

CURRICULUM VITAE

Vani S. Kulkarni

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

ONGOING

Yale University: Post-doctoral Associate; Urban Ethnography Project; Sociology Department; New Haven, Connecticut, United States

United Nations: Consultant, *International Fund for Agricultural Development* (IFAD). Via Paolo di Dono, 44, 00142 Rome, Italy and *Asian Development Bank* (ABD), Manila, Philippines.

RECENT

Yale University: Singh Fellow, Lecturer and Fellow, Department of Sociology and South Asian Studies, MacMillan Center, 2009-2011

Harvard University: Lecturer, Sociology Department, 2008-2009
David Bell Fellow and Instructor, Harvard School of Public Health, 2006-2008

EDUCATION

Degrees:

Ph.D. Sociology (**with Distinction**), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, United States

Dissertation: Health, Culture & Democracy: The Case of Decentralization of Healthcare in India

M.Phil. Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India

M.A. Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India

B.A. (Honors) Sociology, Miranda House, University of Delhi, India

Additional Diploma:

Subject: SAS Programming Essentials 1 Institution: SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, U.S.A, January 2001

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Social Inequality; Development; Health, Race, Class and Caste; Gender; Political Sociology; South Asia

METHODOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

Ethnographic field research; qualitative methods; comparative historical sociology; narratology

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA: Singh Fellowship

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: David Bell Fellowship

University of Pennsylvania, USA: Distinction for PhD

University of Pennsylvania, USA: Honors on Ph.D Qualifying Exam on Social Theory

University of Delhi, India: Second rank in B.A (Honors) Sociology.

University of Delhi, India: Merit Scholarship, MA Program

University of Delhi, India: Center for Advanced Study in Sociology: National Scholarship
MA Program, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India, 1990

University of Delhi, Miranda House, India: First rank in B.A (Honors) Sociology.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Under Review. *National Science Foundation*. "Why are Indian Farmers Killing Themselves; Toward a Sociology of Suicide" (Principal Investigator)

2005. University of Pennsylvania. Otto Pollak Ph.D Dissertation Writing and Research Fellowship,

2002-2003. American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), University of Chicago: Dissertation Field Research Fellowship

2002. Mellon Foundation: Dissertation Training and Research Grant

RESEARCH CONSULTANTSHIPS

2013 *United Nations* (Agency: Asian Development Bank), Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Projects: (1) Decentralization, Empowerment & Service Delivery (2) Take-up & Effectiveness of Public Services: Role of Networks & Social Norms

2009 - 2013. *United Nations* (Specialized Agency: International Fund for Agricultural Development (*IFAD*)). Via Paolo di Dono, 44, 00142 Rome, Italy. Projects: (1) "Sociological Perspective on Targeting", (2) "Women's Empowerment & Microfinance – an Asian Perspective Study and (3) "Migration and Remittances" (4) Globalization and Dietary Transition

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

In Progress.

A Sociology of the School Choice Movement in America: the Case of Charter School in Philadelphia

Global Public Health: A Socio-Medical Perspective

Global Silence and Theories of Development

2012. July (Edited Volume): "*Bringing Fieldwork Back In: Contemporary Urban Ethnography*," special edition of ***The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science***. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (with Elijah Anderson; Duke Austin, Dana Asbury and Esther Kim)

Forthcoming. ***Diets, Malnutrition and Disease in India***, Oxford University Press.

ARTICLES

Forthcoming. Invited Contribution. "Glocalization of Remittances in India: Toward a Sociological Perspective", in M. Rahman *Migrant Remittances in South Asia*, Edited. Palgrave Macmillan.

Forthcoming. Invited Contribution. "Globalization of the Middle Class: Case of Dietary Consumption Pattern", in Raghbendra Jha, Raghav Gaiha and Anil Deolalikar. Edited. *Handbook of Food: Demand, Supply, Sustainability and Security*, Edward Elgar.

2013. "How Pervasive is Eating Out in India?", *Journal of Asian & African Studies*, 48(3) 370–386 (with R. Jha and R. Gaiha).

2012. "The Making and Unmaking of Local Democracy in an Indian Village", , in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

"The Legacy of Racial Caste," in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (with Anderson, Elijah, Duke W. Austin, and Craig Holloway).

