

## University of Iowa Workshop

# DIASPORA PHILANTHROPY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Free and open  
to the public

Friday, March 30 • 4:00-5:30 p.m. in 1117 UCC (IP Commons)

### **KEYNOTE BY RAJESH TANDON**

Saturday, March 31 • 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in 1117 UCC (IP Commons)

### **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Dr. Rajesh Tandon is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. He founded the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a voluntary organization providing support to grassroots initiatives in South Asia, twenty-eight years ago, and continues to be its Chief Functionary since 1982. An electronics engineer (IIT, Kanpur), he studied for the MBA at IIM, Calcutta and the PhD at Case Western Reserve University. Specializing in social and organizational change, his contributions to the enhancement of perspectives and capacities of many voluntary activists and organizations revolve around issues of participatory research, people-centred development, policy reform and networking in India, South Asia and globally.

Dr. Tandon has authored more than 100 articles, a dozen books and numerous training manuals on democratic governance, civic engagement, civil society, governance and management of NGOs, participatory research and people-centered development. He has served in an advisory capacity on numerous expert groups of several ministries of central and state governments and the Planning Commission in India. In addition, he has served as Advisor to the Commonwealth Foundation, UNDP, and numerous other international agencies. For his distinguished work on gender issues, the Government of India honored him with the prestigious Award in Social Justice in March 2007.

*This event has been made possible by a Major Projects Award from International Programs.  
It is co-sponsored by the South Asian Studies Program and CARTHA ([www.cartha.org](http://www.cartha.org)).*

## FRIDAY, MARCH 30

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

4:00pm

*Opening Remarks*

Provost Barry Butler, University of Iowa

*Introduction*

Mark Sidel

*Philanthropy in India Today: The Potential for Transformative Democratisation*

Rajesh Tandon, Founder and President,  
Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA),  
New Delhi, India

## SATURDAY, MARCH 31

### PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30am

*Welcome Remarks*

Roberta Marvin, Associate Dean of International Programs, University of Iowa

9:40am

*Panel I: Philanthropy and Development*

Mark Sidel, Moderator

*Tapping the Indian Diaspora for Indian Development: A Survey of Indian Transnational Organizations*

Rina Agarwala, Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Johns Hopkins University

*Development and the Desi: Non-Resident Indians and the Politics of 'Improving' Home*

Pablo Bose, Assistant Professor of Geography,  
University of Vermont

*Global Indians Giving Back: Diaspora Development as a Transnational Social Field*

Meena Khandelwal, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies, University of Iowa

*Philanthropy and Gender: The Indian American Diaspora*

Ajailiu Niumai, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP)  
School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, India

11:00-11:20am

Comments from Jay Sehgal, Paul Greenough, and Van Dusenbery

11:20-11:50am

General discussion with participants and audience

## PARTICIPANTS

**Rina Agarwala** (Johns Hopkins University)

**Usha Balakrishnan** (Founder, President, and Board Chair, CARTHA)

**Erica Bornstein** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

**Pablo Shiladitya Bose** (University of Vermont)

**Verne A. "Van" Dusenbery** (Hamline University; Carleton College)

**Paul Greenough** (University of Iowa)

**Meena Khandelwal** (University of Iowa)

**Ajailiu Niumai** (University of Hyderabad)

**Renu Pariyadath** (University of Iowa)

**Jay Sehgal** (Sehgal Family Foundation)

**Mark Sidel** (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Archana Sridhar** (University of Toronto; South Asian Philanthropy Project)

**Margaret Walton-Roberts** (Wilfrid Laurier University Ontario)

2:00pm

*Panel II: Case Studies in Giving*

Mark Sidel, Moderator

*Being Political in the Indian Transnation: Theorizing the Diaspora's Role in Altering the Discourse of Development*

Renu Pariyadath, Ph.D. student in Communications, University of Iowa

*Trends and Themes of South Asian American Giving: Reflections from The South Asian Philanthropy Project*

Archana Sridhar, Assistant Dean, University of Toronto Law School

*Challenges of Charismatic Leadership and Transnational Collaboration: The Case of Guru Nanak Mission Medical & Educational Trust, Dhahan-Kaleran, Punjab*

Van Dusenbery, Visiting Professor of Anthropology, Carleton College  
Professor of Anthropology, Hamline University

