

Arindam Jana

Urban and Spatial Economist

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Profile I am an economist with nearly two decades of experience across policy and academic research. My work focusses on developing analytical frameworks to examine spatial inequalities within urban contexts. My current research anchors this focus in three specific areas: the mechanics of wealth accumulation within cities; the impact of economic transitions on urban morphology at the city and regional scale; and the role of data ecosystems in spatial decision-making. A running theme in my research is measurement itself, in settings where data are scarce or ill-suited to the questions posed.

Education **Ph.D. in Economics**, School of Economics, University of Cape Town, South Africa (2020—2025)
Thesis: On Intra-city Spatial Inequalities: Connectedness as a Paradigm of Inclusive Cities

M.Sc. in Economics, Madras School of Economics, Anna University, India (2006—2008)
Dissertation: Consumption Volatility and the Cost of Uninsured Exposure to Risk, a Study across Indian States, 1970—2005

B.Sc. in Mathematics, Madras Christian College, University of Madras, India (2002—2005)

Positions Held **African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research, SALDRU, University of Cape Town**
Cape Town, South Africa | Various Positions, January 2024—onwards
Roles/Responsibilities: conducting research on wealth accumulation and fiscal policy, intra-city spatial inequality, urban economic transitions, and sub-national data deficits in Africa.

Cities Unit, United Nations Environment Programme
Various Locations | Urban Economist, December 2020—May 2024
Roles/Responsibilities: designed analytical frameworks to track green transitions in urban labour markets, and to track investment in green and blue urban infrastructure.

Independent Consultant in Urban and Spatial Economics
Various Organisations, April 2016—onwards
Roles/Responsibilities: carried out commissioned research and advisory work on urban data, spatial analysis, and inequality for both public and private sector research organisations, philanthropic funders, and multilateral agencies.

School of Planning and Architecture
Delhi, India | Adjunct Faculty, November 2020—May 2022
Roles/Responsibilities: taught courses in microeconomic theory for urban planning, and quantitative research methods.

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative
Bengaluru, India | Consulting Data Scientist, January 2019—December 2019
Roles/Responsibilities: designed and prototyped a monitoring and evaluation laboratory to track the impact of rural social-sector grants.

Catalyst Financial Technologies, Institute for Financial Management and Research
Delhi, India | Consulting Data Scientist, January 2017—December 2018
Roles/Responsibilities: designed and implemented the analytics infrastructure to track adoption of a digital finance initiative among micro and small enterprises across Tier 2 cities in India.

Indian Institute for Human Settlements
Bengaluru, India | Various Positions, May 2012—November 2019

Roles/Responsibilities: established the Urban Informatics Laboratory, led projects on data architectures for spatial analytics, and produced the annual urban India data almanack.

Small Enterprise Finance Centre, Institute for Financial Management and Research

Chennai, India | Research Associate, June 2009—April 2012

Roles/Responsibilities: developed credit-scoring algorithms for micro-enterprises with thin transaction histories, and evaluation frameworks for credit access in low-value markets.

Nathan Economic Consulting (India)

Chennai, India | Economist, May 2008—May 2009

Roles/Responsibilities: provided analytical support for a portfolio of media products assessing limited-overs cricket in real time.

Journal Articles

Davidson, K., Grotte, J., **Jana, A.**, De Lannoy, A., David, A., & Leibbrandt, M. (2026). An analytical framework to assess green transition jobs in South Africa. *Climate Policy*, 1–14. DOI: doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2026.2654965.

Bhan, G., & **Jana, A.** (2015). Reading spatial inequality in Urban India. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 50(22), 49–54.

Jana, A. (2015). Visualising the 'Grey' Area between Rural and Urban India. *The Administrator*, 56(2), 51–58.

Bhan, G., & **Jana, A.** (2013). Of slums or poverty: Notes of caution from census 2011. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 48(18), 13–16.

**Books
Book Chapters
Reports**

David, A., Davidson, K., De Lannoy, A. D., Grotte, J., **Jana, A.**, Leibbrandt, M., Nell, A., & Visagie, J. (2026). Mapping the Green Transition: Implications for Local Labour Markets. In J. Visagie (Ed.), *Cities Economic Outlook 2026: Cities in Flux. Pathways of Stress, Adjustment and Renewal*. National Treasury Cities Support Programme; Human Sciences Research Council. URL: www.spatialtaxdata.org.za

Jana, A. (2025). *African Statistical Agencies Need a Shared Subnational Data Protocol* (Policy Brief No. 8; Urban2063). African Centre for Cities. URL: urban2063.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Policy-Brief-8-African-Statistical-Agencies-Need-a-Shared-Subnational-Data-Protocol.pdf

Davidson, K., David, A., De Lannoy, A., Grotte, J., **Jana, A.**, Leibbrandt, M., Nell, A., & Visagie, J. (2025). The Impact of the Green Transition on Jobs in South Africa. *ACEIR Working Paper Series*, (15). URL: aceir.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/aceir_uct_ac_za/1639/wp15-impact-of-green-transition-on-jobs-in-south-africa.pdf

Davidson, K., De Lannoy, A., Grotte, J., **Jana, A.**, David, A., & Leibbrandt, M. (2024). An Analytical Framework to Assess Green Transition Jobs in South Africa. *SALDRU Working Paper Series*, (209). URL: opensaldru.uct.ac.za/handle/11090/1044

Sami, N., Seddon, J., **Jana, A.** (2020). *Density in various forms* [Policy Brief]. International Growth Centre. URL: theigc.org/publications/density-various-forms

