



# Periurban Cartographies

## Kolkata's ecologies and settled ruralities

### Victoria Jane Marshall

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- **Periurban Cartographies** is a contribution to work being done on urban theory-building from elsewhere than the Global North, specifically from Asia, and periurban Gangetic West Bengal/Kolkata
- Advances emerging concepts about the agency of nonhumans in the context of the unique histories and trajectories of urbanism in Southern cities
- With many photographs, line drawings, and maps **Periurban Cartographies** allows the reader to see the incrementally changing context and the fragmented and piecemeal processes that feature where urban and rural land uses and livelihoods become entangled
- The book would be of interest to readers looking at cartographic practices and ethnographic methods. These topics are covered in urban design, landscape architecture, and architecture programs
- The scholarly audience also includes those interested in a case study approach for comparative urbanism, and those interested in a situated, urban political approach to periurbanisation in India. These topics are covered in landscape architecture, urban studies, geography, and urban planning programs

**Periurban Cartographies** looks through the prism of the “almost urban” to consider what a “city” is or could be. In doing so, the book challenges assumptions and reconsiders design practices.

The research reported upon in this study draws on thick description of everyday life and diffuse power in periurban Gangetic West Bengal/Kolkata. It does so in the hope of enriching our understanding of incremental modes of political empowerment and the futures they make. The intention is to not just communicate the transformations at work in creating a particular “kind of urban”, but also to point to connections that make us rethink the ways in which change happens.

The book is a contribution to work being done on urban theory-building from elsewhere than the Global North, specifically from Asia, and periurban Gangetic West Bengal/Kolkata. It is not simply a look at a novel and singular condition in and of itself but uses that singularity to better understand periurbanism generally and urban political ecologies particularly. Current scholarship in urban political ecology reminds us of some of the enduring tensions around the conceptualisations of region, socio-natures and agency, and practice. The urban political ecology approach in this book offers a way of moving past some of these tensions.

**Dr Victoria Jane Marshall** is a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. Marshall is a landscape architect, urban designer, and geographer. Her emplaced, critical environmental research investigates, and represents, possible urban futures.

