

About the Editor and Contributors

Editor

Prakash Kashwan is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. At the time of preparation of this volume, he was Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Co-Director of the Research Program on Economic and Social Rights, Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, Storrs. His research and scholarship build on nearly a quarter century-long engagement with questions at the intersection of environmental and social justice, including via a first career in international development (1999–2005). He is the author of *Democracy in the Woods: Environmental Conservation and Social Justice in India, Tanzania, and Mexico* (2017), editor of the journal *Environmental Politics*, and a member of the editorial boards of *Progress in Development Studies*, *Earth System Governance*, *Sage Open*, and *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. He has also contributed popular commentaries to the *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*, *Al Jazeera*, *Africa Is a Country*, *The Wire*, *Down to Earth*, and the *Hindustan Times*.

Contributors

Vaishnavi Behl is a Mumbai-based writer and researcher studying access to food and water to marginalized communities in India. She has an interdisciplinary background having studied sociology and anthropology at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and international relations at Sciences Po, Paris. Growing up in the midst of deep economic and social disparities in Mumbai, she has always aspired to bring to light issues surrounding unequal access to basic facilities to a wider audience. While adding to existing knowledge on inequalities in India, she aims to combine grounded research

with community-level interventions. She is passionate about using her skill set to make academic research engaging and accessible to a wider audience, with a goal of bringing about lasting and meaningful change.

Parth Bhatia is an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, working with the Initiative on Climate Energy and Environment (ICEE). His interests include the political economy of India's electricity sector at the state level, national socio-technical energy transitions and the design of effective climate institutions and policies. He is a contributing author for the chapter on 'National and Sub-national Climate Policies and Institutions' in the Working Group 3 report of the IPCC AR6 cycle. He holds M. Tech and B. Tech. Degrees in Energy Systems Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Prior to joining CPR, Parth worked as a Business Analyst at A.T. Kearney India.

Haimanti Bhattacharya is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Utah. She received her doctorate in Economics from the University of Arizona and has been a post-doctoral fellow at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She is an applied micro-economist with research interests in environment, resource and food, behavioral economics, and gendered well-being. She has been a recipient of the Quality of Research Discovery Award awarded by the European Association of Agricultural Economists. A common underlying thread that ties the wide range of her research topics is the challenges for the sustainability of human society – economic, social, and environmental sustainability. India is the primary geographic focus of her research.

Vasudha Chhotray is Professor of Politics and Development in the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. She is a political scientist interested in the politics and governance of natural resource use and extraction, and the larger politics of development, welfare, and citizenship in India. In addition to the political economy of green energy, just energy transitions and the future of coal in India, her current research interests extend to the long-term trajectories of disaster recovery in India. She has published in leading academic journals, most recently in *World Development*, *Development and Change*, *Geoforum*, *Society and Natural Resources*, and *Contemporary South Asia*. Her monograph *The Anti-politics Machine in India* was published in 2011. She regularly contributes opinion pieces drawing from her research to critical media like the *Conversation UK* and *Scroll.in*.

Eric Chu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Ecology and Co-Director of the Climate Adaptation Research Center at the University of California, Davis. He researches how cities design policies to address climate change. He has written extensively on urban climate resilience, particularly on issues of socio-spatial change, development planning, governance experimentation, and environmental justice. He is also a Lead Author in Working Group II of the Sixth Assessment Report to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Chapter Lead for the Fifth US

National Climate Assessment (NCA5). He holds a PhD in Environmental Policy and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ashlesha Khadse is part of the Amrita Bhoomi Centre, a farmer-led agroecology school in India affiliated to the Karnataka State Farmers Movement (KRRS for its initials in Kannada language) and La Via Campesina, the global network of farmers movements. She completed her Master of Science in Agroecology at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) in Chiapas, Mexico, where she conducted research on how peasant movements scale up agroecology. She has published research papers on agroecology movements and policies in India. Ashlesha has been associated with farmers' movements in India since 2009.

Arpitha Kodiveri is a Hans Kelsen Fellow and has a PhD from the European University Institute. Her research work examines land conflicts and legal mobilization by forest-dwelling communities in the extractive economy of Odisha. She has an LLM in European and comparative law from the EUI and an LLM in environmental law from U.C. Berkeley School of Law as a Fulbright–Nehru Fellow. She has previously worked as a senior research associate at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment and as an environmental lawyer with Natural Justice on forest rights and governance questions in India.

Kavya Michael is an environmental social scientist affiliated as a postdoc researcher at Chalmers Technical University, Sweden. Her expertise lies in examining climate change through a human rights and justice lens. She researches on the multiple intersections of climate change/environmental hazards, informality, gender, urban inequality, inter and intra-regional migration, and development in India. She is a recipient of the IDRC Climate Leadership Fellowship and was hosted in the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Recently she has engaged significantly with the question of gendered injustices in the climate change space as well as the need to design a transformative transition, to gender just low carbon economic pathways.

Rishiraj Sen is a final year undergraduate student at Guwahati College (affiliated to Gauhati University), currently pursuing his bachelor's in English Literature. He has published three poetry books under the pen name Sutputra Radheye. He has written on cultural and political issues for several publications, such as *Frontier*, *The Quint*, and *Countercurrents*. His research interests are Marxism and society, postcolonialism, media, climate justice, and democracy, among other topics.

Karnamadakala Rahul Sharma is an Associate Fellow with the State Capacity Initiative at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi and a PhD candidate at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He works on administrative reform, organizational norms and culture in the bureaucracy, and the role of non-financial incentives in motivating pro-social and pro-environmental behaviour. Rahul has worked for a decade across engineering, monitoring

and evaluation, and public policy research with a sectoral focus on energy access, climate change, and sustainable cities. He has published widely on these topics, including in the journals *Science*, *Nature Energy*, and *Energy for Sustainable Development*. He is an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Environment and Development* and Lead Author of UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook on Cities 2021.

Srilata Sircar is a Lecturer in India and Global Affairs at the King's India Institute, King's College London. She has previously held research positions at Lund University, Sweden, and University College London, UK. Her research interests lie at the intersection of urban political ecology, feminist geography, and postcolonial critique. She currently leads a research group on Cities, Climate, and Capital in the Indian Ocean World. She is the convener of the Confronting Caste series, which is a set of conversations in podcast and panel formats that seeks to centre the analytic of caste in historical and contemporary contexts. Her work has been published in leading journals such as *Geoforum* and *Gender, Place and Culture*, and media portals such as *The Conversation* and *Feminism in India*.

Kavitha Srinivasan is a member of the Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM), which is a network for advancing women farmers rights in India. She has carried out several social audits for multiple government policies in India such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), mid-day meal schemes, and land inventory in Andhra Pradesh. She is also currently an assistant researcher on 'Decarbonising Electricity: A Comparison in Socio-ecological Relations' with the University of Technology in Sydney.