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Author Biographical Notes

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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Manindra Nath Thakur is Associate Professor of Political Science at Center for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. His teaching and research interest focuses on Indian intellectual traditions. Dr. Thakur was honored with a Fellowship for Innovative Research at the Developing Countries Research Centre, the University of Delhi. During his tenure as a Fellow at the Nehru Museum and Library, he focused on researching new religious movements in India. Beyond his academic achievements, he played a significant role in establishing the Creative Theory Group, which endeavors to shift the center of intellectual activities from the West to the East. Moreover, Dr Thakur is the founder and Trustee of the Foundation for Creative Social Research. Among his notable works, an edited volume titled *Wounded History: Religion, Conflict, Psyche, and Social Healing* presents compelling arguments for secularism from an Indian perspective. Another edited volume explores the limits and democratic potential of Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement. Recently, Dr Thakur published a book in Hindi entitled *Gyan ki Rajniti: Bharteey Chintan aur Samaj Adhyayan*, (*Politics of Knowledge: Social Studies and Indian Thinking*), proposing a paradigm shift in social science by disentangling Western philosophy from social science and advocating instead for a new paradigm that engages in a meaningful dialogue between social sciences and Indian philosophy.

M. Satish Kumar is Associate Professor in Geography, Archaeology and Paleoecology at Queen's University Belfast. Currently, he is Chairperson of the Kerala Urban Policy Commission in India. He was the former Director of Queen's Academy India. He is a Fellow of the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University Belfast, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Higher Education Academy. He also holds the Techno-India-Distinguished Honorary Chair of Global Sustainable Development Goals. He is a leading international expert on colonial and postcolonial studies focused on South Asia. He is involved in the academic community as a panel member of the UK Peer Review Colleges for Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC-GCRF). With more than 32 years of experience in the higher education sector, Dr. Kumar has worked at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and the University of Cambridge, and now at Queen's University Belfast.

Tara Fitzgerald is currently an environmental consultant with Enviropo Environmental Consulting in Durban, South Africa. Dr. Fitzgerald completed her PhD in the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa in 2021. Her thesis focused on the role of mega-projects in displacing the urban poor and their livelihood challenges after forcibly relocating in the periphery in the city of Durban in South Africa. Her research interests include urban challenges, human rights, displacement, and social justice. She holds master's and undergraduate degrees in geographical sciences from the University of South Africa.

Brij Maharaj is Emeritus Professor of Geography and a B-rated NRF researcher in the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. He has received widespread international recognition for his research on urban politics, mega-events, segregation, local economic development, xenophobia, and human rights. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He was coeditor of the *South African Geographical Journal*. He was also consulting editor of the *Journal of Immigration and Refugee Studies*. He is a regular media commentator on topical issues as part of his commitment to public intellectualism.

Neil Reid is Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo. He is a regional scientist and industrial geographer, whose interest focuses on the spatial dynamics of local economic development. Dr. Reid previously served as executive director of the North American Regional Science Council (2013–2021) and as chair of the International Geographical Union’s Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces (2010–2014). He currently serves as associate editor for two scholarly journals—*Applied Geography* and *Regional Science Policy & Practice*—and as book review editor for both *Economic Development Quarterly* and *Regional Science Policy and Practice*.

Sujata Shetty is a professor of geography and the director of the Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center at the University of Toledo. She has published extensively on community and economic development planning, gender and planning, and international development, and her articles appear in, among others, *Journal of Geography*, *The International Journal of the Constructed Environment*, *Theory and Research in Social Education*, *Journal of Urban Design*, *Built Environment*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Regional Science Policy and Practice*, *Community Development: A Journal of the Community Development Society*, and *Applied Geography*. Dr. Shetty has conducted research funded by Lovell Foundation, Toledo City Council, First Energy Corporation, National Science Foundation, and Western Ohio Research Consortium, among others. Dr. Shetty holds graduate degrees in urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor and an undergraduate degree in architecture from School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, India.

Jane Adade is a doctoral student (graduate research assistant) in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo. Jane’s research interest is at the intersection of urban planning and geospatial science. She has experience in planning and managing cities, data collection and analysis, GIS, and community engagement. As a planning professional, Jane worked for Hennepin County in Minnesota, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, the City of Maplewood, and Ramsey County (Greater Minneapolis–St. Paul Area). She has a graduate degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato in city/urban, community and regional planning and a bachelor’s degree from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, in city/urban, community and regional planning.

Jagan Shah is a senior urban development and policy practitioner with expertise in capacity building, infrastructure, urban policy, planning and governance, smart cities, technology for development, and sustainability. Shah was Director, National Institute of

Urban Affairs, New Delhi, India, where he established centers for climate, sanitation, and digital governance. He has served as Senior Infrastructure Adviser in the UK government and as Senior Adviser (Capacity Building) at the World Bank. He is currently Chief Executive Officer, the Infravision Foundation, Gurugram, and Trustee, Clean Air Asia, Manila. He holds an undergraduate professional degree from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, India, and has completed postgraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University.

Meryleen Mena is an independent scholar and an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation. She holds a doctoral degree in sociocultural anthropology and a graduate certificate in women and gender studies. Her writing has appeared in *American Ethnological Society*, *The Scholar & Feminist Online*, and *Footnotes Blog* (coedited with Dr. Amarilys Estrella), as well as in the Brazil-based *Instituto Terra, Trabalho, e Cidadania* (with Dr. Heloisa de Souza Dantas). Dr. Mena's intersecting research interests range from income inequality, food and environmental justice, equitable solutions for the Black reproductive health crisis in the diaspora, reproductive rights, access to quality healthcare, and quality of life for Black, Afro-Latinx, indigenous, and other marginalized people to rights of the detained. Dr. Mena's current book project builds from her doctoral research and draws from Black diasporic feminist thought in the Americas, critical prison studies, and medical anthropology to examine the experience of Afro-Brazilian women and gender-nonconforming individuals in the criminal justice system in São Paulo, Brazil.