

RADHIKA GOVINDA, Assistant Professor

Radhika Govinda has an MA from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), France and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK. Her teaching and research interests lie at the intersection of political science, gender and development with an area specialisation in South Asia. She is particularly interested in the study of women's and social movements, NGO activism and grassroots governance, identity politics in India (caste, class, religion, gender), and the politics of international development. Her research has been published in *Gender and Development*, *Contemporary South Asia* and *Journal of South Asian Development*. She is presently working on a book manuscript titled 'In The Name of "Poor and Marginalised": NGO Activism, Gender and Politics in Uttar Pradesh, India'.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Women's and Social Movements - Gender, NGO Activism and Grassroots Governance - Identity Politics in India - State and Politics in South Asia - Politics of International Development - Gender and Development Evaluation - Basic Research Skills

EDUCATION

PhD (2004 - 2009) Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, U.K.

Dissertation: 'Politics of Women's Movements in Contemporary India: Case Study of a Grassroots Organisation in Rural Uttar Pradesh'

M.A. (2004) *Summa Cum Laude* in Political Science, with an emphasis on World Politics, Political Sociology, Economics, and Public Opinion and Communication in Politics
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), France

International Cycle of Political Studies (2003) Political Science, Sciences Po, France

B.A. (2002) *First Class with Distinction* in Political Science (Honours), with a special focus on Political Theory, Comparative Government and Politics, Indian Government and Politics, and International Relations
Lady Sri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, India

ACADEMIC HONOURS AND FELLOWSHIPS

BASAS Prize (2007) for most outstanding paper given at Annual British Association of South Asian Studies Conference

Charles Wallace India Trust Bursary (2006)

Smuts Memorial Fund Award (2005) for fieldwork and travel

Rapson Scholarship (2004 – 2008)

Fellow of Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Society (2004 – 2008)

Overseas Research Award Scheme Scholarship (2004 – 2007)

Eiffel Excellence Scholarship (2002 – 2004) awarded by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to pursue Master's studies in France

Erasmus Scholarship (2003) for a semester-long exchange programme at the University of Uppsala, Sweden

J. N. Tata Trust Scholarship to pursue Master's studies (2002 – 2003)

Gold Medal in B.A. (Honours) Political Science (2002)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011** “‘Didi are you Hindu?’ Politics of Secularism in Women’s Activism in India’, (Forthcoming), (accepted subject to minor corrections), *Modern South Asian Studies Journal*.
- 2011** ‘Cartographies of Empowerment: A Synthesis of Issues and Ideas’, (Forthcoming), in V. Ramachandran et al. (eds.), *Cartographies of Empowerment: Tracing the Journey of Mahila Samakhya, 1988-2006*, New Delhi, Zubaan.
- 2009** ‘In the Name of ‘Poor and Marginalised’? Politics of NGO Activism with Dalit Women in Rural North India’, *Journal of South Asian Development*, 4 (1).
- 2009** Book review of Handy et al.’s *Grassroots NGOs by Women for Women: The Driving Force of Development in India* (Sage, New Delhi: 2006), *Contemporary South Asia Journal*, 17 (2).
- 2008** ‘Re-inventing Dalit Women’s Identity? Dynamics of Social Activism and Electoral Politics in Rural North India’, (December 2008), *Contemporary South Asia Journal* (BASAS 5th Annual Issue), 16 (4).
- 2008** Book review of Badri Narayan’s *Women Heroes and Dalit Assertion in North India. Culture, Identity and Politics* (Sage, New Delhi: 2006), *Contemporary South Asia Journal*, 16 (3).
- 2006** ‘Politics of the Marginalized: Dalits in Women’s Activism in India’, (July 2006), commissioned article, *Gender and Development Journal* (Taylor and Francis), 13 (2).

SELECTED CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- 2010** 'Gender, Development and Evaluation in South Asia: A Review of Literature', Paper presented at the 9th European Evaluation Studies (EES) Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, October.
- 2010** 'On Whose Behalf? Identity Politics and Women's Activism in Contemporary Uttar Pradesh', Paper presented at the 21st European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS), Bonn, Germany, July.
- 2010** 'Solidarity at the Margins? Dalits and Muslims in NGO Women's Activism in Rural North India', Paper presented at the South Asia Conference on Modernity, Identity and Resistance in South Asia: Negotiating Subjectivity Amidst Changing Solidarities, University of Mumbai, India, April.
- 2009** 'New Perspectives on Women's Empowerment and Grassroots Democracy in India', Paper presented at the Mid-West Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, April.
- 2009** 'Transforming Lives? Exploring the Private and Public Faces of NGO Activists in Uttar Pradesh', Paper to be presented at the British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference (BASAS), University of Edinburgh, UK, March.
- 2008** 'Politics of Secularism in Women's Activism: Case Study of a Grassroots Women's Organisation in Rural Uttar Pradesh', Paper presented at the Centre for South Asian Studies Seminar Series, University of Edinburgh, November.
- 2008** 'Re-inventing Dalit Women's Identity?', Paper presented at the Annual Social and Political Theory Workshop, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, March.
- 2007** 'Revisiting South Asian Feminisms and the Politics of Knowledge Production', Feminist Pre-Conference on South Asian Feminisms: Subjects, Audiences, Agendas, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, October.
- 2007** 'Politics of NGO Activism with Dalit Women in Rural North India', Paper presented at the South Asian Anthropologists Group (SAAG) Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, September.
- 2007** 'Re-inventing Dalit Women's Identity? Dynamics of Social Activism and Electoral Politics in Rural North India', Paper presenter at the British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference, Cambridge, March.
- 2006** 'Dalits in Women's Activism in Uttar Pradesh: Case Study of a Women's NGO', Paper presented at the QEH Contemporary South Asia Seminar, Department of International Development, University of Oxford, November.