
HITESH POTDAR

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MOTIVATION

Critical development researcher specialising in labour, platformisation and inequalities in the Global South. My work investigates how subsumption under platform capitalism reshapes labour processes, class stratification, and the rhythms of paid and unpaid work. Through activist ethnography, multilingual outreach, and grounded policy analysis, I hope to tie together workers' lived experiences to broader advocacy for just and inclusive digital transformations.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Digital Labour | Political Economy | Labour Geography | Social Reproduction | Public Finance | Agrarian Change

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Development Studies and Human Geography, 09/2023 - Current

King's College London – London

Key Courses: Comparative Political Economy, Political Economy of Discrimination

Master of Arts: Development Studies, 06/2019 - 05/2021

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai - Mumbai, India

Key Courses: Advanced Qualitative Methods; Advanced Quantitative Methods; Concepts, History and Theories of Development; Development Economics

Bachelor of Engineering: Mechanical, 08/2011 - 05/2015

University of Pune - Pune, India –

Specialisation: Power Plant Engineering and Operations Research

Certification/Specialisation: Labour & Globalisation, 04/2021 - 04/2021

V. V. Giri National Labour Institute - New Delhi, India

Certification: The Political Economy of Trade Union Movement in India, 01/2022 - 01/2022

CDPR, Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Patna, India

PHD THESIS

Title: Domestic Work, Platformisation and Social Reproduction in India

To understand the complex terrains of paid domestic workers within app-based platform economy and their crisis of everyday life, this study employs social reproduction analyses and delves into the profound influence of conjunctures on shaping the spatial and temporal landscapes of precarity and forms of exploitation for workers.

MA DISSERTATION

Title: *'Agrarian Change in Maharashtra: A Resurvey of A Village in Western Maharashtra with Reference to Land and Asset Ownership'*

This was an attempt to resurvey a village of 604 households in Western Maharashtra with mixed methodologies of 'longitudinal village survey', quantitative, qualitative, and dependency theory to understand socio-economic changes over the period.

WORK HISTORY

Teaching Assistant, 1/2026 – Present (Hillary Term)

Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

• I'll be assisting Prof Mark Graham and Dr Janaki Srinivasan in teaching Fair Digital Economies to MSc Social Science of the Internet course.

Guest Faculty, 11/2024 – Present

School of Rural Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) – Tuljapur

- Designed and delivered a 30-hour undergraduate course titled *Political Economy of Development*, introducing key concepts, paradigms, and policy debates.
- Engaged students through case studies, in-depth discussions, and critical reflections, fostering an environment for unlearning and critical inquiry.

Research Assistant, 07/2024 – 12/2024

King's College London, London

- Extracting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and NSSO Employment and Unemployment Survey (EWS)
- Unit-Level Data Analysis
- Merging Datasets from 2017-2025
- Employment Trend Analysis– Women's Work, trends wrt social categories, wages, Industries and Occupations contrasting with industry level GVA rates

National Coordinator, 11/2022 - 07/2023

India Labourline - Mumbai

Collaborative Project of *Working People's Coalition* and *Aajeevika Bureau*

- Led organising efforts with gig workers in Mumbai and Bengaluru, generating insights into platform control, digital labour grievances, and worker agency; directly informing my academic research.
- Functional consulting for the development of internal MIS and required technological support in the transformation of business processes
- Training staff with an understanding of labour issues and grievance redressal mechanisms

Research Associate, 09/2022 - 10/2022

Transitions Research - Goa

Roles: Conducted interviews with gig workers, unions, and platform managers, contributing to analysis of digital work, precarity, and global production networks

Project: Expansion of the Gig Economy in India and Opportunities for EBMOs: Country Study and Regional Synthesis Report (funded by ILO)

Tech-Gov Consultant, 03/2021 - 02/2022

Finance Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh - Vijayawada

Roles: Primarily responsible for technological transformation of the business process of the finance department as a Project Manager, Secondary roles were database management, data analysis and advising the Principal Finance Secretary

