

LYLA MEHTA

Curriculum Vitae

Qualifying Experience:

Sociologist working on water and sanitation; gender and forced displacement, rights, access to natural resources and power/ knowledge interfaces in policy debates addressed through the case of water. Research and field experience in rural India and South Africa and consultancy work for the UN system, the World Commission on Dams and DFID. Research Fellow with the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, KNOTS. Professor II at Noragric, Norway. Extensive teaching experience and convenor of the water and sanitation domain, STEPS Centre. Member of the scientific committee of the Global Environment Change and Human Security Project, International Human Dimensions Project.

Qualifications:

1998 Doctoral research at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. Thesis title: "Contexts of Scarcity: The Political Ecology of Water in Kutch, India."

1992 University of Vienna, Austria. "Magister rer. soc. oec" (Masters in Economic and Social Sciences). Distinction. (Sociology and and subject combination in development studies)

Employment History:

2009 - **Professor II** (20% appointment) at the Institute of International Environment and Development (Noragric), Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Aas.

2006-2007 **Guest Researcher** at the Institute of International Environment and Development (Noragric), Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Aas.

1998 - **Research Fellow** at the Institute of Development Studies, Environment Team. Work entails contributing to the research programme of the Environment Group, conducting commissioned studies and teaching of post-graduate students.

1996 **Teaching**, School of African and Asian Studies, University of Sussex

1995-1996 **Associate Researcher**, Overseas Development Institute, London. Research Project: "Contrasting Perceptions of Water Management and Water Scarcity: Kutch and the Sardar Sarovar Project in India." Apart from extensive research in water-scarce areas in Kutch, the work entailed the analysis of state-level water management policies as well as drawing up of policy-relevant conclusions on the socio-economic component in water resources management with an aim to balance needs at local and higher levels of administration, planning and management.

- 1995-1997** **Research Project:** "Zur kulturellen Evolution der Beziehungen zwischen Gesellschaft und Natur." (Cultural Evolution in the relationship between society and nature). (Department of Social Ecology, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and Continuing Education, Vienna).
- 1993 - 1994** **Consultant** at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Unit for the Integration of Women in Industrial Development. Research for region-based typology studies on the "Participation of Women in Manufacturing: Patterns, Determinants and Future Trends".

Selected Research Projects:

- 2006-09** Going to scale: The Potential of Community-led Total Sanitation. A three country DFID funded project and I am project leader.
- 2006 -** Domain leader – water and sanitation domain. Social technical and ecological pathways to sustainability. ESRC-funded research centre at IDS, SPRU.
- 2003-2005** Water, Science and Scarcity: Investigating the Solutions. This project investigates the assumption underlying global debates around water scarcity and the resultant solutions (funded by the ESRC).
- 2000-2003** Sustainable Livelihoods in Southern Africa: Institutions, Governance and Policy Processes (three year project funded by DFID with ODI, PLAAS, IDS and others). My work involves understanding the implications of changing policy and institutional dynamics for people's access to water.
- 2000-2003** Gender, Displacement and Resistance: Drawing Lessons from the Narmada Experience. This project investigates the gendered implications of forced displacement and seeks to develop gender-sensitive policy guidelines around resettlement and rehabilitation processes associated with large dams (funded by ESCOR – DFID).

Selected Commissioned work:

- 2006** Author of 'Water and Human Development.' Background paper for the Human Development Report, 2006.
- 2005** Rights, Risks and Responsibilities' approach to implementing stakeholder participation'. A scoping report commissioned by the former commissioners of the world commission on dams (with Jeremy Bird and Larry Haas).
- 1999-2000** Consultant to the World Commission on Dams (WCD) on the formulation of best practice around resettlement guidelines. Specifically, I co-authored (with Bina Srinivasan) a paper titled 'Balancing Pains and Gains: A Perspective Paper on Gender and Dams' which was a key paper for the

Thematic Review 1.1, The Social Impacts of Large Dams: Equity and Distributional Issues.

1999 Consultant to the Environment Policy Department of DFID for the Gender Mainstreaming Exercise. Work entailed writing a piece on gender and the environment for the website and providing guidance on how to make the operational principles more gender-sensitive.

Teaching Experience:

2007 - External examiner, MA in International Development, Bradford University.

2007 Visiting lecturer. Ochanamizu University, Tokyo.

2004- Co-director of the MA on Gender and Development.

Since 2000 Convenor and lecturer of the course Gender and the Environment on the M.A. programme in Gender and at the Institute of Development Studies
Convenor and main lecturer of the course Development Anthropology and Sociology on the MPhil course in Development Studies at IDS; DPhil supervision.

Since 2000 Doctoral supervision (9 students) and extensive MPhil and MA supervision.

