

Kirandeep Kaur Full Chronological CV

About Me: Native English speaker and British citizen of Indian descent, who has lived in the Netherlands since 2015 (with permanent residency). Dedicated to teaching, research and working with communities. Currently, part-time PhD researcher in Law and Development, Tilburg University. Passionate about critical transdisciplinary action research, which creates social impact and engages communities of practitioners as well as marginalised groups including forced migrants. Have engaged with teaching English, and Academic skills since 2004 – until 2023. Extensive experience in lecturing, thesis supervision, assessment grading, curriculum development, seminars and tutorials, diagnostic assessments of academic skills and linguistic competency for bachelors to masters level students in a range of disciplines. Strong interest in using social media platforms to create spaces for dialogue, Sustainability Action Dialogues and Migration and Asylum Network. Research interests in voice, state violence, citizenship, and participatory action research.

Education

2024 Ph.D. In Law and Development from Tilburg University and University of Oslo

Awarded with Cum Laude

2013 MSc Social and Community

Development, Queens University Belfast

Awarded with Distinction

2009 BA Politics, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Networks and Memberships

Social Legal Studies Association (SLSA)

Women in Refugee Law (WiRL)

Editorial Board Member of Journal of Displaced Voices

European Doctorate in Law and Development

Feminist Autonomous Centre for Research

Core skills

- Transdisciplinary Collaboration
- Participatory Research
- Co-writing with participants/co-researchers and Storytelling
- Integrating Ethical Approaches
- Academic Event Coordination and Presentations

Joint European Doctorate in Law and Development

Thesis Overview

Malaysia, non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, hosts a significant number of urban forced migrants. Unrecognized by the government, they are deprived of basic state services and criminalized. This study explored how these individuals, living within Kuala Lumpur's "borderscape," navigate and resist their marginalization through bordering practices, transforming trauma into a voice for change despite being rights-less.

Doctoral project's research questions:

1. *What does it mean to have a voice in contexts of [law and] violence?*

- a. How does the engagement with borderscapes shape knowledge of and ways of knowing law, borders, and voices of forced migrants/their agency for social change?
- b. How does the law create borders in the experiences and bodies of forced migrants, shaping their voices [to enact social change]?
- c. How do forced migrants mobilize their own intersectional modes of resilience/resistance through their voices to challenge their non-legal status?

Employing participatory action research with leaders from Afghan, Rohingya, Somali, and Syrian communities, it challenged the efficacy of human rights-based approaches in law and development. In this thesis, their stories have been narrated using a form of magical realism and narrative style to communicate the complexity socio-legal spatialities and depth of their agency and voices. This approach advocates for new imaginaries that address colonial and capitalist injustices, showcasing forced migrants' roles in voicing new visions of social justice, rights, and inclusion.

Achievements

- Awarded Cum Laude for Research which engaged in critical participatory action research with 8 Community Based Organizations (CBO) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Created impactful outcomes such as the spearheading of the 'Displaced Voices' special issue in 2021 and cowriting with 4 participants, enhancing gender sensitivity and communication.
- Co-created with Somali women for 16 days SGBV activism FGM project (2021), to show 16 stories from Somali women and underscoring a commitment to diversity and integrity.
- Organized and led 5+ major academic networking and management events between 2017 and 2020, enhancing collaboration among refugees and academia, including workshops and exhibitions that connected over 25 universities across Europe through the EU-funded COST Action IS1306.
- Chaired and coordinated 12 plus events, panels, workshops, and roundtables, contributing to international discourse on asylum, research, and gender-based violence.
- Delivered 13 presentations on key topics ranging from trauma in fieldwork to refugee women's employment, across international venues from 2015 to 2022, highlighting expertise in law, rights, development, and the impact on research from PTSD.

2024 Erasmus University teaching Scientific Writing for Publications, English for Business Purposes

2024 Neurodiversity: Participation in Education and Research Course development partnering with colleagues from the University of Amsterdam and Inholland Hogeschool. I'm co-developing an innovative, inclusively designed master's elective (for 2024/25 academic year), focusing on teaching Participatory Research (PR) with neurodiverse communities - [see here](#). The project was costed at €15,000.

2024 Shifting Discourse in Rule of Law Development Policy In collaboration with Rimma Grishmanovskaya and Maria Jose Recalde Vela, I'm offering expert input on participatory community engagement for a project focusing on integrating decolonial perspectives into rule of law (ROL) development. The aim is to transition from traditional top-down approaches to more inclusive, community-driven policymaking, thereby connecting decolonial theoretical insights with practical Rule of Law (ROL) applications and fostering people-centered interventions. The project was costed at €20,000.

