

# URMITAPA DUTTA

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## ACADEMIC POSITION

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University of Massachusetts Lowell, Department of Psychology  
September 2012 – Present, Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) Lowell, MA

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## EDUCATION

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May 2012	Ph.D., Clinical-Community Psychology University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Champaign, IL
July 2005	M.A., Psychology (Clinical Focus) University of Delhi, India	Delhi, India
May 2004	B.A., Psychology (Honors) University of Delhi, India	Delhi, India

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2015	Center for Women and Work Strategic Scholarship, UMass Lowell
2014	Recognition for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Teaching, UMass Lowell
2014	Outstanding Qualitative Dissertation Award, International Association of Qualitative Inquiry
2014	Department of Psychology Merit Award, UMass Lowell
2013	Best Dissertation in Community Psychology, Society for Community Research and Action (APA Div. 27)
2011	Student Conference Travel Award, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois
2011	Herman Eisen Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions in Psychology, University of Illinois
2011	Student Conference Travel Award, Society for Psychological Anthropology
2009	Student Conference Travel Award, Society for Community Research and Action
2008	Clinical/Community Division Qualifying Exam, Completed with Distinction, University of Illinois
2003	Best Student in Psychology, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Ecological examinations of ethnic conflict; community-based approaches to peacebuilding; gender and violence in armed conflict; youth participatory action research; grassroots approaches to fair trade; using critical qualitative research methods to understand and address structural violence; South Asia.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Dutta, U.** (*revise and resubmit*). The Everyday Peace Project: An innovative approach to peace pedagogy. *Journal of Peace Psychology*.
- Dutta, U.** & Aber, M.S. (in press). Enacted cultural critique: Examining everyday violence in Garo Hills. *Journal for Prevention and Intervention in the Community*.
- Dutta, U.** (2015). The Long Way Home The Vicissitudes of Belonging and Otherness in Northeast India. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 21(2), 161–172. doi:10.1177/1077800414542703
- Dutta, U.** (2014). Critical ethnography. In Mills, J. & Birks, M. (Eds.) *Qualitative methodologies: A practical guide*. (pp. 89-105). London: SAGE Publications.
- Dutta, U.** (2013). Beyond the ethnicity question: Constructing and enacting more inclusive identities. In J. Prodhani & R.S. Thakur (Eds.) *Culture, Ethnicity, and Identity: A Reader*. (pp. 290-299). Guwahati: DVS Publications.
- Kral, M.J., Ramirez Garcia, J.I., Aber, M.S., Masood, N., **Dutta, U.** & Todd, N.R. (2011). Culture and community: Towards a renewed and reimagined vision. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 47, 46-57.
- Aber, M.S., **Dutta, U.**, Neville, H.A., Spanierman, L.B., De La Rosa, B. & Khuri, L. (2011). Fostering diversity, dialogue and democracy in the Intersections Living and Learning Community at the University of Illinois. In Neville, H.A., Huntt, M.B., & Chapa, J. (Eds.) *Implementing Diversity: Contemporary Challenges and Best Practices at Predominantly White Universities*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Other Publications
- Dutta, U. (2009). Blisters on their Feet: Tales of Internally Displaced Persons in India's North East. *Pacific Affairs*, 82(3), 552-553. (Invited review)
- Dutta, U.** (2007). Deconstructing 'terrorism': Implications for community research and action. *The Community Psychologist*, 40 (2), 75-76.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2013-2015 University of Massachusetts Lowell Seed Grant, Public Service Award. "Youth perspectives on community violence: A participatory action research project." (PI: **Dutta**)
- 2010-2011 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Graduate Fellowship
- 2010 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship
- 2009-2010 University of Illinois Dissertation Travel Grant

