

Chitrangada Choudhury

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PROFESSIONAL WORK

Associate Professor, School of Arts & Sciences, [Krea University](#) (incoming) 2022 -
Will be teaching undergraduate courses in environmental studies and public policy.

Editorial Board Member, [Article 14](#) 2020 -
I am on the Editorial Board of Article 14, a digital publication featuring reportage and research around the law, constitution and democracy.

Independent Multimedia Journalist & Researcher 2018 –

- Report on [the environment](#), [the climate crisis](#), [land and resource justice struggles](#), [forest grabs](#), climate-resilient [agriculture](#), [bio-diversity](#), [coal-related conflicts](#), legislations around [forest rights](#), [land acquisition](#) and [compensatory afforestation](#) programs, [mining policies](#) and the resource curse, attacks on [land defenders](#) including [women](#), [Adivasi](#) communities, national electoral [processes](#) and [outcomes](#), [extra-judicial killings](#) in the state-Maoist conflict zone, media [innovation](#), [democratic freedoms](#), and [dissent](#).
- Reported explanatory series, long-form narratives, op-ed columns and photo and multimedia features for multiple legacy and new media outlets like The Hindu, The Business Standard, The Caravan, Economic & Political Weekly, NDTV, BBC, The Guardian, Columbia Journalism Review and Scientific American.

Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellow September 2017 – April 2018

- Part of an international group of journalists at the [Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellowship](#), at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. In my research plan, I probed India's democracy through the prism of 2 new laws around land and forests. Published a peer-reviewed paper in [Capitalism Nature Socialism](#).

Editorial Core Group, The People's Archive of Rural India 2015 - 2017

- Part of the founding team and the Editorial Core Group for [The People's Archive of Rural India](#), an award-winning website dedicated to multimedia storytelling around the lives, livelihoods and knowledges of rural India, and to addressing the structural neglect of rural India in the mainstream media and policy.

Fellow, Open Society Foundations 2014 – 2015

- Was awarded a globally competitive fellowship to chronicle power, profit, and resource justice movements in India's mineral-rich forested belts. My fellowship output included [long-form](#) news features, [investigative](#) reportage, [photo-features](#), and [op-ed](#) columns in the national media. Presented my work on [India's international and local environmental justice agendas](#), and [altering state-society-industry relations](#) at public events in New York and London.

Research Consultant, Amnesty International 2013

- Researched and wrote a scoping study for Amnesty on challenges faced by human rights defenders working in coal-rich areas of central and eastern India, and interventions to strengthen their resource justice work. Was part of a Steering Group which Amnesty consulted with to frame programmatic work.

Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi 2012 - 2013

- Was located in the 'Publics and Policies' program and analyzed developments around the state-Maoist conflict, mining, resource conflicts, and civil society activism in central India through reportage, photography and commentary. Provided research to a government panel on rural decentralization reforms, and to a government advisory group on mining and community land and forest rights.

- Researcher, Institute of Rural Management, Anand** **2009 – 2010**
- Co-authored [a study for the Indian government](#) on governance failures and left-wing insurgency in Adivasi (indigenous) districts of central and eastern India. Presented our research to ministerial committees and bodies like The Planning Commission. Our study was also widely debated in public, and lauded by policy experts and public intellectuals (e.g. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/justice-and-the-advansi-the-tribal-predicament-and-the-genesis-of-the-maoist-problem/cid/504846> by Ramachandra Guha)
- National Senior Staff Writer, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi and Mumbai** **2006 - 2009**
- National Staff Writer, The Indian Express, Mumbai** **2004 - 2006**