From 2019 to 2024 Community Engagement Consultant Partnered with community organizations to protect women's data and support leaders in Somali community groups. I used my skills in legal research, project management, and strategic planning to develop privacy documents, enhance professional profiles, and share community stories. I worked the Rohingya project to create a collaboration workshop aimed to facilitate their partnerships. My work included creating toolkits, facilitation and reviewing organizational strategies to effectively communicate needs to international bodies and improve community visibility.

In my **PhD research for a joint doctorate in Law and Development at the University of Oslo and Tilburg University**, awarded cum laude, I secured a €10,000 fieldwork grant to examine the intersection of legal frameworks and forced migrants' experiences in Kuala Lumpur. My work, set for defense on March 6th, involved collaboration with 8 community-based organizations and was part of the EDOLAD training program linking 5 universities globally. Through participatory action research, I've contributed new insights into rights and social justice by co-creating narratives with 10 community leaders, demonstrating my ability to lead international large-scale, impactful projects. I gathered over 120 hours of interviews, focus groups and trainings, which I analysed through Atlas.ti.

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2022-23

Work: August 2022 – July 2023 Module Leader in Academic Report Writing for International Creative Business in Inholland Hogeschool, Den Haag. Delivered interactive, student-centered lectures to a cohort of 140 first-year Creative Business students at The Hague campus, fostering an interactive and supportive learning environment that emphasized critical thinking, reflective writing, and effective communication skills. Directed and coordinated a team of six lecturers, ensuring effective collaboration to create an integrated academic writing course in English & Dutch across three campuses: Rotterdam, Haarlem, and The Hague. Developed and implemented a comprehensive pedagogical vision that integrated academic writing into the International Creative Business curriculum. Designed and created engaging, high-quality course materials for Academic Writing in English, catering to the diverse learning needs of 1st and 2nd Year students at the Haarlem and The Hague campuses.

2019 to 2021

Work: October 2019 - August 2021 Docent Communication in Science Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) Taught Medical and Bio-Medical courses to support learning in scientific writing, presenting academically and referencing. Contributed to staff meetings on creating interactive and engaging activities and workgroup sessions both face-to-face courses and to switch to online blended learning programmes. Worked to time-pressured deadlines to meet teaching and grading schedules. Established positive relationships with students in workgroups and thesis tutorials. Supported students to create effective strategies to manage thesis assignments and engaging in critique of scientific texts. Managed students concerns and conflicts through tutorials and effective feedback.

Work: September 2019 - 2021 Freelance tutor in Academic Language Centre at Leiden University Created, prepared and planned interactive and learner-centered bespoke courses according to student directed learning objectives. 1. Provided 10 2-hour sessions in Business English for management team of journalists and editors. 2. BKO (teaching qualification) exam preparation individual course focused on speaking fluency and pedagogical concepts for an Assistant Professor.

Presentation: 13th November 2019 'Troublesome Knowledge; issues with referencing and plagiarism' at International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague Planned and prepared with academic literature a lecture and activities. Presented to the board of examiners for exam boards and lecturers in *Issues in Referencing Teaching Day*.

Work: September 2019 - December 2019 Academic Reading and Writing Lecturer in Bachelors in International Studies (BAIS) at Leiden University Lectured in academic skills 3 courses drawing on materials from Global History. Adapted curricula to need students' needs with a learner-centered approach. Support students through workgroups and one-to-one sessions as required. Built students skills in criticality, argumentation, referencing and close analytical engagement with texts. Worked to tight deadlines for assessment of assignments.

2019

EDOLAD Training: March 2019 Final year training PhD Law in Action North-West University, South Africa

Presentation: 7th March 2019 'New methods in Law and Development: Action Research in KL, Malaysia' in North West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

2018

May 2017 – May 2018 Conducted 11-month Legal Participatory Action Research in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Worked with Syrian, Afghan, Somali and Rohingya forced migrant organisation. Ended my fieldwork with an event to platform the refugee voices

Event Organisation: May 2018 I organised, 'Refugees as Development Actors; in their own voices' hosted by the Make it Right Movement at Brickfields Asia College, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

Presentation: 10th March 2018 'Refugee Women as Development Actors in KL' in Brickfields Asia College, UKT Law Y2 students 'We are not illegal' Human Rights and International Women's day Forum

2017

Event Organisation: September 2017 at the COST Action IS1306 conference New Speakers in A Multilingual Europe: Policies and Practices in Coimbra University, Portugal, I organised two events: Photovoice Exhibition and Academic Panel

Own Initiative: Jan – September 2017 Project leader 'Valorising Voices' Refugee Photovoice Project. Connecting with refugees to organise a photography workshop which resulted in a photo exhibition

Training: 25th – 26th July 2017 Sustainability and Social Innovation: Shaping Effective Change-makers, 2-day leadership training conducted by Prof. Dr Wayne Visser and Indira Kartallozi (IMPACTO) **24th July 2017** 'Economic-Value of Refugee Entrepreneurs' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Hosted by Migrant Entrepreneurs International; United Kingdom; Impacto & UN Global Compact, Malaysia. Included participants from Malaysian Human Rights Commission, human rights NGOs such as Asylum Access.

