engaged-research/>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

External Fellowships & Grants

- 2015 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award (\$15,975),
National Science Foundation
- 2015 Evelyn L. Pruitt National Dissertation Fellowship (\$12,000),
Society of Women Geographers
- 2012-15 Graduate Research Fellowship (\$90,000, tuition and healthcare),
National Science Foundation

Internal Fellowships, Grants and Awards (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

- 2018 Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Award (\$500),
The Graduate School
- 2016 McColl Dissertation Fellowship (\$18000, plus tuition),
Center for the Study of the American South
- 2015 Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship (\$5700 for tuition), *The Graduate School*
- 2015 Seed Grant Award (\$1200), *Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research*
- 2015 Community Engagement Fellowship (\$2000), *Carolina Center for Public Service*
- 2015 Future Faculty Fellowship (\$450), *Center for Faculty Excellence*
- 2015 Graduate Student Transportation Grant (\$750), *The Graduate School*

- 2015 Conference Travel Grant (\$350), *Department of Geography*
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant (\$215), *Center for the Study of the American South*
- 2014 Conference Travel Grant (\$475), *Department of Geography*
- 2013 Conference Travel Grant (\$1000), *Department of Geography*
- 2011 Graduate Summer Research Grant (\$1500),
Center for the Study of the American South
- 2010 Doctoral Merit Assistantship (\$18,000, tuition and healthcare),
The Graduate School

Awards

- 2008 Graduate Fellowship, *Women's Environment and Development Organization, NY*
- 2005 Warrior Womyn/Mujer Guerrera, *Casa Atabex Ache, NY*
- 2003 New Voices Fellowship (Semifinalist), *Academy for Educational Development*

TEACHING

Solo Instructor

- 2017 Geographies of Globalization (Introductory undergraduate, 100+ enrollment)
- 2015 Environmental Conservation & Global Change (Intermediate undergraduate)

Graduate Research Consultant

(Advising undergraduate research projects)

- 2015 Technology & Democracy workshop
- 2014 Politics of Everyday Life
- 2014 Political Geography
- 2013 Expressive Cultures (Anthropology)
- 2013 Geographies of Religion

Teaching Assistant

- 2012 Urban Geography

- 2011 World Regional Geography
- 2011 Introduction to South Asia
- 2011 Space, Place & Difference
- 2010 Environmental Systems

Guest lectures (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

- 2016 “Performing Environmental Justice,” Anthropology
“Oral History and Performance,” Communications
- 2015 “Feminist Movements to Change the World,” Sociology
- 2014 “Performing and Witnessing Environmental Racism,” Religious Studies
“Environmental Racism: Hurricane Katrina, A Case Study,” Sociology
“Environmental Injustice and Lingering Toxicity,” Anthropology
- 2013 “Race, Space, and Place,” Sociology

Undergraduate advising

- 2015 Reader for Omololu Refilwe Babatunde, Geography Undergraduate Honors Thesis: “Black Liberatory Senses of Place: Creating From Abject Otherness”

Workshop facilitation

- 2015 “Industrial Agriculture, Environmental Justice and Climate Justice,” with Naeema Muhammad and Zoe Ackerman. North Carolina Climate Justice Summit.
- 2015 “Our Bodies, Our Stories: Intergenerational Workshop for Movement-Building,” with Marie Garlock. North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Summit.
- 2013 “Decolonizing Methodologies,” Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2013 “Performance Ethnography,” Connecticut Artists Initiative / Sustained Participatory Action Research Collaboration (UNC-CH), Hartford, CT.
- 2013 “‘But that’s just natural, right?!’: Teaching Critical Geography to Skeptical Beginners,” Department of Geography, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 Guest speaker on Environmental Justice.
Politics of Nature Seminar, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.”
Department of Geography, University of Arizona.
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.”
Department of Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, Harvey Mudd College.
- 2016 “Environmental Justice Storytelling through Critical/Performance
Ethnography.” Applied Qualitative Research Methods Graduate Seminar,
Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University.
- 2008 “Case Study in Natural Resources and Sacred Spaces: Black Hills, South
Dakota.”
“Gender and Climate Change: Women as Agents of Change.”
Introduction to Environmental Anthropology Seminar, Barnard University.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers

- 2018 “Toxic Legacies: Racist Epidemiology & Abolitional Possibility,” with Libby
(upcoming) McClure. American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 “The Health Politics of Industrial Toxicity,” with Libby McClure. Research
Session, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Annual Summit,
Whitakers, NC.
- 2017 “The Domestic Geopolitics of Racial Capitalism.” Feminist Geography
Conference: Insides and Outsides of Feminism, University of North Carolina-
Chapel Hill.
- 2017 “An Intimate Inventory of Race & Waste.” American Association of
Geographers Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2016 “Toxic Life, Slow Death: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Gender,
Bodies and Technology 4th Biannual Conference, Virginia Tech, Roanoke, VA.
- 2016 “Earth Beyond Repair: Race and Apocalypse,” with Sara Smith and Mabel
Gergan. American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.

- 2016 “Medicalization of Injustice: The Politics of Health in Environmental Racism.” Health and Humanities Exchange, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2015 “The Geography of Aluminum Towns.” 8th European Institute for the History of Science and Popularization: Living in a Toxic World (1800-2000), Menorca, Spain.
- 2014 “Toxic Life, Slow Death: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Tampa, FL.
- 2014 “On Remediation and Resolution: the Possibilities and Perils of Collective Memory Practices in Countering Racism.” Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2013 “‘It’s good now, it’s waste’: Material Transformation and Value at the Compost Pile,” with Mike Dimpfl. Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2012 “Lessons in Environmental Participatory Research.” Center for the Study of the American South Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2012 “‘Remembering Kearneytown’: Lessons in Environment & Justice from Warren County, NC.” Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY.

