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# Dr. ALEENA SEBASTIAN

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Phone: 08022185136

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D., Sociology**

*University of Hyderabad, India*

*Graduation: October 2019*

### **MPhil, Sociology**

*University of Hyderabad, India*

*Graduation: October 2013*

### **MA, Sociology**

*University of Hyderabad, India*

*Graduation: October 2011*

### **BA, Sociology, Psychology & English Literature**

*Christ College, Bangalore, India*

*Graduation: March 2009*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- **Ph.D. Thesis Title:** Kinship, gender, and religion: An ethnographic study of matrilineal practices among Muslims in Malabar  
Research Supervisor: Prof. Pushpesh Kumar (University of Hyderabad, India)
- **M.Phil Thesis Title:** Matrilineal practices among Muslims: A comparative analysis of Koyas of Kozhikode and Minangkabau of West Sumatra  
Research Supervisor: Prof. Vinod K. Jairath (University of Hyderabad, India)

## POSTDOCTORAL EXPERIENCE

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DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Research Project

*2020-2021*

at The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai, India

**Project Title:** Reducing Health Inequalities among Sexual Minorities in India: Generating Evidence for Action

**Principal Investigator (PI):** Dr. Venkatesan Chakrapani, MD, Ph.D.

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## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

### Program Coordinator

2019 –2020

Shaheen Women's Resource & Welfare  
Association(NGO) 3-3-540 Baqshi Bazaar, Sultan  
Shahi Hyderabad, India-500065

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## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Social anthropology in South Asia
- Kinship and gender (with special reference to the matrilineal Muslim communities)
- Urban sociology
- Health and social policy (with special reference to the sexual and gender minority communities in India)
- Research methodology

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Sebastian, A. (2021). Change and continuity in the matrilineal practices among the Koyas of Kozhikode (in Malayalam), Sanghaditha, Kerala  
<https://www.sanghaditha.com/kozhikode-koyamarkidayile/>
- Chakrapani, V; Newman, P; **Sebastian, A** et al. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on economic well-being and health outcomes among transgender women in India. *Transgender Health*. X(X):1-4 doi: 10.1089/trgh.2020.0131
- Sebastian, A. (2020). State and legal reform: A study of matrilineal Mappila Muslims of Malabar. In S. Sitharaman and A. Chakrabarty (Eds.), *Religion and secularity: Reconfigurations of Islam in contemporary India* (pp. 51-80). New Delhi: Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd. ISBN: 9789390122004.
- Sebastian, A. (2019). Book Review- Hem Borker, *Madrasas and the making of Islamic womanhood*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018, xv + 327 pp., Rs. 1195 (hardback), ISBN: 9780199484225. *Contributions to Indian Sociology (Sage)*, 53(3): 463-465.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0069966719860368>
- Sebastian, A. (2018). Matrilineal Minangkabau: A critique of the universal theory of kinship and gender relations. In S. Vanka, R. Pande and B. Chillakuri (Eds.), *Gender and work: International perspectives* (pp. 8-15). New Delhi: Rawat Publications. ISBN-10: 813160991X, ISBN-13: 978-8131609910.
- Sebastian, A. (2016). Matrilineal practices along the coasts of Malabar. *Sociological Bulletin (Sage)*, 65(1): 89-106. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0038022920160106>
- Sebastian, A. (2013). Matrilineal practices among Koyas of Kozhikode. *Journal of South Asian Studies, An Open Access International Journal*, 1(1): 66-82.  
<https://esciencepress.net/journals/index.php/JSAS/article/view/113>

## COURSES OFFERED

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- Gender and society: Contemporary Perspectives  
(One credit course offered for the doctoral scholars at NIAS Bangalore; August-December 2021)
- Urban sociology  
(Two credit course offered for the doctoral scholars at NIAS Bangalore; January-April 2022)

