



# Tasneem Khan

Ecologist | Educator | Explorer

I am a biologist, educator, photographer and adventurer, exploring how people relate to, engage with and learn from place. My practice is rooted in an evolving study on the literacy of landscape - working through field research management, the development of shared-value enterprises, designing immersive learning pedagogy, documenting and archiving community-held marine and maritime knowledge systems. Each of my projects involve facilitating interdisciplinary initiatives in the fields of ecology, conservation, education, art and science communication.

## Contact

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## Academic background

2014

**South East Asia Leadership Academy**  
Society for International Business Fellows

2013

**Science skills and Philosophy of Science**  
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore

2012

**Marine Invertebrate Zoology, Reed Fellowship, Friday Harbour Marine Laboratories, University of Washington**

2006

**Bachelors degree in Science** (majors in Zoology, Botany, Geology, Chemistry)  
University of Pune

## Technical Skills

- Ecological field sampling methods
- Adobe suite & Articulate 360
- Digital & analog PPGIS
- Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)
- Arduino programming
- SCUBA training (PADI, RAID, CMAS)

## Research Interests

- Immersive and field-based pedagogies
- Landscape centred indigenous knowledge
- Art-Science practice
- Ecosystem succession
- Inter-tidal & marine invertebrate ecology
- Environmental policy
- Climate-change adaptations

## WORK EXPERIENCE / RESEARCH / CONSULTING

### 2022 - ongoing

Director

[S.E.A School, studios and labs](#)

#### Ireland

- Puffin Rock [Habitats Exhibition](#) & Training Workshops : research on local landscapes to inform exhibition development and educational activities.
- Development of field-based modules for secondary school projects in geography and sustainability studies.
- Designing and conducting training for the application of field-learning practices in four coastal habitats, for the [Heritage in Schools Specialists](#), for An Chomhairle Oidhreachta.
- Co-curating and hosting the [All Living Things Environmental Film Festival](#) in Ireland : with a focus on coastal cultures and environments. Programming panel discussions and knowledge exchange workshops with heritage fishers, harbour management & local youth.

### 2016 - ongoing

Co-founder & Partner

[EARTH CoLab science, design & learning](#)

#### Indian Ocean Region

- Developed two case studies and associated teaching materials for the University of Cambridge, MPhil in Conservation Course. [2023-2024]
- Field surveying, environmental assessment and preparing briefing documents in the Cacra village region of Goa, to inform a potential development project of ecological capital and traditional community uses of the intertidal landscape. [2023-2024]
- Research, conceptualisation and development of a place-based philosophy for learning for Earthling Early Preschool, Bangalore. Creating a 4 year blended curriculum and all associated learning / teaching materials. [2020-2022]
- Curriculum development, field logistics and co-teaching 4 courses for the University of Wollongong (undergraduate students of geography, science & creative writing)  
**2014**, Andaman Islands : "Islands of change"  
**2019**, Phang Nga Bay : "Writing the Ocean"  
**2022**, Goa : "Fish & Ships"  
**2023**, Coromandel Coast : "Kaleidoscopic Palk-strait"
- Curriculum development, field logistics and co-teaching "Ecosystem in change: post-catastrophic place making on the Coromandel Coast" with University of Arts, Helsinki for masters students in "Space & Time Department" [2016]
- Swamp Storytelling : An art-science exploration of wetlands in Sweden and India. Project concept development, management co-curating field-based art residencies, place-based-learning and community engagement events. [2014-2019]
- Learning on the Edge: field based education on India's coasts, a collaborative exercise in writing a paper on experiential and embodied learning pedagogies, positioned in Coastal India. [2016]

2018 - 2020

Operations , Research & Development

[Diva Marine - Vessel for Inquiry](#)

[Thailand & Myanmar](#)

- Conceptualising, raising funds for and leading the Vessel For Inquiry project : a floating laboratory, learning centre and art residency.
- Recruitment and training of an onboard team for operations and facilitation.
- Designing and prototyping a range of environmental sensors as part of a citizen-science initiative for ocean monitoring.

2009 - 2015

Field Station Director

[Centre for Island Ecology,](#)

[Andaman & Nicobar Islands' Environmental Team](#)

- Establishing a community based initiative "Andaman Karen Crafts" as a cooperative society for the Karen community to promote, teach, learn and showcase traditional knowledge linked to land, ethnobotany, handicrafts, building, food, music and indigenous practices.
- Site selection, management and training for data collection through long term ecological monitoring of primary and disturbed rainforests and mangroves in the South Andaman group, as part of a global study compiling long term data sets of forest composition and dynamics.
- Indian Ocean Naturalist: conceptualising and development of a citizen science initiative, including learning materials, presentations, facilitator training and data collection systems for dive operators in the Andaman Islands
- Solid Waste Management Planning: working with and within the public works department to assess, identify pathways, test methods and implement an island centric SWM system with the field workers, management and residents involved.
- Development of facilities, an on-ground team and subject focused place based curricula to host an average of 10 field-courses per year. The subjects ranged from wildlife ecology, engineering, design, geography, scuba diving, scientific method, landscape architecture, etc.
- Content writing and photography for the Centre for Environment Education, CEE, in the curation and framing of the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park Interpretation Center.
- Member and advisor on The Governor's advisory board, Coastal Zone Management Planning Committee & National Parks & Wildlife Committee.

