

**Seminar on Gender, Civil Society and the State in Contemporary South Asia: Preventive Approaches
Gender Based Violence**

Participant Biographies

Jacqueline Bhabha, *FXB Director of Research; Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health; Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Lecturer in Law, Harvard Law School; Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School*

From 1997 to 2001 Bhabha directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago. Prior to 1997, she was a practicing human rights lawyer in London and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She has published extensively on issues of transnational child migration, refugee protection, children's rights and citizenship. She is the editor of *Children Without A State* (2011), author of *Moving Children: Young Migrants and the Challenge of Rights* (forthcoming, Princeton University Press, 2014), and the editor of *Coming of Age: Reframing the Approach to Adolescent Rights* (forthcoming, UPenn Press, 2014).

Nandita Bhatla, *Technical Specialist - Gender, Violence and Rights, ICRW, India Office*

Nandita Bhatla is the Senior Technical Specialist and thematic lead for the portfolio on gender, gender-based violence and rights at the Asia Regional Office of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). She has nearly 20 years of experience in the field of gender and development, with particular expertise in the gender mainstreaming and gender analysis, primary prevention of gender-based violence, and understanding the links between gender-based violence and other development issues such as education, women's property rights, HIV/AIDS, and governance. Besides leading operations research and program evaluations, Nandita has also been involved in capacity building and program design. She is also part of strategic advocacy networks and groups on issues of gender mainstreaming, gender-based violence and land rights for women in India.

Tanya D'Lima, *Gender Consultant, World Bank*

Tanya D'Lima is a consultant with the World Bank working on gender and social inclusion in South Asia. She has worked on projects mainstreaming gender, urban women's labour force participation and gender based violence. Prior to the World Bank, she consulted for the Asia division of Search For Common Ground, an international conflict resolution organization based in Washington, DC, and John Snow Inc., a public health research and consulting firm. D'Lima holds a Master's degree in International Development and Social Change from Clark University.

Debotri Dhar, *Visiting Assistant Professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, College of Wooster, Ohio*

Debotri Dhar is currently Visiting Assistant Professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the College of Wooster, Ohio, where she has been appointed to the Gillespie Visiting Professorship for 2014-5. She has previously taught at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and held a research affiliation at Boston University. Her interests lie in feminist theory; gender in South Asia, with an emphasis on the politics, literatures and cultures of modern India; interdisciplinarity; gender violence and transnational feminism; and feminist pedagogy. Debotri's publications include Debotri Dhar, ed. *Education and Gender* (London/New York: Bloomsbury, 2014, forthcoming), several book chapters, an occasional paper on pedagogy and sexual violence (for Manavi, a New Jersey based South Asian women's rights organization. Papers funded by a grant from the US Dept. of Justice, Office of Violence against Women), and articles in

peer-reviewed journals such as *Postcolonial Text*. She has also presented conference papers at universities such as Yale, Princeton, Rutgers and Bonn; and delivered several public talks. Her awards and honors include an Excellence Fellowship, a South Asian Studies research award, an Institute for Research on Women Graduate Fellowship, the Linda Rothman Award for Outstanding Teaching, and a Distinction in Women's Studies. Debortri holds a Bachelors degree (Honors) from the University of Delhi, India, a Master's in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford, UK, and earned her Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University, USA, in 2013.

Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, *Director, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India*

Meena Hewett, *Executive Director, Harvard South Asia Institute*

Meena is the Executive Director of the Harvard South Asia Institute (SAI) and provides the administrative leadership to its day to day operations. She works with the faculty across all professional schools at Harvard University and the College, as well as at peer institutions to catalyze interdisciplinary partnerships on issues critical to South Asia with the goal to generate new knowledge on critical issues facing the region. She oversees the work of SAI offices at Harvard, Dhaka, Karachi, Lahore, Delhi and Mumbai, which works with think tanks, governments, NGOs, and south Asianists and connects them to faculty and students at Harvard. Prior to her position at Harvard, Meena served as the Executive Director of Saheli, a community based nonprofit that supports South Asian immigrants affected by family violence in the US. She developed and implemented a prototype curriculum to train law enforcement officers on South Asian cultural awareness and its effectiveness in community policing and first response. Since the initial pilot program in 2009, the resultant training has been repeated in state agencies, hospitals, schools, community groups, and police departments in 13 Massachusetts communities. Before transitioning to work focused on social issues, Meena was an exhibit designer and worked in architecture and museum design.

Orla Kelly, *Research Associate, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health*

Akshay Mangla, *Assistant Professor, Harvard Business School*

Akshay Mangla is an assistant professor in the Business, Government and International Economy Unit, where he teaches the course of the same name in the MBA required curriculum. Professor Mangla's primary expertise lies in the political economy of development, with a regional focus on South Asia. His current research examines the governance of public services in rural India, particularly in the education sector. In addition, he has conducted research on private initiatives to enforce labor standards in global supply chains. He is a faculty associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the South Asia Institute at Harvard. Professor Mangla received his Ph.D. in Political Science from M.I.T. He holds a M.Sc. in Management Research from the University of Oxford, and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B.S. in Finance and B.A. in Philosophy. His research has been supported by the American Institute of Indian Studies and the National Security Education Program's David L. Boren Fellowship.

Poonam Muttreja, *Executive Director, Population Foundation of India*

Poonam Muttreja is the Executive Director of the Population Foundation of India (PFI) and a member of the Family Planning 2020 Reference Group (a global architecture to improve women's access to family planning).

Poonam has more than 30 years of experience in the socio-development sector. Before joining PFI, Ms. Muttreja worked with the McArthur Foundation as India Country Director where she was responsible for the Foundation's grants in India which had a focus on population and development issues. An innovator in the field of development, in the earlier stage of her career she has founded organizations in areas of social justice (SRUTI), craft (DASTKAR) and programs on leadership (Founder Director of the Ashoka Foundation, India) especially in the field of women's health. Ms. Muttreja has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Rashmi Sinha, *Assistant Lead Director India, UKIERI School Leadership Development Programme; Director, Mahila Samakhya Uttar Pradesh*

Rashmi Sinha works with National College for Teaching & Leadership-National Centre for School Leadership (supported by UK-India Educational Research Initiative) located in National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi. Rashmi has over twenty years of experience in the field of education and development where she lead initiatives in the areas of School Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Curriculum and Textbooks development, Teacher Education, Girls' Education and Women Empowerment. She played an active role in framing National Curriculum Framework (NCF) - 2005.

Shantha Sinha, *Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad and Former Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) , Government of India, New Delhi, India.*

Prof. Shantha Sinha is an anti-child labour activist of international reputation. She is the founder of Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation, popularly known as MV Foundation . As the first Chairperson of the NCPCR she headed the Commission for two consecutive terms (3 years each) from 2007-2013; The NCPCR was set up in March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005).