Selected Publications:

Books

Forthcoming 2009, *The Limits to Scarcity*, Earthscan

2010 (Forthcoming) *Shit Matters. The Potential of Community-led Total Sanitation*. Practical Action. (edited volume with Synne Movik).

2009 (edited volume) *Displaced by Development. Confronting Marginalisation and Gender Injustice*, New Delhi: Sage

2008 (edited volume with Katarzyna Grabska) *Problematizing Rights and Policies for Forced Migration. Whose needs are right?* Palgrave Macmillan

2005 *The Politics and Poetics of Water: Naturalising Scarcity in Western India*, New Delhi: Orient Longman

Peer reviewed articles

Under Revision 'Water and Human Development' *Journal of Development Studies*

2008 'Over the Rainbow. The politics of researching citizenship and marginality', *Action Research*, 6.2: 233-253.

2007 'Whose scarcity? Whose property? The case of water in western India', *Land Policy* 24: 654-663

2005 'The General Agreement on Trade and Services and Poor people's right to water', *Natural Resources Forum* 29.2: 154-165

2003 'Contexts and Constructions of Scarcity', *Economic and Political Weekly* 38.48 November 29

2003 'Struggles around 'Publicness' and the Right to Access: Perspectives from the Water Domain', in *Global Public Goods: Making Globalisation Work for All* (edited by Inge Kaul et al) Oxford University Press: New York

2001 'The Manufacture of Popular Perceptions of Scarcity in Gujarat, India. Dams and Water-Related Narratives in Gujarat, India' *World Development*, 29.12: 2025-2041

2001 'Water, Difference and Power. Questioning Notions of Water users in Kutch, India', *International Journal for Water* 1.3 and 4

2001 'The World Bank and its Growing Knowledge Empire', *Human Organization* 60.2: 189-197

2000 'Drought Diagnosis: Dryland Blindness of Planners' *Economic and Political Weekly* July 1-7

1999 'From Darkness to Light: Critical Reflections on the World Development Report 1998-99', *Journal of Development Studies* 36.1: 151-162

Book Chapters

Forthcoming 2009 'The scare, naturalisation and politicisation of scarcity', in Mehta, L. (ed), *The Limits to Scarcity*, Earthscan: London

Forthcoming 2009 'A Perspective Paper on Gender and Dams', in Ahmed, Sara and Margreet Zwarteveen (eds), *Gender and Water Reader*, Sage

Forthcoming 2009 'Mobilising around the Right to Water' (with Lisa Thompson et al), in Thompson, L. *Citizenship Mobilisation*. Zed Books

2009 'The double bind. A gender analysis of forced displacement and resettlement', in Mehta, L. (ed) *Displaced by development. Confronting marginalisation and gender injustice* New Delhi: Sage

2008 'Why are human rights violated with impunity?' in Grabska, K. and Mehta, L. (eds) *Problematising Rights and Policies in Forced Migration. Whose needs are right?* Palgrave Macmillan

2008 'Contexts and Constructions of Scarcity' in Baviskar, A (ed) *Contested Grounds: Essays on Nature, Culture and Power*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press

2007 with Jaideep Gupte, 'Disjunctures in Labelling Refugees and Oustees', in J. Moncrieffe and R. Eyben (eds) [*The Power of Labelling: How People are Categorized and Why it Matters*](#), London: Earthscan

2006 'Do human rights make a difference to poor people? The case of water in South Africa', in Newell, P. and J. Wheeler (eds) *Rights, resources and accountability*, London: Zed Books

2006 with Anand Punja 'Changing Water Worlds. Official and Resettlers' Perceptions of the Water/Well-being Nexus', in Baviskar, A. (ed) *The Cultural Politics of Water*, New Delhi: Permanent Black

2005 'Citizenship and the Right to Water. Drawing Lessons from South Africa's Free Basic Water Policy' in Kabeer, K. (ed) *Meanings of Rights and Citizenship*, London: Zed Books

2003 with Bina Srinivasan 'Gender impact assessment', in Becker, H. and Vanclay, F. (eds) *International Handbook of Social Impact Assessment: Conceptual and Methodological Advances*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

2000 'Women Facing Submergence: Displacement and Resistance in the Narmada Valley', in Damadoran Vinita and Maya Unnithan (eds), *Identities, Nation, Global Culture*, New Delhi Manohar

1999 'Verstauter Fluß. VerDAMMte Völker. Das Narmada Projekt in Indien', in Griebel, Hilde (ed), *Die Welt im Umbruch*, Vienna

Other Publications

2009 (forthcoming) 'CLTS, Dynamics and Sustainability.' (with Synne Movik). STEPS working paper.

