

# Emerging Scholar Recipient

## ISLS 2021-22

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## Jessica Sujata Chandras

(she/her/hers)

Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Department of Anthropology,  
Wake Forest University

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### BIOGRAPHY

Jessica Sujata Chandras studied at the University of Washington where she completed her BA with Honors in Anthropology and a minor in Spanish in 2010. She then received her PhD in 2019 from the George Washington University in linguistic anthropology studying multilingual practices in middle-class education in Pune, India. Her goal is to broaden understanding of the cultural contexts of learning through theories of aspiration and promises of prestige through social and physical mobility for underrepresented groups.

### EMERGING SCHOLAR PROJECT

“Collaborative Education: Finding New Pathways for Learning in Tribal Communities in Western India,” seeks to support practitioners/educators who conduct school in rural areas of Osmanabad, a socially stratified district in Maharashtra, India. The educators/practitioners work for a local NGO that provides educational and social welfare support to the community of Gormati-speaking members of a federally registered tribe. This project implements family perspectives and linguistic analysis in Learning Sciences (LS). The project focuses on language education and asks the question: What scaffolding (pedagogical, socio-cultural, emotional) is required for students from tribal communities in rural India, who experience formal schooling in the dominant language of the region, rather than their own tribal language? The project also brings together an opportunity to share relevant LS research (theories, methods, research processes) between indigenous communities in the United States and tribal communities in India.

### GENERAL RESEARCH INTERESTS

Chandras’s research in India examines values attached to language and practices of multilingual language socialization pertaining to education through a lens of power. She focuses on the political economy of language through intersections of language and identity categories, such as socioeconomic class, caste, and politics of language revitalization movements.



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