*When All That Glitters is Not Gold: Comprehending the Migration-Development Nexus in the Kerala Punjab Context*

Margaret Walton-Roberts, Associate Professor of Geography, Director, International Migration Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University

3:15-3:35pm

Comments from Usha Balakrishnan, Ajailiu Niumai, and Rajesh Tandon

3:35-4:15pm

General discussion with participants and audience

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Dr. Tandon has authored more than 100 articles, a dozen books and numerous training manuals on democratic governance, civic engagement, civil society, governance and management of NGOs, participatory research and people-centered development. He has served in an advisory capacity on numerous expert groups of several ministries of central and state governments and the Planning Commission in India. In addition, he has served as Advisor to the Commonwealth Foundation, UNDP, and numerous other international agencies. For his distinguished work on gender issues, the Government of India honored him with the prestigious Award in Social Justice in March 2007.

## PARTICIPANTS

**RINA AGARWALA** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. Agarwala publishes and lectures on international development, gender, labor, social movements, and Indian politics. Her forthcoming book, *Dignifying Discontent: Informal Workers and the State in India* (Cambridge University Press), examines alternative labor movements among informal workers in India. She is the co-editor of *Whatever Happened to Class? Reflections from South Asia* (Routledge Press, 2008). Agarwala has also published articles on informal work and gender in *International Labor Journal* (2012), *Political Science* (2010); *Research in the Sociology of Work* (2009); *Theory and Society* (2008), *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (2007), *Critical Asian Studies* (2006), *Social Forces* (2006), and *Indian Journal of Labour Economics* (2002). Agarwala has worked on international development and gender issues at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in China, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India, and Women's World Banking (WWB) in New York.

**USHA R. BALAKRISHNAN** is President of Cartha Global Ventures LLC focusing on humanity-centered partnership and business incubation. Usha also volunteers as CEO and Board Chair of CARTHA, a 501c3 nonprofit she founded in 2006. Now spanning five continents and three generations, CARTHA's Collaborative Doers (scientists, physicians, entrepreneurs, filmmakers, writers, artists, lawyers, and other professionals) bridge the fields of Technology Transfer, Global Health, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility. Prior to CARTHA, Usha was a grantee (2004-2006) of three major

philanthropies (Rockefeller, Kauffman, and Gates). She worked at the University of Iowa for 15 years directing corporate partnerships and managing inventions and patent licensing functions. Usha received her B.Com from Bombay University and her MBA from the University of Iowa. She serves on the 2012-2015 Board of the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club.

**ERICA BORNSTEIN** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research interests include philanthropy, charity, humanitarianism, non-governmental organizations, political anthropology, and the anthropology of religion. She has published two ethnographic monographs: *Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi* (Stanford Univ. Press 2012) and *The Spirit of Development: Protestant NGOs, Morality, and Economics in Zimbabwe* (Stanford Univ Press 2005), and is co-editor of *Forces of Compassion: Humanitarianism Between Ethics and Politics* (School for Advanced Research Press 2011).

**PABLO SHILADITYA BOSE** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Vermont. His work focuses on culture, space and power, with a particular focus on the global Indian diaspora and its involvement in various forms of development within India. He is currently working on a manuscript entitled "Development and the Desi" about the transnational economic, political and cultural practices through which diasporas may seek to transform their former homelands. A second project explores the transnational linkages that characterize the rise of so-called bourgeois



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environmentalism amongst certain urban Indian elites. Recent publications include “Kolkata, Transnationalism and the Diasporic Imaginary” in *Indian Transnationalism: A Reader* (New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2012), “Mapping Movements: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Migration Research” (Oxford: Edward Elgar, 2012), and (with Peter Penz and Jay Drydyk) *Displaced by Development: Ethics, Rights and Responsibilities* (Cambridge: CUP, 2011).

**VERNE A. (“VAN”) DUSENBERY** is Visiting Professor of Anthropology at Carleton College (on leave from Hamline University, where he is Professor of Anthropology and chair of the global studies program). He is the editor, with Darshan S. Tatla, of *Sikh Diaspora Philanthropy in Punjab: Global Giving for Local Good* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009), to which he contributed a substantive chapter on the religious and cultural underpinnings of Sikh diaspora philanthropy. He is currently working, with Punjabi collaborators, on a life history of a Canada-returned Sikh philanthropist, Budh Singh Dhahan. A collection of his essays, *Sikhs at Large: Religion, Culture, and Politics in Global Perspective*, was published by OUP in 2008.

