

Yamuna Workshop Participants

Biographies

TERI Faculty and Students (alphabetical)

Dr. Arun Kansal teaches in Department of Natural Resources, TERI University, India and is currently on deputation to Freie Universitaet, Berlin, Germany. His research interests include water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management, urban environmental issues, and energy and environment linkages. Dr Kansal started his career as an environmental engineer and later he pursued research in the area of environmental policy. He has published several technical reports, papers in refereed journal, monographs and articles in conferences. He has recieved best teacher award from GGS Indraprastha University and best research paper award from Indian Water Works Association. Dr. Kansal is currently leading an international collaborative initiative under the [ProSPER.Net](#) (an initiative of United Nations University- Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan) on e-learning Diploma programme on “sustainable development practices in public policy”. The program is designed for mid-career policy makers of Asia- Pacific region. He is also working as a Lead Author in WG III of the 5th Assessment Report of IPCC.

Mala Narang Reddy has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Delhi University, for which she studied continuity and change in a Naga tribe. She has been associated with TERI University since June 2007. She is currently engaged in teaching courses on – Cultural Ecology and Development and Introduction to Sustainable Development. She is also the Programme Coordinator for MA (Sustainable Development Practice), a programme funded by the MacArthur Foundation. Her research interests include Traditional Knowledge Systems and Human Ecology.

Ms Deepshikha Sharma is a PhD candidate working on, “Intervention analysis using water quality modeling for an effective river restoration plan for the Delhi stretch of the Yamuna river.” During her research she has extensively studied the India’s freshwater systems and the water crises in the river basins. This includes study of the Ganga Action Plan and the Yamuna Action Plan. She has given special attention to environmental and diffuse pollution modeling, GIS, remote sensing and economic evaluation of water quality. She has begun to present her research work at international and national conferences, and has one peer-reviewed article in *Springer Journal* on environmental monitoring and assessment. In 2009, she held a one-month internship in river quality modeling at Ecole des mines Institute in St Etienne, France.

Prateek Sharma is presently working with TERI University as Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences. He has more than 14 years of research/teaching experience. He received his Ph. D. degree in environmental engineering from Indian Institute of

Technology, Delhi. He has Master's degree in hydraulics and flood control and Bachelor's in civil engineering from Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi.

Prior to joining TERI University, Prateek has worked for School of Environment Management, GGS Indraprastha University for nine years. He was involved in developing the course curriculum of Master's programme in Environmental Management and Disaster Management. Prateek also worked for a brief period with TERI before joining IP University.

His general research interests' focus on environmental systems modelling, statistical applications in environmental and water resources engineering, and environmental risk assessment. He has more than 20 research publications to his credit. He has also authored a book entitled *Modelling Urban Vehicle Emissions*, WIT Press, UK. Presently he is writing a book titled *Environmental Data Analysis*, likely to be published next year. He is a member of several professional societies. He has been admitted as a *Fellow* of Wessex Institute of Great Britain in 2004, in recognition of outstanding scholarly work.

Dr. Shresth Tayal working as Associate Fellow in The Energy & Resources Institute, has obtained his doctoral degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi with specialization in Glacier Hydrology, and has been involved since last 10 years, in various hydrological, hydrochemical and meteorological research in glacierised regions of Himalaya.

Participants from India

Chandrika Srivastava is a Junior at Yale University from New Delhi, India. At Yale, she is majoring in Environmental Engineering. Recently she was selected by YCEI (Yale Climate and Energy Institute) as one of four undergraduates to attend the UN Climate Change Conference that was held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010.

Sarandha is a Delhi-based activist and writer, currently working as a researcher with the Centre for Science and Environment. Having completed her Masters in Social Work from TISS, Mumbai, she went on to write a book on the Yamuna River, *In Search of Yamuna: Reflections on a River Lost*. This book looks at the Yamuna River not just as an ecological substance, but primarily as a cultural substance, this book attempts to unravel myriad conceptions held about the river. She writes for journals, newspapers and a blog on socio-political and environmental issues.

Vrindaban

Acharya Shrivatsa Goswami comes from a family of scholars and spiritual leaders in Vrindavan, India. He is head of the 16th century Sri Radha Raman Temple and is dedicated to interreligious dialogue and connected to peace initiatives. He has

toured extensively to participate in conferences on philosophy and religion and lecture in major universities around the world, and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. His writings have been published by the University presses of Princeton, Berkeley and others.

Swami Sewak Sharan, a retired Engineer, dedicated his life for the engineering of his spiritual ecology focussing upon the message of Vrindavan. For the last fifty years his crusade is on for the protection of Vrindavan environment including Yamuna. His contact details: shrihitkinkar@gmail.com mobile: 09927032292 home address: Lata Bhavan, Atalvan, Vrindavan, UP 281 121.