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Dutta, U.** (2015). Flipping the colonial gaze: Garo youth narratives of westernization and violence in Northeast India. Paper accepted for presentation at the 2015 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology to be held in Boston, MA.
- Gates, N. & **Dutta, U.** (2015). Fair trade: Bridging individual and organizational action. Paper accepted for presentation at the 2015 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology to be held in Boston, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2015, February). We always talk about society but we are society: Youth perspectives on structural violence. Paper presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Winter Roundtable Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- \*Green, J., \*Colak, B., & **Dutta, U.** (2015, February). "You kinda get that small feeling that something's gonna happen:" Youth perspectives on community safety in Lowell. Poster presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Winter Roundtable Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, March). The ethnic other: Crisis of citizenship and belonging in Northeast India. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
- Dutta, U.** (2013, November). Everyday Peace: Community-based approaches to peace and peacebuilding. Paper presented at the European Congress of Community Psychology, Naples, Italy.
- \*Walking, K. & **Dutta, U.** (2013, November). Rethinking community engagement through participatory action research. Poster presented at the University of Massachusetts Community Engagement and Research Symposium organized by the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science at University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2013, June). Navigating complex ethical terrains in community research and action. Roundtable session organized and presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Miami, FL.
- Echetebe, M., Aber, M., **Dutta, U.**, Langhout, R., & Kral, M. (2013, June). Ethical dilemmas in youth participatory action research. Roundtable session presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Miami, FL.
- Dutta, U.**, Smith, E.P., Daniel, J., Rodriguez, R., Echetebe, M., & Aber, M. (2013, June). Walking the talk: Securing meaningful participation in youth participatory action research. Roundtable session organized and presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Miami, FL.
- Dutta, U.** (2013, May). Democratizing research in service of social justice. Paper presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, November). There is a continuous fear that some problem will occur: Youth and everyday violence in India's Northeast. P. Hota & G. Moorthy. Paradoxical legacies of violence in South Asia and Latin America. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Canada.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, June). When dialogue fails: Grassroots peace-building efforts in a polarized community. T. Sasao. Innovative peace-building efforts and wellbeing around the world: Challenges and opportunities. Symposium presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Chicago, IL.

- Aber, M. & **Dutta, U.** (2011, June). Considering community psychology as enacted cultural critique. M. Aber, M. Kral & J. Ramirez. Community psychology and cultural perspective: A fruitful conundrum. Symposium presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Chicago, IL.
- Degirmencioglu, S., **Dutta, U.**, Jaleel, A. & Oberoi, A. (2011, June). (Almost) 10 years after 2001: Communities and community psychology after September 11. Innovative session presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Chicago, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, May). Towards greater relevance: Ethnography in community psychology. Paper presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Congress, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, May). Beyond metaphors: Being a responsible witness. Paper presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Congress, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, March). Beyond the spectacle: The social logic of everyday violence in Garo Hills, India. Paper presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Santa Monica, CA.
- Dutta, U.** (2010, October). Beyond methodological deliberations: Democratizing research as a tool for empowerment. Paper presented at the Annual Midwest Ecological and Community Psychology Conference, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, September). Valuing the ordinary: A folkloristic approach to education for the development of more integrated selves. Paper presented at the National Conference of Folklore and Garo Culture in Tura, India.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, May). Post 9/11 cultural politics and memory: War, terror, safety and expendable lives. Innovative session presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, May). Activist ethnography: Towards a more humane psychology. P.J. Miller & M. Kral. Ethnographic research in cultural psychology. Symposium presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, June). Towards a politics of possibility: Creating and nurturing safe spaces. Innovative session presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, Montclair, NJ.
- Aber, M., **Dutta, U.**, Neville, H., Spanierman, L.B., De La Rosa, B. & Khuri, L.M. (2008, April). Fostering diversity, dialogue and democracy in the Intersections Living Learning Community at the University of Illinois. Paper presented at the Race, Diversity and Campus Climate Conference organized by the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2007, September). Fighting for a homeland: Reconstructing the narrative of 'terrorism' in North-East India. Paper presented at the CICA-STR International Conference of Interdisciplinary Analyses of Aggression and Terrorism, Madrid, Spain.
- McMahon, S., Aber, M., Todd, N., **Dutta, U.**, Felix, E., You, S., Furlong, M., Austin, G., Morgan, M., Graham, B. (2007, June). Understanding educational contexts and social justice: Race, ethnicity, and disability. Symposium presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Community research and Action, Pasadena, CA.
- Aber, M.S., Todd, N., **Dutta, U.** (2006, October). Competing perspectives on racial disparities in public schooling: Reflections on the role of race, power and voice. Paper presented at the Annual Midwest Ecological and Community Psychology Conference, Saugatuck, MI.