May 2017 – Kuala Lumpur Malaysia – Socio-Legal PAR – started the fieldwork

Training: 19th – 21st April 2017 COST Action IS1306 writing retreat and workshop training in stakeholder engagement and research impact. Focus on communicating research to policy makers. Budapesti Metropolitan Egyetem

Event Organisation: 23rd and 24th March 2017 Research Impact in Action; Refugees, New Speakers and Global Law **23rd March 2017** Presented 'Lawful Relations and Voice; living in a state of non-belonging' in conference Research Impact in Action; Refugees, New Speakers and Global Law at Tilburg University, Netherlands

Training: February 2017 EDOLAD Training 3rd Year PhD Communications with NGOs and Policy Makers Duesto University, Spain

Presentation: 14th February 2017 'Solidarity and Voice; Wij Zijn Hier' in Solidarity in workshop titled 'Notions of Solidarity in and beyond Law and Development' in Duesto University at EDOLAD training

2016

Conference Planning for Network: 24th – 25th September 2016 participated in programme planning, organisational conference planning meeting and workgroup 10 New Speakers, Legitimacy and Governmentality for COST Action IS1306 in National University of Ireland at Galway.

Event Organisation: 11th – 13th May 2016 I chaired hosted the Network Round Table on “Migration and Asylum” organised by myself and Dr Cassie Smith-Christmas at the COST Action IS1306 New Speakers Whole Action Conference in Hamburg, Germany.

Event Organisation and Master’s Grading: April 2016 Held a workshop on ‘Refugees and Development’ and Examined final coursework for the (CADES) Master of Cultures & Development Studies course in the University of Leuven, Belgium

Training: February 2016 EDOLAD Training 2nd Year PhD Fieldwork Training Tartu University, Estonia

2015

Was Doctoral student representative for EDOLAD for the first year and took part in Consortium meetings to discuss planning for the programme 2015 - 2016.

Research Visit: November – December 2015 to Oslo University, Norway. **1st December 2015** Presented ‘Malema; forced migration and a legacy of violence and development’ in a Rights, Individuals, Culture and Society (RIKS) seminar, Department of Law, University of Oslo, Norway

Training: 1st Year PhD EDOLAD Training Legal Methodology Tilburg University, the Netherlands **January 2015 Started PhD in Tilburg University, Netherlands**

2014

Event Organisation: 20th - 22nd November 2014 Coordinated and chaired a panel on the issues of New speakers in the workplace: legitimacy, resources and authentication at COST Action IS1306 New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe: Opportunities and Challenges Symposium, Barcelona, Spain

Network: 2014 – 2018 Joined EU-funded COST Action IS1306 New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe: Opportunities and Challenges (COST Action IS1306 New Speakers). This network included over 25 universities across Europe.

Work: April 2014 - September 2014: English for Academic Purposes Lecturer at Birmingham City University and at Beihang University, Beijing, China. Followed by 10-week course in Birmingham City University and 2-week revision and resubmission course in Birmingham City University. 25 hours per week contact teaching plus 15 hours marking and lesson preparations. 18th June 2014 Presented and conducted a workshop on 'Academic Culture and Participatory Learning in EAP contexts', Wuzi University, in Beijing, China to teachers of academic skills and criticality.

Presentation: 13th – 15th August 2014 Presentation of Masters research in Flows, Places and Boundaries – Migratory Challenges and New Agendas Nordic Migration Research (MNR) Conference, Centre for Advanced Migration Studies University of Copenhagen

Training: Feb – April 2014 Writing for Scholarly Publication, Centre for Academic Writing, Coventry University

2013

Work: November to Feb 2013 Academic writing Course teacher - Coventry University – Winter pre-session for engineering students

Award and Presentation: November 2013 Grundtvig Grant awarded to participate and present in ECORYS 9-day training for Working with refugees and asylum seekers: good European practices for better work in Venice, Italy November 2013 Gave 1-hour presentation on Language and Civil Society Organisations and Spaces for Refugee Inclusion at ECORYS 9-day training for Working with refugees and asylum seekers: good European practices for better work in Venice, Italy. Started **Migration and Asylum Network** Facebook Group (until now currently 8000 participants).