Projects: i. Public-Works Management System (WMS); ii. Modernisation of GoAP Finance Codes; iii. Budget Preparation and Analysis; iv. Beneficiary Management Systems; v. Data Sharing Policy for APCFSS; vi. Provident Funds Policy Comparative Analysis; vii. Andhra Pradesh Legal Cases Monitoring System (APOLCMS)

Project Manager, 02/2022 - 05/2022

Development Solutions - New Delhi

Roles: General Management of Social Sector Projects, Client Interface; Operations Research: Devising Research Plans, Leading research teams, leading data collection, analysis and writing reports

Projects: 1. *Child-Labour Free Jaipur (CLFJ)*, funded by CIFF & Freedom Fund, London The objective of project was to understand the origin and destination fields of child-labour, reasons of child being forced in labour, their conditions at workplace, their rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation with constant follow-ups

2. *Perception Survey - Role of ASHA workers in India's fight against Air Pollution* To understand the awareness, knowledge, and perceptions of ASHA workers on air pollution, and its health implications; to understand the impact of

air pollution on the children and families of ASHA workers, if any; and the role of mothers and carers in the context of health and air pollution.

Research Consultant, 02/2022 - 07/2022

xKDR - Mumbai

Roles: Literature Review, Data Cleaning and Wrangling, Data Analysis and Visualisation, Writing Paper

Projects: 1. *Household Debt Conditions in India* In this project, we used the CMIE Consumer Pyramid Household Survey (CPHS), which provides data on household debts, outstandings, delinquencies, sources and reasons for loans taken, household characteristics, assets and income.

2. *Role of Payment Methods, Households'/Individuals' Payment Method Preferences and Its Impact on their Income and Debt Conditions* This project also used CMIE CPHS data to understand payment methods available to individuals and households, their access, digital access and literacy, and its overall effect household finance.

Research Officer, 01/2022 - 02/2022

CSTS, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai - Mumbai

Roles: Research Plan, Devising quantitative and qualitative tools to conduct study, field-plan, data collection followed by analysis and writing reports and papers

Project: *Livelihood Promotion of Tribal Communities in 100 Villages of District Chandrapur (Funded by Collectorate, Chandrapur District):* The objective of project was to facilitate the preparation of the Community Forest Resource Management Plan for hundred villages under the Forest Rights Act and integrating the plans with line-department schemes, and assess and identify forest-based and other livelihood promotion opportunities in the study areas and prepare plans to integrate with line department schemes.

Research Consultant, 02/2022 - 03/2022

PRADAN - Remote

Roles: Literature Review for a paper to be published in World Development journal

Project: Assessment of Tasar-based livelihood programmes for tribal communities in Jharkhand by various stakeholders, viz. governments, NGOs and communities Address the problem of the dichotomy between conservation and livelihood promotion

Research Associate, 08/2020 - Current

Indian Researcher - New Delhi

Roles: Data collection, analysis and surveying of a project related to education, before and after pandemic

Projects: 1. Impact of Pandemic on School Education in India; 2. Conditions of Primary and Secondary Schools and Education in India using National Family Health Survey (NFHS)- 2021; 3. Representation of Students from SC/ST communities in eminent institutions like IITs, IIMs, NITs and other similar state-funded institutions

Research Associate (Part-time), 07/2020 - 12/2020

Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS), Bangalore - Bangalore

Roles: Research Assistant, Data Collection, Analysis, Online Events Management, Social Media Graphics Designing

Projects: Projects: Pandemic Studies Unit In this project, I led the Maharashtra Team, which had the responsibility of conducting telephonic interviews across different agrarian classes.