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- Influence of minority and COVID-19 stressors on HIV risk and Access to services among MSM and Transgender Women: A longitudinal observational cohort (S3-Plus) study in Chennai'  
Designation: Principal Investigator  
Funded by: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)  
Duration: 12 months

## LECTURES DELIVERED

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- Transformation of matriliney and women's negotiation in the Malabar coast of South India, Grameen Talk Series 2022-23, School of Livelihood and Development, TISS Hyderabad, 31 March 2022
- Right to Information Act, 2005: Genesis, evolution and implications for Indian democracy, Department of Political Science, University of Calicut, Kerala, 2 December 2021
- Doing ethnography in social sciences: Methods & ethics, Department of Political Science, University of Calicut, Kerala, 15 September 2021

## RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL)

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- Impact of COVID-19 on economic well-being, mental health and HIV risk among MSM: A mixed methods study in a North Indian city, accepted for oral presentation at the AIDS2022, the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference to be held at Montreal, Canada from 29 July to 2 August 2022
- Matrilineal inheritance and Islamic reformist contestations in the Malabar coast of South India: An ethnography, virtual at the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies, UK, 23-24 March 2021.
- Impact of COVID-19 on mental health and HIV risk among MSM in Chandigarh, at the AIDSCON-10 hybrid national conference, Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society, 5-6 March 2021
- Matriliney as *bid'a*: Islamic reformist contestations in Malabar, at the International conference on 'Customizing sharia: Matrilineal Muslims and Islamic law in the Indian Ocean', Ashoka University, New Delhi, India, 27-29 August 2019
- Strategies and negotiations: Muslim women's engagement with the transformation of matrilineal *tharavad* in Malabar, at the international conference on 'Customizing the sharia: Matrilineal Muslims and their uses of Islamic legal past', University of Exeter, UK, 27-29 September 2018

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## RESEARCH TRAININGS CONDUCTED

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- Conducted an online training session on ‘**mental health of sexual/gender minorities during COVID-19**’ in a three-day peer counselors training program organized by The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai and Centre for Sexuality and Health Research and Policy (C-SHaRP), Chennai from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- **Booster training** on topic guide for in-depth interviews (Online training conducted for Research Associates in a DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Senior Research Fellowship research project titled in Mumbai and Chennai) Date: 25 February 2021 (Project ‘S3’ at The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai)
- **Online training for Research Associates** to train the Peer Recruiters (PRs) on how to deliver the ‘offline pitch’ in survey recruitment Date: 4 September 2020 (Project ‘S3’ at The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai)
- **Qualitative research training: Conducting in-depth interviews** (Online training conducted for Research Associates, Research Interviewers, and Peer Recruiters) Date: 21 August 2020 (Project ‘S3’ at The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai)

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## GRANTS AWARDED

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- Scholarship by the International AIDS Society to take part in the AIDS 2022, the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference which is to be held at Montreal, Canada from 29 July to 2 August 2022
- International travel grant for a panel presentation at University of Exeter, UK (27-29 September, 2018); funded by Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)
- BBL Fellowship for Ph.D., awarded by University of Hyderabad, India (2016- 2017).
- Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in Sociology, awarded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), India (2011-2016)
- BBL Fellowship for M.A., awarded by University of Hyderabad (2009-2011)

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## OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

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- Qualified UGC-National Eligibility Test for lectureship (NET) in Sociology for lectureship in India, June 2011.
- Conducted a ten-day self-funded fieldwork among the Minangkabau Muslims of West Sumatra (Indonesia), April 2016
- Inclusion of my research profile in, ‘Matriarchal Islam’- a digital platform for research on matrilineal Muslims in the ‘Indian ocean littoral’. <https://matriarchalislam.com/scholar/>
- Life Member at Indian Sociological Society (Membership ID: LMI-5222)
- Scientific committee member at Gender and Sexuality conference 2022 (The International Institute of Knowledge Management, Sri Lanka); <https://genderconference.com/conference-chair-and-committee/>