2009 (forthcoming). CLTS across the seas. Experiences from Africa with a special emphasis on Ethiopia. *RiPPLE working paper*. ODI : London

2007 *Liquid Dynamics: Challenges for sustainability in water and sanitation* (with Marshall F., S Movik, A. Stirling, E. Shah, A. Smith and J. Thompson) STEPS Working Paper 6, Brighton: STEPS Centre

2007 *Empowering Designs: towards more progressive appraisal of sustainability* (with A. Stirling, M. Leach, I. Scoones, A. Smith, S. Stagl, J. Thompson) STEPS Working Paper 3, Brighton: STEPS Centre

2007 *Somewhere Over the Rainbow? The Politics and Dilemmas of Researching Citizenship and Marginality*, IDS working paper 288, Brighton: IDS

2006 with Ruth Haug and Lawrence Haddad 'Reinventing Development Research', *Forum of Development Studies*, June

2005 *Unpacking rights and wrongs: do human rights make a difference? The case of water rights in India and South Africa*, IDS working paper 260, Brighton: IDS

2004 with Jaideep Gupte, *Whose needs are rights. The Challenges of Rights-based approaches for Forced Migration*, Development Research Centre on Migration Working Paper 4, Brighton: Sussex University

2004 'Financing Water for All. Beyond Border Convergence in Water Management. IDS working paper 233, Brighton: IDS

2004 'The General Agreement on Trade and Services and Poor People's Right to Water' *IDS Bulletin*, Brighton: IDS

2001 with Leach, M. and Scoones, 'Editorial. Environmental Governance in an Uncertain World', *IDS Bulletin* 32: 4, Brighton: IDS

1999 *Water for the Twenty-First Century. Challenges and Misconceptions*, *IDS Working Paper* 111, Brighton: IDS

1999 with Leach, M. et al, 'Exploring Understandings of Institutions and Uncertainty New Directions in Natural Resources Management', *IDS Discussion Paper* 372, Brighton: IDS

1997 'Social Difference and Water Resources Management', *IDS Bulletin* 28, Brighton: IDS

1997 *Water, Difference and Power: Kutch and the Sardar Sarovar Project*, *IDS Working Paper*, Brighton: IDS

Selected Popular articles

2008 'The big question: Is our food too thirsty?' *Food Ethics*, 3.1, Food Ethics Council: Brighton.

2007 'Water Scarcity: Measuring the Price of Perception' *GECHS News*, 2, Spring 2007

2005 *Globalised Uncertainty*, Al Ahram Weekly

2004 'Public systems: Need revitalising for the poorest', *BBC Viewpoints: The water debate*. 27 November 2004

2003 with Alan Nicol 'Politics and Provision: On-the-ground realities if water and sanitation development, in 'Water and Sanitation Goals: Is progress in the pipeline?' *Insights* 45, March 2003, Brighton: id21

2003 with Kirsty Cockburn 'Tales of the Unexpected: Environmental governance in an uncertain age', *IDS Policy Briefing*, 16, May 2003

2003 'Activists tapping into water row' *The Guardian*, 17 March 2003

2002 'Displaced by development: Gender, rights and 'risks of impoverishment' in 'Responding to displacement: Balancing needs and rights', *Insights* 44.4 December 2002 Brighton: id21

Selected Speaking Engagements:

15 February 2000, 'Institutions and Uncertainty' *Environment and Development Affinity Group Conference* hosted by the Ford Foundation in Cebu, Philippines

14 March 2000, Panel Discussant, *Poverty and Water Policy: Squaring up to the Challenge at The Hague*, hosted by ODI and SOAS, London

31 May - 4 June 2000, 'Rethinking Key Assumptions in Natural Resources Management: Drawing Lessons from the Case of Water', *Constituting the Commons: Crafting Sustainable Commons in the New Millennium*, hosted by the International Association for the Study of Common Property, Indiana, USA

10-11 August 2000, 'Water Scarcity and Gender', *Poverty, Gender and Water in South Asia*, hosted by the International Water Management Institute with the Gujarat Institute of Development Research and the Ford Foundation, Ahmedabad, India

2-3 March 2001, 'Changing Water Worlds: Official and Displaced People's Perceptions of the Water/ Well-being Nexus in Gujarat', *The Cultural Politics of Water*, hosted by the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi

22 April 2001, 'Theoretical Challenges to Community-Based Resource Management' *Workshop on the Amazon Community-Based Resources Management Initiative (ACRI)*, hosted by Instituto del Bien Comun, Lima, Peru

12 –13 September 2002, 'Mobilising for gender justice', *Engendering Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policies in India*, hosted by IDS and ActionAid India, New Delhi