Panels

- 2018 (upcoming) Panel: “Unsettling Colonial Geographies with Performative Arts Practice.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 (upcoming) Panel: “DIY (Do it Yourself) Filmmaking.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Co-presenter with FLOCK Collective, Panel: “Conversations on Practices of Decolonization and Racial Justice in Geography.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2017 Co-presenter with FLOCK Collective, Panel: “Calling All Collectives.” Feminist Geography: Insides and Outsides, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2016 Panel: “Performances and Practices for Racial Justice.” Feminisms Here and Now Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2012 Panel: “Film as Research Output.” American Association of Geographers Conference, New York, NY.

Discussant

- 2016 Session: “Geographies of Media XIII: Media, Governmentality, and Managing the ‘More than Human’ Environment.” American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2011 Session: “Reframing Islandness III.” American Association of Geographers Conference, Seattle, WA.

Conference organizing

- 2017 Session: “On Race and Feminist Geopolitics,” with Willie J. Wright. Feminist Geography: Insides & Outsides. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2016 Paper & panel sessions: “Legacies of Black Feminisms,” with LaToya Eaves. American Association of Geographers Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2015 Session: “Afro-Pessimism & Black Optimism.” Black Radical Tradition Mini-Seminar, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2015 “Teaching, In and Out of Academia,” Co-organizer. Geography Association of Graduate Students Colloquium, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2014 Sessions: “Race, Biopolitics and the Future I, II, III,” with Sara Smith. American Association of Geographers Conference, Tampa, FL.
- 2014 Panel: “Black Geographies,” with Willie J. Wright. Global Africana Studies Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2014 Session: “Teaching Social Justice in Environmental Classes,” with Autumn Thoyre. Dimensions of Political Ecology, Lexington, KY.
- 2012 Session: “Creating Possibilities in a Sea of Unknowing: Negotiating Positionalities through Performance Ethnography,” Co-organizer. International Conference on Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- 2012 Session: “Bodies, Borders & Territory I, II, III,” Co-organizer. American Association of Geographers Conference, New York, NY.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2017 “Producing an Intimate Inventory: Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town.” Tell About the South Speaker Series, Center for the Study of the American South.

- 2017 “An Intimate Inventory of Race & Waste.” Graduate Research Colloquium, Department of Geography.
- 2017 “Searching in Aluminum’s Shadows: Black Geographies and Industrial Toxicity.” Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology Speaker Series.
- 2017 Invited panelist, Graduate and Professional Models of Engaged Experiential Education, Annual Engagement Units Summit.
- 2016 “Translating Oral History into Performance,” Southern Oral History Program.
- 2016 “Collaboration through Critical/Performance Ethnography,” with Rev. William A. Kearney, Community Capacity Seminar, Department of Health Behavior.
- 2016 “Performance as Ethnographic Praxis,” Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant Award Presentations.
- 2013 “Collaborative Filmmaking as Geographical Praxis,” Graduate Research Colloquium, Department of Geography.
- 2012 “‘Remembering Kearneytown’: Lessons in Environment & Justice from Warren County, North Carolina,” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series.
- 2012 “Political Ecology of Toilets, Toxins and Trans-actions,” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series.

SERVICE

Department

- 2017 Graduate Member, Interview Committee: Andrew Curley Hire
- 2015-6 Graduate Representative, Diversity Committee
- 2013-4 Co-president, Geography Association of Graduate Students
- 2012-3 Graduate Representative, Undergraduate Committee
- 2012-3 Founding Member, GIFT Teaching Committee

University

- 2016-7 Founding Member, FLOCK Feminist Geography Collective
- 2016-7 Founding Co-president, Hurston Collective for Critical Performance Ethnography

Referee Work

Southeastern Geographer

Community Work

- 2014-7 Planning Committee Member, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
- 2011-3 Planning Committee Member, Warren County Environmental Action Team

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Geographers
Critical Ethnic Studies Association

PRIOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012 Research Assistant to Scott Kirsch, *Technology & Democracy Workshop*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2011 Research Assistant to Carla Norwood and Gabe Cumming, *Growing Local/ Buying Local*, Warren County, NC.
- 2008 Fellow, *Summer Environmental Exchange*, Tahoe-Baikal Institute, CA.
- 2008 Graduate Research Fellow, *Sustainable Development Program*, Women's Environment and Development Organization, New York, NY.
- 2008 Research Assistant to Crystal Fortwangler, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Anthropology, Barnard University, NY.
- 2007 Research Assistant to Steven Chillrud, Toxicology Lab, Lamont-Doherty Observatory, NY.

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2008-10 Program Director. Girls Inc. of Westchester County, White Plains, NY.
- 2007 Co-Facilitator, *Green Girls Summer Institute*. City Park Foundation, New York, NY.
- 2006 Summer Institute Faculty, "Spirit Work: Spirituality and Social Change." Sadie Nash Leadership Project, Brooklyn, NY.

- 2005-8 Facilitator, Curriculum Consultant & Interim Project Director.
The Girls & Boys Projects, New York, NY.
- 2005 Consultant, *Community Empowerment Program*. CONNECT: Safe Families,
Peaceful Communities, New York, NY.
- 2003-4 Program Assistant, *Domestic Violence Training Institute & Community
Empowerment Program*. CONNECT: Safe Families, Peaceful Communities,
New York, NY.
- 2004-9 Freelance Professional Dancer and Dance Educator