Malladi, T., Chatterji, N., & **Jana, A.** (2017). *India Urban Atlas 2017: Visualising and Understanding Urban Growth and Expansion*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/urbindia.2017

Bazaz, A., **Jana, A.**, Revi, A., & Malladi, T. (2016). *Urban India 2016 Evidence*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/urbindia.2016

Jana, A. (2016). *How 'urban' is India* [Case Study]. Indian Institute for Human Settlements; Rockefeller Foundation. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/1-0002

Revi, A., **Jana, A.**, Malladi, T., Anand, G., Anand, S., Bazaz, A., Bhan, G., Mohan Raju, J. S., Koduganti, J., Wankhede, K., M J, V., Rao, P., Sami, N., Shah, S., & Harish, S. (2015). *Urban India 2015: Evidence*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/urbindia.2015

Ministry of Home Affairs. (2014). *Report of the Expert Committee to Study Alternatives for a New Capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh*. Government of India.

Anand, S., Arakali, A., **Jana, A.**, Koduganti, J., & Sami, N. (2014). *Manufacturing Cities: Industrial Policy and Urban Growth*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/ihsrfpps7.2014

Anand, S., Bhan, G., Idicheria, C., **Jana, A.**, & Koduganti, J. (2014). *Locating the Debate: Poverty and Vulnerability in Urban India. IHS-RF Paper on Urban Poverty*. Indian Institute for Human Settlements. DOI: doi.org/10.24943/ihsrfpps4.2014

Op-eds
Blogs
Preprints
Datasets

Jana, A. (2026). A reflection on property wealth and taxes in Cape Town. *SALDRU*. URL: saldru.uct.ac.za/articles/2026-07-29-reflection-property-wealth-and-taxes-cape-town

Jana, A. (2026). *Hidden in Plain Sight: Compound Disadvantage of Dwelling Types Within Cape Town Suburbs*. SSRN. DOI: doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6861638

Jana, A., & Munoz Hidalgo, M. E. (2026). *The Topology of Economic Fragmentation: Semantic Anti-Agglomeration and Structural Lock-ins in the South African Labour Market*. SSRN. DOI: doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6862723

Jana, A., & Ranchhod, V. (2026). How the legacy of apartheid geography shapes housing wealth. *Econ 3x3*. URL: econ3x3.org/articles/how-the-legacy-of-apartheid-geography-shapes-housing-wealth/

Jana, A., Ranchhod, V., & Keshav, A. V. (2025). The Persistence of Position: How Wealth Accumulation Becomes a Self-Perpetuating System. *PoWER: Politicians and Wealth Reproduction*. URL: wealthpolicies.eu/blog-5-the-persistence-of-position-how-wealth-accumulation-becomes-a-self-perpetuating-system

Jana, A., & Ranchhod, V. (2025). The Great Divide: Why Wealth, Not Income, Defines the Economic Chasm. *PoWER: Politicians and Wealth Reproduction*. URL: wealthpolicies.eu/blog-4-the-great-divide-why-wealth-not-income-defines-the-economic-chasm

Jana, A., & Ranchhod, V. (2025). Spatial inertia and the racial stratification of housing wealth in post-Apartheid South Africa. *SALDRU*. URL: saldru.uct.ac.za/articles/2025-11-26-spatial-inertia-and-racial-stratification-housing-wealth-post-apartheid-south-africa

Davidson, K., Grotte, J., **Jana, A.**, De Lannoy, A., David, A., & Leibbrandt, M. (2024). *Green Occupations Crosswalk Data 2024* [Data set]. DataFirst. DOI: doi.org/10.25828/1PD6-2R47

UNEP. (2023). *State of Finance for Nature 2023: The Big Nature Turnaround - Repurposing \$7 Trillion to Combat Nature Loss*. United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP. (2022). *State of Finance for Nature. Time to Act: Doubling Investment by 2025 and Eliminating Nature-negative Finance Flows*. United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP. (2021). *The State of Finance for Nature in the G20: Leading by Example to Close the Investment Gap*. United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP. (2021). *Creating Circular Neighbourhoods: A Discussion paper*. United Nations Environment Programme.

Circle Economy & UNEP. (2021). *The Circular Jobs Methodology*. Circle Economy and United Nations Environment Programme.

Jana, A., & Archita, S. (2019). India's Missing Middle: 24,000 'villages' with populations greater than towns lose out on policies for urban areas. *IndiaSpend*. URL: indiaspend.com/indias-missing-middle-24000-villages-with-populations-greater-than-towns-lose-out-on-policies-for-urban-areas

Sharma, R., & Jana, A. (2015). Babri to Dadri: What they don't tell you about good data and bad evidence. *DailyO.In*. URL: dailyo.in/politics/dadri-murder-babri-communal-riots-data-crunching-angus-deaton-7005

Forthcoming Ranchhod, V., & Jana, A. (2027, forthcoming). 'Exiting' Segregated Spaces, Creating Wealth? Racial Wealth Divide and Spatial Mobility in South Africa. In M. Savage, S. Begum, & V. Ranchhod (Eds), *Colonial Pasts and Inequality Today: The Racial Wealth Divide in South Africa and the UK*. LSE Press.

Jana, A. (2026, under review). *Pathways to Urban: Institutional Status and Urban Outcomes in India*.

Jana, A. (2026, under review). *Measuring Angular Structures of Urban Growth in India*.

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Personal Information Date of Birth: 12 January 1984

Nationality: Indian

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