SELECT AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- **New India Foundation Writing Fellowship (2020-21)**
- **Prem Bhatia Memorial Award for Reporting on Environment & Development (2020)**. The [award](#) was given to a PARI team of reporters for [a special series on the climate crisis](#). I reported on the ecological shifts in the bio-diverse Eastern Ghats with the spread of a chemical-intensive monoculture of BT cotton.
- **Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting - Property Rights Grant (2019)** to report on how India's [‘compensatory’ afforestation](#) law erodes property rights of indigenous communities, and is a ‘greenwash’.
- **Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize (2018)**, the European Commission’s award for reporting on sustainable development for [‘Guardians of the Grain’](#) on bio-diverse rice cultivation and Adivasi farmer conservators in Koraput, Odisha
- **Press Council of India National Award for Excellence in Journalism (2017)** in the **‘Investigative Journalism’** category for [‘The Keonjhar Takeover’](#) – a story investigating how the landmark free consent informed mechanism of the Forest Rights Act is undermined for forest clearances to mining projects.
- **Finalist, Kurt Schork Memorial Journalism Award, ‘Local Reporter’ category (2016)**. The citation said, “The awards recognize the work of reporters who seek to illuminate the human condition through the courageous reporting of conflict, corruption, human rights transgressions and other fundamental issues of the day.”
- **Lorenzo Natali Journalism Prize (2010)**, the European Commission’s award for reporting on democracy and human rights for [‘The War Within’](#), a story exploring resource conflicts in central India
- **International Committee of the Red Cross - Press Institute of India Prize for Humanitarian Reporting (2010)**
- **Sanskriti Foundation National Award (2008)** for public interest journalism
- **National Media Fellowship (2007)** from the **American India Foundation** and the **National Foundation for India** to report on the lives of indigenous distress migrants

SELECT ACADEMIC, BOOK CHAPTER & POLICY WRITINGS

- ‘Manufacturing Consent: Mining, Bureaucratic Sabotage & India’s Forest Rights Act’, **Capitalism, Nature, Socialism** (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455752.2019.1594326> (co-authored)
- ‘Greenlighting Ecological Decimation Amidst A Pandemic’, **The Hindu**, 2020 (co-authored) ([link](#))
- ‘The Sudha Bharadwaj The Government Does Not Want You To Know’, Article 14, 2020 ([link](#))
- ‘Why An Aged Defender Of The Deprived Faces Terror Charges’, Article 14, 2020 ([link](#))
- ‘India’s Pandemic Response is a Caste Atrocity’, **NDTV**, 2020 ([link](#))
- ‘In Memoriam: Sociologist and Activist Abhay Xaxa’, **The India Forum**, 2020 (co-authored) ([link](#))
- ‘If We Give The Hasdeo Forests, Where Will We Go?’, **Caravan**, 2019, ([link](#))
- ‘Disempowering Gram Sabhas’, **The Hindu**, 2019 ([link](#))

- ‘A Dappled Sun: Bureaucratic Encounters in the Working of India’s Right to Information Act’, **Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa & the Middle East** (2018), Vol. 38 (3): 540 – 556.
- ‘Anti-Forest, Anti-Forest Dweller’, **The Hindu**, 2018, ([link](#))
- ‘Making A Hollow In The Forest Rights Act’, **The Hindu**, 2016 ([link](#))
- As You ‘Stand With JNU’, Spare A Thought For Bastar, **The Wire**, 2016 ([link](#))
- ‘The Compensatory Afforestation Bill Should Not Be Passed In Its Current Form’, **The Wire**, 2016 ([link](#))
- Mining At Any Cost: The Odisha Government’s Dismissal of Adivasi Rights, **The Wire**, 2016, ([link](#))
- ‘District Mineral Foundations: Old Problems Mar A New Solution’, **The Hindu**, 2015 ([link](#))
- ‘Why Are Government Deliberations Regarding The Land Ordinance A Secret’, **Caravan**, 2014 ([link](#))
- ‘Adivasis & the New Land Acquisition Act’, **Economic & Political Weekly** (2013), Vol. 48 (41) ([link](#))
- ‘Rule of Law’, co-authored chapter in Felix Padel et al **‘Ecology, Economy: Quest for a Socially Informed Connection’** (Orient Blackswan, 2013)
- ‘Dealing With The Maoists’, **Outlook Magazine**, 2013 ([link](#))
- ‘PESA: Legislation as Myth’, co-authored chapter in Robin Jeffrey et al, eds. **‘More Than Maoism: Politics, Policies & Insurgency in South Asia’** (Manohar Books, 2012)
- ‘Urgent Call’, **Columbia Journalism Review** (Sep/Oct 2011) ([link](#))
- ‘PESA, Left-Wing Extremism and Governance: Concerns and Challenges in India’s Tribal Districts’ (2010) Co-authored report submitted to the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, ([link](#))
- ‘A Minister Mines His Own Business’, chapter in **‘India Yatra’** (Harper Collins, 2010)