"Maternal Mortality" Entry in *Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa: An Encyclopedia*, Editors Edward Ramsamy, Andrea L. Stanton, Peter J. Seybolt, and Carolyn Elliott. Sage Publications Volume 4. Pp. 245-248

2010: "Social Perspective on Health Inequalities: A Re-conceptualization", (with S.V. Subramanian) in Brown, T., McLafferty, S. & Moon, Graham (Editors) *A Companion to Health and Medical Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

2008. "Has Anything Changed? Deprivation, Disparity, and Discrimination in Rural India", (with R.Gaiha, Ganesh Thapa and K. Imai) *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 2008, 14.2 Spring/Summer.

2006. "Common Interest Groups, Village Institutions and Rural Poor in India: A Review of District Poverty Initiative Projects" (With R. Gaiha) *Contemporary South Asia*, 15 (1) March.

2003. "Panchayats, Communities and the Rural Poor in India" (with R.Gaiha), *Journal of African and Asian Studies*, June.

2000: "Participation or empowerment of the rural poor: The case of the Panchayats in India. In: V. Damodaran and M. Unnithan-Kumar (Editors), *Post-colonial India*, Manohar, Delhi

1998. "Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Panchayats, and the rural poor", (with R. Gaiha and P.D Kaushik) *Asian Survey* 38.

"Is Growth Central to Poverty Alleviation in India?" (with R. Gaiha), *Journal of International Affairs* 51.

UNITED NATIONS REPORTS

2012. UN Report; "Remittances; A Conceptual & Sociological Overview" Report Submitted to the United Nations (Specialized Agency: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Via Paolo di Dono, Rome, Italy.

2011. UN Report: "Women's Agency and Empowerment through Microfinance – An Asia Perspective Study" Occasional Paper Series, United Nations (Specialized Agency: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Via Paolo di Dono, Rome, Italy.

2009. UN Report: "Sociology & Targeting" Report Submitted to the United Nations (Specialized Agency: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Via Paolo di Dono, Rome, Italy.

NEWSPAPER / NEWSLETTER

2013. OpEd. "India's Weight of the World Moment" (On double burden of malnutrition), *The Hindu*, October 29.

2013. OpEd. "Where Have All the Women Gone?" (On missing women), *The Hindu*, August 20.

2013. Opinion & Analysis Piece. "Explaining the Prevalence of Rape in Delhi NCR", *Global Review*, (*American Sociological Association's Global and Transnational Sociology Newsletter*). Volume 3, Issue 3, Summer. (with Kristin Plys).

2013. OpEd. "A Case of Mislplaced Euphoria" (discussion of accomplishment of a key Millennium Development Goal (MDG) — of halving extreme poverty in the developing world — five years ahead of the 2015 deadline). *The Hindu*, June 15. (with R. Gaiha).

2013. OpEd. "Four Walls and the Cry for Help" (on prevalence of Domestic Violence) *The Hindu*, May 22 (with M.Pandey and R. Gaiha).

2012. OpEd. "Rapid GDP growth dents poverty but reduction is feasible", *The Economic Times*, June 21 (with R. Gaiha).

2011. OpEd "Many Benefits Of Women's Work" *The Economic Times*, March 31 (with R. Gaiha and R. Jha).

2010. "Dietary Transition in India" (with R. Gaiha). (Invited Contribution) *Online publication India in Transition*, The Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania.

2010. OpEd "Fragility of Poverty Estimates", (with R. Gaiha) *The Economic Times*, Guest Column, Page 10. April 2.

2009. Op-Ed "Losing the War Against Poverty", (with R. Gaiha), *The Economic Times*, December 31.

2009. OpEd: "On hunger and child mortality", *The Economic Times*, August 21 (with R. Gaiha).

2007. Book Review *The Democracy Makers: Human Rights and the Politics of Global Order* by Nicolas Guilhot, 2005, New York: Columbia University Press.

2005. OpEd: "New Directions in Development" (with R. Gaiha) *Indian Express*, August 4.

WORKING PAPERS

2010. "Child Undernutrition in India" (with R. Jha and R. Gaiha), Australia South Asia Research Center (ASARC) Working Paper Series.

“Obesity, Affluence and Urbanisation in India” (with R. Jha and R. Gaiha), Australia South Asia Research Center (ASARC) Working Paper Series.

“Affluence, Obesity and Non-Communicable Diseases in India (with R. Jha and R. Gaiha), Australia South Asia Research Center (ASARC) Working Paper Series.

2009. “Who Has Most Say in Cooking?” (with R. Gaiha, and R. Jha), Australia South Asia Research Center (ASARC) Working Paper Series.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

“Democracy & Gender: The Relationship Re-Examined” (Research Article)

“Silence and Theories of Development” (Research Article)

“Where is the Public in Public Health? A Making and Re-making of Democratic Healthcare Governance in India” (Research Article)

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Qualitative study assessing the Lawrence Mammography project based upon Community based participatory research (CBPR) *funded by National Institutes of Health routed through Harvard Catalyst Grant.* (Collaborative Research Project).