Visiting Faculty, 06/2017 - 12/2017

Fergusson College's Law School, Pune - Pune

Taught Two Papers: Indian Economy, Macroeconomics

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Paper under review: **Antipode**, Reproductive Limits of Platform Control: Domestic Work and Fractured Subsumption
- Presented Paper on '*Rhythms of Reproduction: Subsumption, Platformisation and Domestic Labour in Urban India*' in Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin's 'Rhythms of Livelihood: Past and Present' conference, November 2025, CSDS, New Delhi; which will be published soon.
- Presented Paper on '*Subsumption and Valourisation in Paid Domestic Work within Platforms*' in 14th International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE), September 2024, Istanbul, Turkey, which will be published soon

- Presented Paper on '*Towards a holistic approach: Social Reproduction and Conjunctural Analysis to chart spatial precarities in the paid domestic work*' in 26th Annual Conference of the Association of Heterodox Economics, July 2024, Bristol, UK
- Presented Paper on '*COVID-19 and the Crisis of Capitalism: A Study of the Precarious Conditions of Labour*' in 24th Indian Political Economy Association's Conference, 2020
- Authored paper on '*Women's Access to Banking Services in Post-liberalisation in India*' for Development Dialogues journal of School of Development Studies, TISS, Mumbai.
- A paper on '*Challenges to Social Inclusion- Labour Market Solutions*' for Geneva Conference, 2020.

A FEW POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

- The Perilous Lives of Indian Workers. The Hindu. May 11, 2023.
- Education In India: Evidence From The Recent National Family Health Survey- (NFHS-5) Part I And II. Indian Researcher. A Bi-Annual Interdisciplinary Journal. July 1, 2022.
- शेती-प्रश्न, शेतीचे प्रश्न आणि शेतकऱ्यांचे आंदोलन (In Marathi) Translated as Agrarian-Question, Problems of Agriculture and Peasants' Movement. The Wire. December 07, 2020.
- पितृसत्तेच्या सावलीत माझी भूमिका: स्त्री, सत्ता आणि श्रम (In Marathi) Translated as My Role in the Shadow of Patriarchy: Women, Power, and Labour, समतावादी मुक्तसंवाद पत्रिका, March 2025
- श्रमाचे ओझे आणि विश्रांतीचा शोध (In Marathi) Translated as 'The Burden of Work and The Search for Leisure' समतावादी मुक्तसंवाद पत्रिका, January 2025
- 'संरचनीय हिंसा'च आजच्या स्त्री-पुरुषांमधील आर्थिक असमानतेचे आणि सामाजिक अपवर्जनामागील कारण आहे (In Marathi) Translated as 'Structural violence': Economic inequalities and social exclusion of Women. Aksharnama. November 5, 2019.
- आजचं आव्हान हे 'राजकीय' नसून 'सांस्कृतिक' आहे! (In Marathi) Translated as 'Today's challenge is not just 'political' but 'cultural' as well!'. May 29, 2018.
- भारतातील आर्थिक विषमतेला जातिसंस्थाच कारणीभूत आहे! (In Marathi) Translated as Caste system and the economic disparity in India. January 22, 2018.

WORKSHOPS

Migration, Informality and Development Certificate Programme

January 2025, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, India

Organised by Work Fair and Free, Aajeevika Bureau and ISEC

PhD Workshop Polycrisis, resilience, sustainability and social reproduction

September 2024, University of Manchester, UK

My paper's title at the workshop: '*Charting Precarities in Paid Domestic Work in India: A Methodological Synthesis of Social Reproduction and Conjunctural Analysis*'

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Quantitative & Qualitative Research: Advanced
- Econometrics
- STATA: Advanced
- SPSS: Advanced
- Data Analysis
- R & Python: Intermediate
- SQL & OpenRefine: Intermediate
- Excel: Intermediate
- MS Office, Power Bi and Tableau (Advanced)

LANGUAGES

• **English:** Proficient • **Marathi:** Mother-tongue • **Hindi:** Proficient • **German:** Basic • **Telugu:** Functional • **Malayalam:** Basic • **Gujrati:** Intermediate