

Sruthi Atmakur – Javdekar

Environmental Psychology Program
The Graduate Center, City University of New York
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EDUCATION

PhD in Environmental Psychology, *In progress, expected May 2016*

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Research focus: physical and social affordances of play for ‘all’ children, children and young people’s geographies, children’s lives in developing countries, qualitative and participatory research methods

Master of Landscape Architecture, May 2010

Virginia Polytechnic & State University (Virginia Tech)

Research focus: research, planning and design of urban landscapes, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Urban revitalization, green space design, community aided design

Bachelor of Architecture, July 2006

School of Planning and Architecture, J.N.T.U., Hyderabad, India

Research focus: Cultural influence in architectural design and building, public space design

RESEARCH & CONSULTING

Safe and Inclusive Cities, Because I Am A Girl Urban Programme, Kampala, Uganda and New Delhi, India

Research Associate, Adaptation of the Child Friendly Places Initiative to develop Safe and Inclusive Cities, November 2014 – May 2015. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Children’s Environments Research Group. <http://childfriendlyplaces.org>

Field experience: Kampala City, Uganda, East Africa

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt

Funder: Plan International

Responsibilities: Co-development of Project Guidance note; Research and development of Youth-friendly Entitlements Analysis tools; Safe and inclusive cities tools; Workshop facilitation; and Development of participatory methods and tools with Dr. Pamela Wridt for Plan International’s Because I Am A Girl Urban Programme with Plan Uganda

Field experience: New Delhi, India

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt, Co-field researcher: Bijan Kimiagar

Funder: Plan International

Responsibilities: Co-development of Project Guidance note; Research and development of Child and Youth-friendly modules for Scorecards processes; Safe and inclusive cities tools; Workshop management and facilitation; and Development of Scorecards modules and tools with Dr. Pamela Wridt and Bijan Kimiagar for Plan International’s Because I Am A Girl Urban Programme with Plan India

Child Friendly Places Resource Toolkit

Research Associate, *Development of the Child Friendly Places Resource Toolkit*, January 2013 – August 2014. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Children's Environments Research Group. <http://childfriendlyplaces.org>

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt

Funder: The Bernard van Leer Foundation

Responsibilities: Research, design and development of Child Friendly Places resource toolkit with Dr. Pamela Wridt.

Child Friendly Places, India

Research Associate and South Asia Coordinator, *Child Friendly Places*, January 2013 – August 2014. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Children's Environments Research Group. <http://cernyc.org/2012/12/21/child-friendly-communities-mumbai/>

Field experience: Mumbai and Bhavnagar cities, India

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt

Funder: The Bernard van Leer Foundation

Responsibilities: Workshop trainings, implementation of resource toolkit, and project coordination with two local partners in India – Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and Shaishav, Bhavnagar; and technical report writing.

Street and Working Children, Bhavnagar, India

External Evaluator, *Street & Working Children*, April 2013 – April 2016. Shaishav, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India. <http://shaishavchildrights.org/2013/08/09/key-new-donor-recognises-shaishavs-important-work/>

Field experience: Bhavnagar city, India

Funder: Comic Relief, UK

Responsibilities: Design and conduct a three year evaluation to study impact of Shaishav in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. Evaluation includes pre, post and impact studies.

Children's Play in India, Consultation for Flamingo International

Play consultant for strategic research agency – Flamingo International, London. July 2013.

Education in Emergencies, Haiti

Research Associate, *Education in Emergencies, A participatory assessment toolkit for UNICEF Transitional Learning Spaces*, April 2010 – May 2012. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Children's Environments Research Group. <http://cernyc.org/2012/03/30/education-in-emergencies/>

Field experience: Haiti

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt

Funder: UNICEF

Responsibilities: Design and pilot testing of participatory assessment tool kits for children to assess their school environments in Haiti. Pilot test of LEGO as a participatory tool with children to design and plan their learning environments. Assist in writing project reports.

Recycling Behaviors of The City University of New York Graduate Center Community

Co-Principal Investigator *Recycling Behaviors of The City University of New York Graduate Center Community: A Ten-Year Follow Up Assessment*, February 2012 – present. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Department of Psychology.