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS/ACCEPTANCES

2012. “Legacy of Racial Caste; An Exploratory Ethnography”, Celebration of *ANNALS July 2012* issue. *American Sociological Association.* Denver, Colorado

“Making and Unmaking of Local Democracy in India”, Celebration of *ANNALS July 2012* issue. *American Sociological Association.* Denver, Colorado

2011. “Caste Complexities in the South: Some Hypotheses on Blacks and New Immigrants (with Elijah Anderson and Duke Austin) *American Sociological Association*, Thematic Session, Las Vegas, NV

2010. “The Legacy of Caste: Tales from the Field.” Conference: *Bringing Fieldwork Back In An Ethnographer’s Retreat*, (with Elijah Anderson, Duke Austin and Craig Holloway). Yale University, New Haven, CT. November 5.

2009. “Devastating Droughts”, Conference on Climate Change: Past & Present, *National*

Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Cambridge, MA. USA

2008. "Correlates of Self-Rated Health Status in the Context of Sri Lanka" (with Veena Kulkarni), *American Sociological Association*, Boston, MA, USA

"Engendering Women Activism in Rural India: The Case of Panchayats and Self-help Groups", *American Sociological Association*, Boston, MA, USA.

2007. "The dynamics of poverty in rural India", jointly with Raghav Gaiha, invited paper for the South Asia conference, organized by Monash University and Ausaid, Canberra 25-26 September

2004. "Decentralized Health Care: Understanding the Relationship between Values, Interaction and Health Policy", *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, USA.

"Values in Action: Understanding the relationship Between Values, Social Interaction and the Micro-Macro Linkage", *American Sociological Association*, August San Francisco.

"Village Institutions, Poor and Communities- A Review of District Poverty Initiatives Project in India" (with R.Gaiha) Seventy-Five Years of Development Research, *Department of Comparative Development. Cornell University*, New York.

"Democracy, Rationality and Local Institutions: Case of Rural Health Policy in India". *Workshop on Social Change (Theme: Rationality and Institutions), University of Virginia*.

"Micro-Macro Linkage: Toward A More Inclusive Paradigm" Social Theory Network, *European Sociological Association*. Paris.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2010. "Toward Engendering Women Activism in Rural India: The Case of Panchayats and Self-Help Groups", *Department of Sociology, Yale University*, New Haven.

2009. "Engendering Women Activism in Rural India: The Case of Panchayats and Self-help Groups", *South Asia Colloquium, Yale University*.

2009. "Stratification System in India", for class on Global Social Enterprise, *Yale School of Management, Yale University*.

2008. "Where is the Public in Public Health Development: A Making and Remaking of Democratic Healthcare Governance in India", *Institute of Social Studies, Den Haag, the Netherlands*.

2008. "Reconceptualizing Local/Community Participation in Health: Case from Rural India", *Mayo Clinic, Rochester*.

2005. "The State and the Medical Professional Authority: Exploring the Bitter-Sweet Relationship", *Department of Sociology and the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada*.

1998. "Policy Reforms, Rural Institutions and the Poor in India" (with R.Gaiha), invited contribution to the *International Convention of Asian Scholars*, Noordwijkerhout: The Netherlands).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2009-2013. Yale University, Department of Sociology and South Asia Studies Council

Course Titles: (1) Health and Inequality in India (2) Public Health in India (3) Global Public Health

2007-2008. Harvard University, Department of Sociology & Harvard School of Public Health

Course Titles: (1) Social Capital and Democracy (2) Global Public Health (3) Qualitative Inquiry in Health Research.

1999-2005. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology

Course Titles: (1) Introduction to Sociology (2) Sociology of Medicine (3) Women and Health in South Asia

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer for Peer-reviewed Journals: (1) *Social Science & Medicine* (2) *Contemporary South Asia* (3) *Theory & Society* (4) *Economic Development & Cultural Change* (5) *World Development*

Faculty Reviewer for Global Health Initiative Multidisciplinary Student Team Project Award at Yale University

Workshop Organizer "Public Health in India: Promises & Predicaments", Yale University.