Education: October 2013 – MSc Social and Community Development, Queens University Belfast Awarded with Distinction

Work: August 2013 - September 2013: English for Academic Purposes Lecturer, Birmingham City University Provided a 8-week English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course for a diverse group of master's level learners from disciplines such as Journalism, Real Estate Management, and International Business. Ensured 25 hours of teaching contact per week, supplemented with an additional 15 hours dedicated to marking student work and lesson preparation. **May 2013 - July 2013: English for Academic Purposes Lecturer, Birmingham City University at Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing, China** Delivered an 10-week EAP course for undergraduate learners specializing in Information Technology. Managed a workload of 25 teaching contact hours per week, along with 15 hours set aside for marking and lesson planning.

2012

September 2012 – June 2013 Conducted Research using ethnographic interviews for MSc Dissertation: What is the role of linguistic capital in the inclusion or exclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in civil society? HAPANI were key participants.

Work: August 2012 to September 2012: English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Lecturer University of Birmingham, 6-week pre-session course. Taught academic English and essay writing skills, making presentations along with grammar and vocabulary relevant to undergraduate Engineering students. This course was more in line with an English for Specific Academic Purposes approach. Marked and assessed at University and IELTS levels. 25 hours per week contact teaching plus 15 hours marking and lesson preparations.

Training: 2012 Level 3 OCN Peace and Reconciliation, Ballynafeigh Community Centre, Northern Ireland

Training: 2012 Level 2 OCN Community Development and Good Relations EGR, Tides Training, Northern Ireland

Community Research Project: January–June 2012 *Creating Social Media Platforms as Shared Community Spaces* at Ballynafeigh Community Development Association Conducted an organisation-wide qualitative primary research project to explore the social media and website options for local community development organisation in South Belfast. Supported overall strategic review of organisational transparency in relation to their service provision and local communities' needs.

Work: December 2011 –December 2012 Project Manager/Coordinator at the Horn of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland (working with target group: refugees and asylum seekers).

Community Development and English Language Project Consulted on English language teaching and course development. Participated in meetings with funders, board of directors and staff to create a new project; budget plans, strategic plan and conducted participatory meetings with board managers and forced migrants.

Three Steps to Employment Project Consulted on English language teaching and course development. Conducted secondary research to support overall knowledge. Participated in meetings with funders, board of directors and staff to collaborate and create a new project.

2011

Training: 2011-2012 Active Citizenship Training British Council and South Belfast Roundtable, Northern Ireland

Work: June 2011 to August 2011: English for Academic Purposes Lecturer at Birmingham City University. 8 Week 25 hours per week contact teaching plus 15 hours marking and lesson preparations.

Work: January 2011 – June 2011 Senior Tutor Culturalia, Mexico. Taught English, organised classes and workshops with teachers on pedagogic practices

2010

Work: June 2010 to August 2010: English for Academic Purposes Lecturer at Birmingham City University. Intensive summer school 25 hours per week contact teaching plus 15 hours marking and lesson preparations.

Training: January – March 2010 VSO International Development (Funded by DIFD) and project management in developing context training; managing project situations, awareness of international development issues, training in use of facilitation and participatory methods of working in development and low resource contexts.

2009

Education: 2009 Achieved BA Politics School of Oriental and African Studies

Previous work experiences 2003 - 2009

2002 – 2009 I worked in temporary agencies for administration support, filing and receptionist positions

2006 - 2007 Wrote for an online magazine

Short internships with newspapers and publishers in London.

2005 – Working Visit to Japan. Learnt Japanese and Taught English.

2005 – Birmingham Asia Resource Centre – Assistant to Asylum Caseworker.

2004 - 2015 Taught ESOL, General English and Business English from.

Started BA in Japanese and Politics September 2003 later changed to BA Politics in 2006.

December 2002 – June 2003 Founder of ex-pat newspaper *Llama Express*, La Paz, Bolivia

Core Skills: Experienced communicator; writing curriculums and lessons plans with SMART goals, writing reports and participating in meetings within University settings. Able to work to tight deadlines in high pressure situations. Efficient use of social media and online platforms to produce materials and classroom resources. Using technology to disseminate information in workshops. Initiated collaborative partnerships to produce academic materials. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

Managed work situations independently in universities and collaborated effectively with staff from different work cultures to promote knowledge sharing on teaching methodologies. Further developed relationships with partner universities in Nanjing and Beijing, China. Advanced level writing skills and effective use of language: writing for specific target audiences, grading language to the audience and editing.