Principle Investigators: Sruthi Atmakur, Bryce Dubois, Scott Fisher, Hannah Jaicks, Bijan Kimiagar, Jennifer Pipitone, Dr. David Chapin

Responsibilities: Collaborate with research team in research conceptualization, design and methodology.

UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report 2012

Research Assistant to Dr. Roger Hart in completion of a section titled '*Planning Cities with Children in Mind*' for UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report 2012. February 2011 – April 2011

Child Friendly Communities, East Harlem, New York

Project Evaluator and Research Assistant, *Child Friendly Communities, East Harlem*, April 2010 – May 2011. City University of New York, The Graduate Center, Children's

Environments Research Group. <http://cergnyc.org/2012/07/31/child-friendly-communities-east-harlem/>

Field experience: East Harlem, New York City

Principal Investigator: Dr. Roger Hart, Project Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Wridt

Funder: The Bernard van Leer Foundation

Responsibilities: Evaluation of youth engagement and participation. Develop and conduct project evaluation including observation of sessions with youth, pre-/post-test surveys, documentation of process using video, and individual interviews of staff. Assist project director in technical and research needs of project.

Children's Nature Education Outdoor Classroom

Research Assistant and Jr. Landscape Architect, *Master Plan for a Children's Nature Education Outdoor Classroom*, 2008. With Prof. Dean Bork, U. S. Forest Service, Jefferson National Forest, Blacksburg Ranger District, Virginia.

Responsibilities: conceptual design, site and contextual analysis to develop a creative learning outdoor environment for children

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Faculty, '*Children of New York*', August 2011 – December 2012. City University of New York, Brooklyn College, Department of Children and Youth Studies

PUBLICATIONS

- Atmakur, S. (2013). Playgrounds of Inclusion. *State of The World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities*. UNICEF.
- Atmakur-Javdekar, S. (2015) 'Children's play in urban areas', in Evans, B. and Horton, J. (eds) *Play, Recreation, Health and Well Being*, Vol. 9 of Skelton, T. (editor-in-chief) *Geographies of Children and Young People* (Springer Singapore)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Atmakur, S. (April, 2011). *Child Friendly Communities, East Harlem*. Datablitz presentation at the Second Annual All-Psychology Research Day, The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York.
- Atmakur, S. (March, 2012). *Creating Play Opportunities for 'All' Children*. Paper presentation at conference titled, In Defense of Childhood: Keeping the Joy of Learning Alive, The City College of New York, CUNY, New York.
- Atmakur-Javdekar, S (September, 2014). *Play trends in the West: Possible adaptations in India*. Presentation at International Play Association – India Chapter's – 'Kaleidoscope of Play in India 2014' – conference, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
- Atmakur-Javdekar, S (January 2015). *Child Friendly Cities: Two cases – Mumbai and Bhavnagar, India*. Presentation at the 4th International Conference on the Geographies of Children, Youth and Families, San Diego, USA

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Recipient of Two University Gold Medals for having secured first rank in Architecture, 2006
- Awarded First place for poster presentation at Graduate Research Symposium 2008 at Virginia Tech
- Participant of winning team for sculpting contest hosted by the Baltimore Architecture Foundation

UNIVERSITY & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- Conference organizer, *National Conference on 'Kaleidoscope of Play in India 2014'*, International Play Association – India Chapter, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India, September 2014.
- Executive Committee, Environmental Psychology Program, CUNY, 2010 – 2012

CERTIFICATION, LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Certificates

- Human Subjects Protocol, City University of New York, Graduate Center

Languages

- English • Hindi • Telugu • Kannada

Skills

- Participatory design and facilitation with children and young people
- Participatory action research – Theory and methods
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, website (wordpress) management and cloud computing
- Graphic design and presentation applications including Adobe Photoshop and Adobe In-design
- Reference manager software including Zotero and Mendeley
- Statistical applications including SPSS 16.0 and SAS 9.2

- Creative skills: Water color rendering, Prisma color rendering, Model making, Sketching (Pen & Ink)

MEMBERSHIPS

- General Secretary for International Play Association – India Chapter
- Research Associate, Children’s Environments Research Group, The Graduate Center, New York
- Affiliate of PSLC – Psychology Student Leadership Council, The Graduate Center, New York
- Shaishav Child Rights Organization, Bhavnagar, Gujarat