

Dr. SOMNATH GHOSAL

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)
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Research interests

- Natural resource management including forest and forest products.
- Indigenous knowledge, livelihoods and cultural-ecology.
- Human-environment interactions.
- Urban biodiversity and planning in the Global South.
- Activities of non-governmental organisations in the developing world.
- Globalisation of education and international students.
- Archival research and qualitative research including participatory appraisal, participation and direct observation, surveys and interview strategies.

Education

- 2010 PhD – School of Geography, University of Nottingham, U.K.
Dissertation: ‘Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in West Bengal: Knowledge, Livelihoods, and Policy’.
Supervisors: Dr. Sarah Jewitt & Prof. Charles Watkins.
Scholarships awarded by the International Office and School of Geography, University of Nottingham.
- 2006 MSc in Human Geography
School of Geography, University of Nottingham, U.K.
- 2005 MA in Geography
Visva-Bharati University, India.
- 2003 BA (Hons.) Geography & Economics
Visva-Bharati University, India.

Summer schools

- 2011 "Participatory forest management as practice and performance".
The Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP),
Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS), Wageningen
University, Netherlands.
- 2009 GISLERS – "Bridging Geographic Information Science (GIS),
Landscape Ecology (LE) and Remote Sensing (RS) for Landscape
Planning".
Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg University, Austria.

Teaching & work experiences

- 2010–Present Fellow in Geography (Assistant Professor), Centre for Studies in
Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), Kolkata, India.
- 2010 Research assistant for GIS4EU project, Centre for Geospatial Science
(CGS), University of Nottingham, UK.
- 2009 – 2010 Tutorial assistant and Demonstrator for B.A./B.Sc. 1st year module
'Physical landscape of Britain', School of Geography, University of
Nottingham, UK.
- 2008 – 2010 Teaching assistant for B.A./B.Sc. 3rd year module 'Ecology,
Conservation and Management' and 'Environment, Development and
Livelihoods', School of Geography, University of Nottingham, UK.

Guest faculty

Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM Calcutta), India.

Course: "Environment and Development", Term 1, Post-Mid Term PGP (2011 – 12).

Academic scholarships, awards & funding

- 1) Grant for attending the 'International Conference on Traditional Forest-related
Knowledge and Culture for Green Economy' (5,000/- RMB (Yuan)
approximately), College of Economics and Management, Northwest A&F
University and Centre for Forestry and Resources Policy Study, Renmin
University, China (2012).

- 2) Financial support for organizing conference on “Governing Forest Resources for Economic Outcomes (!)” (Rs. 70,000/-), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata, India (2011).
- 3) Global South Workshop 2011 funding (€ 2,500/- approximately), The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland (2011).
- 4) NWO/WOTRO grant (€ 750/-), Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP), Wageningen University, Netherlands (2011).
- 5) ERASMUS Studentship (€ 1,500/-), Centre for Geoinformatics (Z_GIS), Salzburg University, Austria (2009).
- 6) Graduate Research Support Fund (£600/- & £200/-), School of Geography, University of Nottingham, UK (2008 and 2009).
- 7) Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) grant for the course on ‘Regression’ (£200/-), Methods and Data Institute, UK (2008).
- 8) Tuition Fee Research Scholarship (£30,000/-), International Office, University of Nottingham, UK (2007 – 2010).
- 9) APEEJAY Trust Funding (£7,000/-), India (2005).
- 10) Developing Solution Scholarship (£4,435/-), University of Nottingham, UK (2005).
- 11) Merit Scholarship, Visva-Bharati University, India (2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004).
- 12) West Bengal State Government Merit Scholarship, India (1998).

Publications

Books

- 1) Ghosal, S. (In progress). *Sustainable Forestry: People, Culture and Economics*. Manak Publications: New Delhi.

Journal papers (Refereed / Peer Reviewed)

- 1) Ghosal, S. (Accepted). Are minor forest products truly ‘minor’ in forest fringe social life? *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*.
- 2) Ghosal, S. (2012). Integral economics and the exploration of indigenous knowledge. *Corvinus Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, Vol. 3 (2).
- 3) Ghosal, S. (2012). The Role of Formal Marketing Channels in NTFP Business. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, Vol. 31 (8).
- 4) Ghosal, S. (2011). Pre-colonial and colonial forest culture in the Presidency of Bengal. *Human Geographies*, Vol. 5 (1), p. 107 – 116.