**PAUL GREENOUGH** is Professor of History and Community and Behavioral Health at the University of Iowa where he teaches modern Indian and global health histories. His principal research interests concern human-environmental interactions and the amelioration of disease and underdevelopment. He is the author and editor of several books, most recently *Against Stigma: Global Studies in Caste and Race Since Durban*, which he coedited with Balmurli Natrajan (2009 Orient Blackswan). He is currently working on a study of non-human diasporas from South Asia.

**MEENA KHANDELWAL** is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies at University of Iowa. She has conducted extensive research on gender and Hindu renunciation and has continued to work on issues of transnationalism and cosmopolitanism in the context of sannyasa. Recently, her interests have turned to the cultural politics of Indian diaspora on the one hand and gendered issues of development on the other. These interests converge around the complexities of human dynamics, identifications and aspirations in the context of development NGOs funded or directed by US-based people of Indian background.

**AJAILIU NIUMAI (“AZAI”)** is Associate Professor in the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, University of Hyderabad. Previously, she had worked as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. Her research interests include gender (trafficking of women), NGOs, Indian diaspora philanthropy, and north east studies. Her article ‘Development and Discontentment in North East: Perspective on India’s Look East Policy’ is published in Thingnam Kishan Singh (eds), *Look East Policy and India’s North East: Polemics and Perspectives*, Delhi, Concept 2009. Her paper on ‘Religion of the Liangmai Nagas in North East India’ is published in D. Murali Manohar (eds), *Dalits and Religion*, Delhi, Atlantic Publishers 2009. Her article on Indian Diaspora Philanthropy: A Sociological Perspective is published in *International Journal of Anthropology* “Man In India” Vol. 91 No 1. Jan - March 2011, Brij Maharaj (eds), Delhi, Serial Publications.

**RENU PARIYADATH** is a third year PhD student in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa. Her research interests coalesce around issues of culture, citizenship, globalization and social justice. Her doctoral dissertation will focus on the Association of India’s Development, a volunteer movement linking India and the US, to understand the political practices of Indian

transnational migrants and their efforts to rework the discourse of development.

**JAY SEHGAL** is the Executive Vice President of the Sehgal Family Foundation, and Representative at the S.M. Sehgal Foundation in India. An alumnus of University of Iowa, he worked in Information Technology in leading private sector organizations in the U.S. and India for sixteen years and served as Director of Information Technology at Proagro Group of Companies, India. Jay then served as Managing Trustee and Executive Director of S. M. Sehgal Foundation and IRRAD for 10 years. Jay represents the Sehgal Family Foundation on the Board of Trustees for Ashoka Trust for Research in Environment and the Ecology (ATREE) and the Iowa International Center. He resides in Des Moines, Iowa with his wife Veena and two boys.

**MARK SIDEL** is Doyle-Bascom Professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Though now a Badger, he was a happy Hawkeye for many years. He has written on diaspora giving, the legal frameworks of philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector in India and elsewhere in Asia, and served with the Ford Foundation in New Delhi, Beijing, Hanoi, and Bangkok.

**ARCHANA SRIDHAR** is Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and co-founder of The South Asian Philanthropy Project (<http://southasianphilanthropy.org>), which aims to inspire increased giving and volunteering among South Asians in the US and Canada. She received her J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School and completed a Fulbright fellowship in Guatemala to study nonprofit and tax law reform. Archana has worked in foundation and corporate relations for the international humanitarian organization ReSurge International and as a tax lawyer at Sullivan & Worcester LLP. Her research addresses diaspora philanthropy and tax law, including publications in *The Philanthropist*, *Fordham International Law Journal* and the *Berkeley Journal of International Law*.

**MARGARET WALTON-ROBERTS** is an Associate Professor in the Geography and Environmental studies department at Wilfrid Laurier University Ontario, and director of the International Migration Research Centre. Her research addresses gender, Indian migration, immigrant settlement in mid-sized Canadian cities, and the impact of transnational networks in both source and destination locales. She has published articles on gendered migration (India-Canada marriages, migration of nurses) and transnational networks (health philanthropy, remittance-led village projects in Punjab). Her recent work examines the links between immigration and trade between Canada and India, in contrast to Australia-India relations.