Conference Co-coordinator/Moderator. "Political & Cultural Expressions of Indian Democracy", Yale University.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Indian Sociological Society
International Sociological Association

SOFTWARE SKILLS

MS Office, SAS Statistical Software

LANGUAGE EXPERTISE

Fluency in English, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Sanskrit

REFERENCES

Professor Elijah Anderson
William K. Lanman, Jr Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
Yale University
New Haven, CT 06520
Email: elijah.anderson@yale.edu

Professor Renee C. Fox
Annenberg Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA, USA
Email: rcfox@ssc.upenn.edu

Professor Charles Lemert
University Professor and John E. Andrus Professor of Social Theory Emeritus,
Wesleyan University
Senior Fellow, Center for Comparative Research, Sociology
Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
Email: lemertcharles@gmail.com

Professor Raghav Gaiha
Professor of Public Policy
Faculty of Management Studies
University of Delhi, Delhi, India
Email: gaiha@mit.edu

Professor Raghavendra Jha
Professor of Economics, Executive Director, Australia South Asia Research Centre
Crawford School of Economics & Government
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
The Australian National University
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DISSERTATION SUMMARY

Health, Culture & Democracy: The Case of Decentralization of Healthcare in India

This dissertation is a sociological exploration of India's simultaneous pursuit of development and participatory democracy in the early 1990's to 2005. It thus lies at the intersection of sociology of health, political sociology, culture, and development.

A paradigm shift in development thinking of the Indian government by replacing the state-centric development process (a centralized, bureaucratic top-down model) with a 'people-centric' development process (or a local-decentralized bottom-up system) has presented new opportunities to address some important sociological concerns: what constitutes a community? How do informal structures shape formal political institutions? How do quasi-normative practices inform political ideologies such as, of democracy? How is an international/global policy realized through as well as embedded in local everyday practices and perceptions and norms? Drawing on multi-sited ethnographic study in a southern Indian state, my dissertation investigates the *participative* dimension of the new local-decentralized development structure, referred to as the Panchayati Raj Institutions or PRIs.¹

Public and community participation has figured centrally in the literatures of new social movements, management, organizational theory, development and democracy. It has particularly regained its privileged status in the current development discourse, where it refers not simply to community or project participation but is intimately related to citizenship rights and democratic governance. Such an understanding of participation is itself, not comprehensive because this focuses on the formal politico-institutional indicators of participation, such as citizenship and political representation, and views it as constant, predictable, and a well-defined phenomenon. Research on decentralization adheres to the dominant model of public participation.

While the existing research is valuable, it does not take into account how the everyday practices and the non-official codes allow for differing interpretations of participation. The point of departure of my study,

¹ The seventy-third constitutional amendment, ratified in 1993, which granted constitutional status to PRIs has created a space and opportunity for a participative, accountable, transparent, and democratic-decentralized governance and local development.

therefore, is an emphasis upon the phenomenon of participation that is not fixed and does not just explain decentralization but is a phenomenon whose meanings and forms cannot be assumed and itself needs to be elucidated. As an ethnographic enquiry of the participation process in healthcare development, my project provides for a *re-conceptualization* of the meaning of participation at two levels: (1) it emphasizes the significance of participation of the various actors, e.g. state officials, elected representatives, medical and paramedical personnel, and villagers in shaping the development of the healthcare sector in the local village area; and (2) it highlights the role of culture viz., the norms, key practices, expectations, motivations and network of various central actors in defining participation in healthcare development. It explores how the norms of medical practice in rural areas, the beliefs about the meaning of healthcare, the expectations of the role of the medical and paramedical personnel, the interaction between doctors and village clientele, allow for an alternative understanding of what constitutes participation in a decentralized healthcare system.

Significance: 1. Findings of my project speak to the concerns of the new development paradigm, which, while emphasizing participation, continues to adopt a top-down approach in its understanding by concentrating on the politico-institutional indicators. My study brings to light the significance of grounded, everyday practices of the different actors in not only impacting participation but also in shaping the meaning and consequences of decentralization policy; 2. The cultural model that my study proposes also indicates how the formal global policy ultimately is realized through the norms, expectations, and everyday practices of the consumers which then provide insight into how to more effectively develop a global policy. In this context my ethnographic study highlights the global-local relation in the context of healthcare development and contributes to the growing body of literature on Globalization. 3. It has key policy implications. Participation is an operative ideal of democracy. The cultural model of participation has the potential of broadening the assessment criteria of success and failure of democratic policies such as decentralization of healthcare system by moving beyond the politico-institutional-structural approach whose dominant concern has been with formal regime shifts (the reopening of legislatures, the revival of political parties, and the onset of elections).