15 – 22 October 2002, faculty member and Speaker, *Salzburg Seminar* on the Politics of Water

3 – 11 January 2003, faculty member at the Social Science Research Council's Conference and Fellow's Workshop on *Resources. Contestations and Constructions*, Kathmandu

30 June – 2 July 2003 'Is the WTO after your water?' *Science and Democracy Network*, Harvard University

10 February 2004, 'Political Struggles around Water', podium discussion at the *Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs* organised by the UNDP and the Carnegie Council

10 – 11 June 2004 'Scarcity and property rights', *Property rights to land and resources: Institutions, politics and culture*, Aas, Norway, NORAGRIC

6 December 2004, L 20 meeting in Alexandria, Egypt

22 March 2005 'Realising the right to water in South Africa', *Rights in action seminar series*, Overseas Development Institute, Panel Speaker

6 June 2005, organiser and convenor of '*Scarcity and the politics of allocation*', International conference funded by the ESRC Science in Society programme

20 – 21 June 2005, Keynote speaker, 'Landscapes, access and the ghost of the scarcity postulate', NFU conference on '*Transforming Landscape of Poverty – Resources, Rights and Conflicts*' organised by NFU

September 2005 'The scare, politicisation and naturalisation of scarcity' *The politics of necessity*, workshop organised by the ESRC cultures of consumption conference

21-24 September 2005 'Water and human rights', *Insecurity and Development*, European Association of Development Institutes General Conference, Bonn

25 January 2006, *The Social Construction of the Environment*, Public Lecture, Centre for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn

21 April 2006, speaker at '*Reinventing Development*', Round table for IDS 40, Noragric, Aas, Norway

24 May 2006, speaker at *Understanding the Global Water Crisis, Insights from the GECHS Network* organised by the Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project and the Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC

18 June 2006, "Whose needs are rights", panel at *International Association for Studies on Forced Migration*, York University

9 November 2006, speech at the launch and presentation of the *Human Development Report 2006, Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis*, organised by Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo and The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nordic Office, at the University of Oslo

2 February 2007, *Water, Power, Poverty - How clean water and sanitation will cut poverty in half by 2015*, Seminar organised by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Swedish Water House (SWH) at the Stockholm International Water Institute at the Stockholm City Conference Centre/Norra Latin

20 February 2007, *Gender, displacement and resettlement. Examples from India*, Ochanamizu University, Tokyo

27 February 2007 *Rethinking Scarcity: Unpacking the Global Water Crisis*, '*Dangerous Ideas in Development*', seminar series, Portcullis House, Westminster

4 -5 July 2007, speaker at '*Water, Environment and Society*', ESRC/ NERC seminar series held at Sheffield University

23 – 26 October 2007, 'What does Community-led Total Sanitation really mean? Experiences in rural community processes', *WaterAid Sanitation Conference*, London

21 November 2007, *Water and Human Development*, Oxford Water Centre for Water Research

9 December 2008 'Waterscapes Access and the ghost of the scarcity postulate' Keynote address at the symposium ' Vom Umgang mit den Ressourcen' organised by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

16-18 December 2008 'Shit Matters; the potential of Community led total sanitation', speech at the Community-led Total Sanitation Final Conference at IDS, Brighton, as part of the DFID funded project 'Going to scale: The Potential of Community-led Total Sanitation' led by IDS

25 March 2009 Panelist at the '*Great Stink. Understanding the Sanitation Crisis.*' Dangerous Ideas Seminar, Westminster, London.

21 May 2009. Panelist at Greenprint Conference, *Water the Basics of Life.* Hay Festival, Hay-on-Wye.

Several academic seminars at SOAS, QEH, Oxford, Linkoping (Sweden), Oslo, Vienna, Overseas Development Institute, Middlesex, Norwich, and Sussex Universities.

Other Relevant Information:

- 2007 -** Editorial Board – Water Alternatives
- 2006 -** Editorial Board – Conservation and Society
- 2006-** Member of the Fellowship Review and Promotion Board, IDS
- 2005 -** Scientific steering committee, Global Environment Change and Human Security Project, International Human Dimensions Programme
- 2004 -** Steering Committee Member, Bretton Woods Project
- 2002-03** Team leader of the Environment Team
- 2000** Lead drafter of the background paper of the NGO major group on Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Management of Water Resources, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. International Conference on Freshwater. Bonn
- 1998-2000** Involved in UK Working Group on Dams, a group of NGOs providing inputs into the World Commission on Dams Process
- 1990-1994** Active involvement in Austrian NGOs such as Friends of the Earth, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and Praxis and the NGO coalition working on the 50 Years in Enough Campaign on the World Bank
- 1989-** Occasional journalistic writing in the Indian, Austrian and British media