## SELECTED COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

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- Dutta, U.** (2014, December). Fair trade, social action, and AID. Invited presentation at Association for India's Development (Boston Chapter) Community Service Hour. Cambridge, MA.
- Margolin, M. & **Dutta, U.** (2014, October). Basics of photovoice. Workshop conducted for staff members of Lowell Community Health Center's Teen Block, Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, July). Association for India's Development - Massachusetts Institute of Technology chapter. Invited facilitator for documentary screening and discussion, "India Untouched", Cambridge, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, June). Gender, ethnic violence, and armed conflict in Northeast India. Invited keynote speaker for Association for India's Development (AID) Regional Retreat, Gender equity: Local and grassroots connections, Cambridge, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, June). Interrogating our intersecting social identities. Invited workshop conducted at (AID) Regional Retreat, Gender equity: Local and grassroots connections, Cambridge, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, April). Youth and everyday peace. Invited session for International Institute of New England, Lowell, MA.

## INVITED TALKS

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- Dutta, U.** (2014, December). Incorporating an autoethnographic sensibility in qualitative research. Invited speaker for College of Education Doctoral Program, UMass Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, November). The Ebola pandemic: Sociopolitical and global justice implications. Invited presentation at the International Education Week organized by International Student and Scholar Services, UMass Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, September). Diversity and social justice: Implications for psychologists. Invited session for incoming students in the Autism Studies and Community Social Psychology graduate programs. UMass Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, May). Youth Perspectives on Citizenship and Belonging in Northeast India. Invited talk at the Asian Studies Department of University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, April). Examining youth perspectives on community violence: A participatory action research project. Poster presented at the Faculty Research and Creative Works Symposium, UMass Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2014, February). Human Rights and Citizenship in Ethnic Conflict. Invited presentation in Greeley Peace Scholar Course - Perspectives on Human Rights, UMass Lowell, Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2013, October). Qualitative research in community social psychology. Invited lecture in Applied Research Methods at UMass Lowell, Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2013, March). Participatory Action Research. Invited presentation at Community Social Psychology Brown Bag at UMass Lowell, Lowell, MA.
- Dutta, U.** (2012, March). Participatory action research as a vehicle for youth empowerment. Invited presentation for Introduction to Community Psychology at the University of Illinois. Champaign, IL.

**INVITED TALKS contd.**

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- Dutta, U.** (2012, January). Ethnic conflict and peacebuilding in Northeast India. Presentation for Clinical/Community Division Brown Bag. Champaign, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2011, February). Ethnic conflict and belonging in Northeast India. Invited presentation in the course 'How Humanists Define Our Worlds,' Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, October). Rethinking ethnic conflict in North-east India. Invited session at the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Guwahati University, Guwahati, India.
- Dutta, U.** (2009, October). Beyond the ethnicity question: Reconstructing and enacting more inclusive identities. Paper presented at the National Conference on Culture and Ethnic Persistence in Northeastern Hill University Tura, India.

**ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

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- 12/2012 – Present 'Freedom from Harassment' Task Force, Association for India's Development  
Capacity building and evaluation consultant
- Work with members of task force to develop comprehensive policies to prevent harassment and discrimination at organizational and chapter levels; design, administer, and analyze on-line survey to assess organizational climate with respect to discrimination; conduct follow-up workshops and webinars to address emerging concerns.

**ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION (contd.)**

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- 08/2011 – 05/2012 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) funded Project ACCESS (Agencies of Champaign County Engaging in Systems of Services)  
Qualitative and process evaluation of programs from the perspectives of system-involves youth and their parents; preparation of newsletters to disseminate findings; development of observational measures for assessing collaboration among stakeholders.
- 08/2008 – 08/2009 Champaign Schools Racial Climate Survey  
Conducting focus groups with diverse stakeholders of Champaign School District to revise previous climate survey; thematic analysis of open-ended survey responses; preparation of technical report.
- 09/2007 – 09/2009 ASHA for Education  
Consultation regarding evaluation of completed and ongoing programs run by grassroots organizations to support the education of children from marginalized communities in India.
- 09/2005 – 09/2006 National Human Rights Commission funded Assessment of Disability and Gender in India, Society for Child Development  
Analysis of legal and health data to examine the intersections of gender and disability in India; preparation of technical report.