- 5) Ghosal, S. (2011). Importance of non-timber forest products in native household economy. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning*, Vol. 4 (3), p. 159 – 168.
- 6) Ghosal, S., Lin, N. and Cross, I. (2010). The role of Open Source Software for handling INSPIRE-compliant data. *Geoinformatics* (CMedia B.V., Netherlands), Vol. 13 (8), p. 16 – 22.
- 7) Ghosal, S. (2009). Is nature 'cultural' or 'produced'? : An exploratory analysis based on recent Human Geographical studies. *Annals of the National Association of Geographers, India*, Vol. 29 (1), p. 89 – 96.
- 8) Ghosal, S. (2009). The socio-economic impact of Visva-Bharati [University] at Bolpur municipal area. *'Sraboni'*, Vol. 3 (1), p. 98 – 108.
- 9) Ghosal, S. (2009). Escalation of knowledge: A critical analysis. *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 71 (3), p. 233 – 239.
- 10) Ghosal, S. (2008). Philosophy of regional science. *Indian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 40 (2), p. 151 – 153.
- 11) Ghosal, S. (2007). Contents of Economic Geography: An Interdisciplinary Approach. *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 69 (3), p. 293 – 298.
- 12) Ghosal, S. (2005). Geographical contributions of the work of Pierre Bourdieu. *Indian Journal of Geography and Environment*, Vol. 10, p. 1 – 7.
- 13) Ghosal, S. (In progress). Significance of the NTFP policy in terms of forest ecology management in the Global South.

Book chapter / congress / conference proceedings (Refereed / Peer Reviewed)

- 14) Ghosal, S. (2011). *Community Based Approach: Why, When and to What Extent?* Proceedings of the National Seminar on 'Community, Institutions and Participation in Natural Resource Governance', Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, India.
- 15) Ghosal, S., Watkins, C. and Jewitt, S. (2010). *An investigation of the importance of non-timber forest products documentation in 11 forest fringe villages of West Bengal, India*. Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2010 Annual Meeting Proceedings, Washington DC, USA.
- 16) Ghosal, S. (2009). *Marketing of Non-Timber Forest Products Produced in Dry-Deciduous Forest of West Bengal, India*. The XIII World Forestry Congress Proceedings, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Invited paper presentation

- 1) Sustainable Forest Ecology Management: Religious Faith, Beliefs and Practices, Northwest A&F University, Yangling, China (2012).
- 2) Financial Empowerment and the Vulnerability of Urban Environment. A. C. College of Commerce, Jalpaiguri, India (2012).
- 3) Conservation of open dry-deciduous forest areas of West Bengal, India, through the socioeconomic progress of forest dwellers. Graduate School, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2011).
- 4) Rights, empowerment and the participatory forest management. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM Calcutta), India (2011).
- 5) Forest Development Agency (FDA): A Way to Empower Tribal Women. National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB), Eastern Regional Centre, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India (2011).
- 6) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs): Knowledge, Livelihoods and Policy. Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India (2010).
- 7) The significance of official naming of non-timber forest products in West Bengal. School of Geography, University of Nottingham, UK (2010).
- 8) Marketing of minor forest products in the protected and open forest areas of West Bengal, India. University of Nottingham, UK (2009).

Research profile

- 1) Understanding of ecosystem structure and functions and develop test intervention strategy for improvement of livelihood in the identified landscape (2011 – present).
- 2) Urban forestry, human health and wellbeing: A case study in Kolkata (2010 – present).
- 3) CSSSC – UNICEF (India) Social Inclusion Cell (2010).
- 4) The role of Open Source Software for handling INSPIRE – compliant data (2010).
- 5) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in West Bengal: Knowledge, Livelihoods and Policy (2007 – 2010).
- 6) The geography of international students: A case study of Indian students at the University of Nottingham (2006).
- 7) The socio-economic impact of Visva-Bharati University at the Bolpur municipal area (2005).

- 8) 'Perspective Plan of 2020' for Sriniketan-Santiniketan Development Area (SSDA) (2003).

