

Mihiri Tillakaratne is currently a PhD Candidate in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality. She studies Sri Lankan diasporic identity and embodied memory and teaches in the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and the Gender and Women's Studies departments.

She received her B.A. in History from Harvard, where she led the Harvard Progressive Advocacy Group and worked as a student recruiter for the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative.

She received her M.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA and her M.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. At UCLA, she directed a [\*I Take Refuge\*](#), a documentary on Sri Lankan American Buddhist identity.

She has worked in youth organizing and international access to education for nonprofit organizations such as NetAid, MercyCorps, and WorldTeach, where she conducted workshops on community organizing with schools, universities, and community groups in the U.S., Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

She is the founder of [Sri Lankan Americans for Social Justice](#), which explores how racism, sexism, and inequity work in the U.S. and Sri Lanka. She is the founder of [Empower A Village](#), a nonprofit which works with rural communities in Sri Lanka. Mihiri and her mother, Dr. Niranjala Tillakaratne, also conducts free workshops on college admissions for the Southern California Sri Lankan American community.