

# **Leela Viswanathan**

Associate Professor, Department of Planning and Geography at Queen's University  
Kingston, ON, CA

Leela Viswanathan teaches topics about social planning, planning history, qualitative research methods, and urban geography.

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## **Biography**

Leela Viswanathan teaches topics about social planning, planning history, qualitative research methods, and urban geography. She is co-editor with Dr. Scott L. Morgensen of the Journal of Critical Race Studies. Her professional expertise in social policy, integrated comprehensive planning approaches, and community development with diverse populations informs both her teaching and her research. Leela is cross-appointed to the School of Environmental Studies and to the Department of Gender Studies. She is a Full Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Registered Professional Planner in Ontario.

"My research emerges at the intersection of planning, equity and diversity. I am Principal Investigator on a multi-year SSHRC-funded collaborative research project examining approaches to planning with Indigenous peoples. See [www.queensu.ca/pwip](http://www.queensu.ca/pwip). The aim of the research is to enhance Indigenous-municipal relations in the context of land use planning in Southern Ontario. My ongoing research interests involve theories and practices of: (1) planning with First Nations; (2) planning pedagogy and service learning; and (3) race, space, and cross-cultural relations. I collaborate with community-based and academic researchers to address both technical and adaptive planning problems at local and regional geographic scales."

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Government Relations, Program Development, Research

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Social Planning, Urban Geography, Qualitative Research Methods, Indigenous-Municipal Relations in Planning, University-Community Engagement, Equity and Human Rights

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## **Affiliations**

Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), Canadian Association of Community Service Learning (CACSL), American Association of Geographers (AAG), Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)

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## **Education**

York University  
Ph.D. Environmental Studies

**York University**  
M.E.S. Environmental Studies (Planning)

**McGill**  
B.A. Sociology

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Finalist - 2015 & 2016 - Queen's Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching**

Leela Viswanathan was a Queen's Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching Finalist in 2015 and 2016.

The award is presented annually to a Queen's teacher who show outstanding knowledge, teaching ability, and accessibility to students.

### **Steve Cutway Accessibility Award**

Awarded by Queen's University

### **Julian Sziecz Award of Excellence in Teaching**

Awarded by Queen's University, Department of Geography

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