Conference / workshop & seminar participation

- 1) '2012 Yangling International Agri-science Forum' and 'International Conference on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Culture for Green Economy', Yangling, China (5th – 8th November, 2012).
- 2) 'Workshop on "Kolkata – Risks and Readiness" to mitigate urban disaster', The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata, India (14th June, 2012).
- 3) 'Sustainability Transition of Urban Space', Centre for Contemporary Communication, Kolkata, India (4th June, 2012).
- 4) 'Why Development Matters: Capture better the Complexity of Human Life', Department of Economics, University of North Bengal and A.C. College of Commerce, Jalpaiguri, India (26th – 27th March, 2012).
Chaired Plenary Session II.
- 5) 'The 6th Global South Doctoral Workshop', Graduate School, Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (26th November – 3rd December, 2011).
Discussant for the paper '*Economic valuation model as a basis for the rehabilitation of damaged mangrove forest using spatial data based*' by Dewi Wahyuni K. Baderan, Universitas Gadjah Mada.
- 6) 'Development, Logistics, and Governance', Calcutta Research Group (CRG), Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, India (8 – 10th September, 2011).
Discussant for the session 'Configuring Spaces: The Logic of Administration'. Papers comprised with '*Producing urban spaces as fields of subjectivities*' by Livio Boni, University of Toulouse Le Mirail; '*The final making of colonial Jalpaiguri: 1865 – 1900*' by A. Ghosh, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata and '*Power, authority and mobility in seventeenth-century North India*' by A. Mukhopadhyay, University of Hyderabad.
- 7) 'Governing forest resources for economic outcome (!)', Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India (23rd – 24th June, 2011).
- 8) 'Community, Institutions and Participation in Natural Resource Governance', Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India (3rd – 4th March, 2011).
- 9) 'Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2010 Annual Meeting', Washington DC, USA (14 – 18th April, 2010).

- 10) 'Symposium on Sexuality and South Asia: New Directions', University of Nottingham, UK (26th March, 2010).
- 11) 'The European International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE) Conference 2009', Faculty of Natural Science, Department of Geography and Geology, Salzburg University, Austria (12th – 16th July, 2009).
- 12) 'Geoinformatics Forum / Applied Geoinformatics (AGIT) Conference', Z_GIS - Centre for Geoinformatics & GIScience at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria (8th -10th July, 2009).
- 13) 'Object-Based Landscape Analysis Meeting', University of Nottingham, UK (7th – 8th April, 2009).
- 14) 'Issues in using archives', University of Nottingham, UK (2008).
- 15) 'Workshop on Mapping Technology', University of Nottingham, UK (2006).
- 16) 'International Seminar on River-Embankment and Floods', Visva-Bharati University, India (2004).
- 17) 'Innovative teaching in science', IICB, Kolkata, India (2003).

Organised seminars / workshops & conferences

- Principal coordinator for the conference on 'Governing forest resources for economic outcome (!)', Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India (2011).
- Local organising committee member of the 'Object-Based Landscape Analysis Meeting' & the 'Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society (RSPSoc) Annual Lecture and Conversazione', University of Nottingham, UK (2009).
- Core-member of the organising committee for 'International Seminar on River-Embankment and Floods', Visva-Bharati University, India (2004).

Academic & research training

- 1) Researching in External organisations (2008).
- 2) Case study (2008).
- 3) Observational and ethnographic research in social sciences (2008).
- 4) Introduction to the skills of teamwork (2008).
- 5) Getting into the habit of writing (2008).
- 6) Questionnaire (2008).
- 7) Getting published: A practical workshop (2008).
- 8) How to prepare an effective poster presentation (2008).
- 9) Introduction to qualitative research methodologies (2008).
- 10) Preparing for the viva (2008).
- 11) Finishing your thesis (2008).
- 12) Preparing and presenting an effective CV for PhD and MPhil students (2007).
- 13) Intellectual property rights and copyright (2007).
- 14) Becoming an academic researcher (2007).

- 15) Presentation skills-building confidence (2007).
- 16) Building a bibliography (2007).
- 17) Planning research and time management (2007).
- 18) Nature of the PhD and the supervision process (2007).
- 19) Introduction to library skill (2006).
- 20) Research design in social science (2006).
- 21) Research methods in social sciences (2005-06).
- 22) Seminar presentation and practice (2005).
- 23) Conversational English (2005).

Technical skills

- Information – Technology Application (2004-05)
- Introduction to SPSS 2007 (2008).
- Using of NVivo to analyse qualitative data (2008).
- Using 'Regression' for qualitative research (2008).
- Enhancing website (2008).

Professional affiliations

- South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics.
- National Association of Geographers, India (Life member).
- World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology.
- American Association of Geographers, USA.
- Regional Science Association, India (Life member).
- The Geographical Society of India, India (Life member).

Current administrative duties

- Convenor for publication committee
- Library committee member

Referee for the journals

Journal of Medicinal Plants Research

International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation

Journal of Ecology and Natural Environment

Journal of Plant Science

Journal of Agricultural Research

Other information

Date of birth: 16th December 1981

Nationality: Indian

Languages known: English, Hindi and Bengali.