U.S. Scholars of Hinduism and Ecology

Harry Blair, Ph.D., Duke University, 1970, Associate Department Chair, Senior Research Scholar and Lecturer in Political Science. This year he is teaching senior seminars in Promoting Democracy in Developing Countries and World Food Issues. Previously he has taught at Bucknell, Colgate, Cornell and Rutgers Universities. His research interests currently focus on democratization in developing countries, particularly on civil society and decentralization. His articles have appeared in American Political Science Review, Comparative Politics, Journal of Development Studies, and World Development among others.

Christopher Key Chapple is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he has taught since 1985. As a specialist in the religions of India, he has explored the intersection of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism with Environmental Ethics as well as animal and human rights. He has published a dozen books and over one hundred articles, including the book *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions*. He edited two volumes in the Harvard University Religion and Ecology Series: *Hinduism and Ecology* and *Jainism and Ecology*. He serves on numerous advisory boards and as editor of the journal *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*, published and distributed by Brill. He is currently on the Advisory Board of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale.

John Grim and **Mary Evelyn Tucker** are Senior Lectures and Senior Scholars at Yale University where they have appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies. They are co-founders and co-directors of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. Together they organized a series of ten conferences on World Religions and Ecology at the Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions. They are series editors for the ten volumes from the conferences distributed by Harvard University Press. They co-edited *Worldviews and Ecology* (Orbis, 1994) and also a *Daedalus* volume titled "Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?" (2001). Mary Evelyn edited *Buddhism and Ecology* (Harvard, 1997), *Confucianism and*

Ecology (Harvard, 1998), and *Hinduism and Ecology* (Harvard, 2000). She also wrote *Worldly Wonder: Religions Enter Their Ecological Phase* (Open Court, 2004). She is a member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), served on the International Earth Charter drafting committee and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council. John edited *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology* (Harvard 2001) and authored *The Shaman* (University of Oklahoma, 1983). He is also president of the American Teilhard Association.

David Haberman is professor at Indiana University in the Department of Religious Studies. He is a specialist in medieval and modern religious movements of northern India and an authority of the relationship between Hinduism and Ecology. His approach combines textual research and anthropological field work. From his extensive research he has published several books of interest to this workshop including one called *Journey Through the Twelve Forests: an encounter with Krishna* (Oxford, 1994), for which he received the American Academy of Religion award for Excellence. His most recent book called *River of Love in an Age of Pollution* (University of California Press, 2006) examines the worship of the Yamuna in the light of its present ecological degradation. He is interested in how a changing Yamuna theology is being employed by Indian environmental activists to resist environmental degradation. Very much involved in the field of religion and ecology he is currently on the Advisory Board of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale.

George James is an associate professor of philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas. He received his PhD in the philosophy of religion from Columbia University in 1983. His research interests are focused on comparative and Asian environmental philosophy. He has especially focused on the relationship of Indian spirituality and environmental consciousness. He has published in the *International Philosophical Quarterly*, in *Worldviews*, and in *Zygon*. He has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, and the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*. He is the author of *Interpreting Religion* (1995) and editor of *Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India* (1998). He has recently completed a monograph concerning the activism and environmental philosophy of the Indian environmentalist, Sunderlal Bahuguna.

Bidisha Kumar is a doctoral student in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas (Denton Texas) where she is recipient of a Doctoral Fellowship from the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies. She received her M.A. from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London in 2001 and her undergraduate degree in Geography from University of Calcutta, India in 1996. She has worked as a research assistant for the *Centre for Development and Environment Policy*, at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata, and as research associate for the *Centre for Science and Environment*, New Delhi. She has

over 23 publications that include book chapters, articles and reports in newspapers, journals, magazines and encyclopedia concerning social and environmental issues. She has undertaken extensive field work in the hill regions of the Indian State of Uttarakhand where she has been observing the significance of Gandhi's philosophy of *Sarvodaya* (or universal uplift) by means of *Satyagraha* (or truth power) upon the lives of rural women. Her doctoral research interest is in Gandhian initiatives for the empowerment of women in modern India.

Elizabeth McAnally is a doctoral student at the California Institute of Integral Studies, working within the Integral Ecology track in the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Program. She works for the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale as a newsletter editor and web content manager. She is also an adjunct professor in the Engaged Humanities & the Creative Life Program at Pacifica Graduate Institute. Her research focuses on integrating multiple perspectives on water issues, including those of religion, science, politics, and philosophy. Her master's degree in the Philosophy and Environmental Ethics Program at the University of North Texas culminated in her thesis entitled "Toward a Philosophy of Water: Politics of the Pollution and Damming along the Ganges River."