## **TEACHING, SUPERVISION, AND MENTORSHIP**

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### **Teaching**

#### University of Massachusetts Lowell

Everyday Peace: Community-based Approaches to Peacebuilding (Graduate Elective)  
 Introduction to Community Social Psychology (Graduate Required)  
 Culture and Psychology (Undergraduate Elective)  
 Understanding and Addressing Youth Violence in our Communities (Advanced Undergraduate Elective)  
 Community Psychology (Undergraduate Required)

#### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Introduction to Community Psychology (Undergraduate Elective)

### **Supervision and Mentorship**

Directed Studies in Community Psychology (Graduate Elective)  
 Faculty Mentor, Emerging Scholars Program, UMass Lowell (Competitive research-based scholarship program for advanced undergraduates)  
 Faculty Co-Coordinator, Recruitment and Retention of Southeast Asian American Students in Psychology  
 Research Service Learning (Advanced Undergraduate Elective)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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2015	Chair, Small Grants Committee, Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence (APA Division 48)
2012 – Present	Planning Committee Member, American Psychological Association's Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27) 2015 Biennial Conference
2014 – Present	Reviewer for Society for Community Research and Action Mini Grants
2014	Invited policy consultant: Psychological causes and consequences of unaccompanied child immigration, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (APA Division 9)
2013 – 2014	Chair for the American Psychological Association's Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27) Dissertation Awards Committee
2010	Planning Committee Member of Annual Midwest Ecological and Community Psychology Conference

### Ad Hoc Reviewer - Journals

- Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology
- Psychology of Violence
- American Journal of Community Psychology
- Journal of Global Community Psychology Practice

Ad Hoc Reviewer - Conferences

- Society for Community Research and Action (APA Div 27) Biennial Conference
- American Psychological Association's Annual Convention, Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues (Division 9)
- American Anthropological Association's Annual Convention, Cultural Anthropology and Education Division
- Midwest Ecological and Community Psychology Conference

Service at University of Massachusetts Lowell

2014 – Present	Ally Space (Program for support of GLBT students on campus), Trainer for faculty, staff, and students.
2014 – Present	Peace and Conflict Studies Strategic Task Force, Psychology representative
2013 – Present	Center for Women and Work, Faculty Associate
2013 – Present	Center for Asian American Studies, Faculty Associate
2013 – Present	Graduate Admissions Committee Member, Community Social psychology
2012 – Present	Peace and Conflict Studies Faculty Group, Faculty Steering Committee Member
2012 – Present	Graduate Program Committee Member, Community Social Psychology
2014	Department of Psychology, Community Psychology Search Committee
2014	Department of Psychology, Quantitative Psychology Search Committee
2013	Faculty Moderator for Student Research Symposium Humanities Research Panel
2013	Open Peace Forum for Campus and Community members in response to Boston Marathon bombings.

Service at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2008-2009	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Elected member, Student Advisory Committee
2007-2009	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Psychology, Clinical-Community Psychology Newsletter Committee
2007-2008	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Graduate Admissions Committee Student Representative
2007-2008	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Clinical/Community Psychology Division Diversity Coordinator

Service to Community

2014 – Present	International Institute of New England, Lowell, Youth capacity building
2012 – Present	Association for India's Development, Capacity building and evaluation consultation
2012 – Present	Lowell Community Health Center's Teen Block, Capacity building and evaluation consultation
2007 – 2011	ASHA for Education, Project evaluation and volunteer training
2006 – 2009	Coalition for Racial Excellence and Equity in Education, Research collaborator
2001 – 2002	Butterflies Resilience Center, Crisis Counselor for Hotline
2000 – 2001	Child Relief and You, Tutor for afterschool program in South Delhi

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**


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2014	Re-envisioning the dissertation as a book. Two-day writing and publishing workshop funded by the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) held at the 43rd Annual Conference of South Asia, University of Wisconsin Madison.
2013	Teaching Peace in the 21st Century, Kroc Institute of International Peace, University of Notre Dame, June 2013

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT contd.**

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- 2013 Grounded Theory Methodologies for Social Justice Projects, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, May 2013
- 2012 Modern South Asia Workshop, Yale Macmillan Center, Yale University,

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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- Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA, APA Div 27)  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI, APA Div 9)  
Peace Psychology (APA Division 48)  
Association for Asian Studies (AAS)  
Division for Qualitative and Qualitative Methods Psychology (APA Div 5)