## INDEPENDENT CONSULTING / TRAINING / RESEARCH

NATIONAL REPTILE ZOO, Kilkenny

2020 - present

- Developing a series of 15 modules using the habitats and inhabitants of the zoo as part of an extensive immersive learning program that link to the National Curriculum in Ireland. The content and training material span primary, junior, senior cycles, as well as higher level courses in animal care, conservation and science communication.
- Design and conceptualisation of embedded learning opportunities within the zoo, through interactive installations, signage, themed workshops and seasonal exhibitions.
- Research, development and coordination for interactive tech initiatives such as ecosystem monitoring using sensor networks to enhance animal care & research within ex-situ settings.

The Heritage Council, Ireland

2023 / 2024

- Developing training materials for Heritage in School Specialists in the form of facilitator guides, trainer workshops and field based ecology immersions.
- Content writing and running children's workshops to promote the ecological and inquiry components of the Puffin Rock Habitats Exhibition.

- DINACON - The Digital Naturalism Conference, Thailand & Panama**

  - Co-chair, concept development, theme framing, reviewing proposals, etc
  - Hosting, curating field sessions and logistic management for the first 6-week conference in Thailand

**2018 - 2020**
- British International School & United World College, Phuket**

  - Individualised lesson progression plan and one-on-one teaching for students with neuro diverse needs, for the IB diploma years : Theory of Knowledge, Art Practice, Design Technology, Environmental Science .

**2018-2020**
- PLACE ARTS, Bangalore**

  - Facilitation of a field science workshop for the project working with disadvantaged children and young adults from a slum area in the city.

**2016**

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Occupation of the Coast - II : Ecology & Economics of shrimp production on the East coast of India, a publication by the Research Collective, PSA. [Cover & Info graphics]
- 2018 The terrestrial life of sea kraits: insights from a long-term study on two Laticauda species (Reptilia: Squamata: Elapidae) in the Andaman Islands, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 10(11)
- 2018 Patterns in Nature; Roundglass Sustain magazine, monthly column
- 2017 Stranded in the Shallows; Nature in Focus (a photo-story for World Whale Day)
- 2017 From Wreck to Reef; Asian Diver, Issue 4 Volume 148
- 2017 Mechanics in Nature; Hornbill Magazine, BNHS; quarterly column
- 2016 Look Again; Asian Geographic, Junior; quarterly column
- 2015 Islands of Good Fortune; a coffee table book for the Andaman and Nicobar, Administration GOI
- 2015 Diversity of amphibians in Wandoor, South Andaman Islands; ALYTES, International journal of Batrachology, Vol. 3
- 2014 Agumbe - monsoon transforms the landscape; Current Conservation 8.3
- 2014 Science in Eden; Asian Geographic, Scuba Diver: SDAA 5
- 2013 Sharks in peril; Current Conservation 7.2
- 2013 An expedition to Narcondam Island, observations of marine and terrestrial fauna including the island-endemic hornbill; Current Science, Vol.105 / 3
- 2009 Lives of a Tree - Samanea saman; Geo Magazine, India.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 2024 Plenary talk at the 34th Irish Environmental Research Colloquium, Environ 2024
- 2023 Podcast: **The Subverse- Of Relationality and Water:** Stories of Kinship, Care and Belonging
- 2022 Podcast: Finols Howard: **Learning at Large: The School of Place**
- 2020 Feb 2020 Coastwise Festival : a marine and coastal awareness festival, Mumbai, India  
Closing ceremony - On SEA'ing
- 2016 Moving Waters : a film festival for water conservation, Bangalore  
The ocean as a classroom - methods in field based education
- 2016 Society for International Business Fellows annual summit, Grand Cayman  
Shared value - addressing societal needs through enterprise
- 2016 PondyPHOTO, Pondicherry  
Swamp Storytelling - designing art-science initiatives for water literacy
- 2016 TEDx Youth : Jaipur  
Other ways of seeing : eyes, islands and archipelagic angles
- 2015 Nature in Focus : Bangalore - A closer look at 'water'- the living soup
- 2015 South East Asia Leadership Academy : Chiang Mai  
Creativity and adaptability in leadership - the learning never ends
- 2014 Forest Training Institute : Port Blair, annually  
An introduction to the biology and conservation of marine turtles

## SOCIAL MEDIA



## CREATIVE PRACTICE

- 2024 Parallel Worlds - a photo exhibition featuring comparative coastal habitats from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans - at SETU, Waterford, Ireland
- 2023 The Story of Salt & Water - a marine photo exhibition at Vitamin Sea festival
- 2020 Nature in Focus; Jury Member, Conservation & Wildlife Photography Awards
- 2017 Ecosystems In Change; Photography exhibition, Sublime Galleria, Bangalore, India - Invited photographer at the 'Samsara Art Festival'
- 2016 Fresh-Water Stories; Photography exhibition, Pondicherry, India 2016
- 2016 The Swamp; Photo exhibition, Karlstad, Sweden - an installation of image prints as part of the Water Research Festival
- 2016 Artist in Residence - (Art)ScienceBlr & The Indian Sonic Research Organization
- 2013 Winner: Trailblazers Natural Capital Awards, Conservation & wildlife photography - Monsoon; a photo story
- 2010 The MG Marine National Park Interpretation Centre, Wandoor, Andaman Islands Content development (Images and information for museum displays)
- 2009 Winner: Nikon - Better Photography Awards - Wildlife Photographer of the year

## REFERENCES

Mr. Romulus Whitaker : Founder MCBT, Chennai, India  
Dr. Michael Adams : Professor of Geography, UoW, Australia  
Mr. Harry Marshall : Creative director ICON films, Bristol, UK  
Ms. Sejal Mehta : Writer, editor, content consultant, India  
Catherine Casey, Head of Climate Change, The Heritage Council, Ireland