

Rajib L. Biswal

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Natural Resources & Environmental Management February 2022
University of Manitoba, Canada
Dissertation: *Actioning sustainability through next generation community-based environmental assessment*

Masters of Natural Resources Management October 2015
University of Manitoba, Canada
Dissertation: *Fishing is more than just a livelihood: Wellbeing & small-scale bag net fisheries governance in Gujarat, India*

M.A. Rural Development July 2009
University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
Dissertation: *Exploring the contribution of the NTFPs to livelihoods: The case of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India*

P.G. Diploma Rural Development July 2003
Utkal University, India
Dissertation: *A study on the socioeconomic status of tribal people of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha*

B.A. Economics (Honors) July 2001
North Orissa University, India

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

Graduate Teaching Program October 2020
University of Manitoba, Canada

P.G. Diploma Management of NGOs August 2004
Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, India

Dissertation: Need assessment for a new initiative in microenterprise and developing a marketing system in Pune, India

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor School of Science & the Environment, Memorial University, Canada GEOG 4030: Discard Studies	2023
Co-Instructor Environmental Policy Institute, Memorial University, Canada ENVP 6002: Research Design & Methods	2022
Lab Instructor Department of Environment & Geography, University of Manitoba, Canada ENVR 3250: Environmental Assessment	2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada ▪ Identified potential stakeholders including community partners and developed rapport ▪ Networked and liaised with various non-profit organisations ▪ Identified stakeholders' needs and priorities related to environment ▪ Supervised and mentored students ▪ Prepared research reports	2021 – 2023
Independent Research Consultant (India) University of East Anglia, UK ▪ Identified potential community partners and develop rapport ▪ Conducted research to identify the nature of the relationship between local administration and fishing communities on the east coast of India ▪ Conducted interviews and focus groups ▪ Contributed to report writing	(Jan - April) 2012
Project Consultant TERI University, India ▪ Identified potential community partners and developed rapport ▪ Collaborated with community leaders and local administration ▪ Investigated the nature of lifestyle of coastal communities within a sanctuary ▪ Explored the importance of mangroves for the local communities ▪ Facilitated workshops and conducted interviews and focus groups	(Apr – Dec) 2011

- Shared research findings to the project groups

Research Assistant

(Jan - Dec) 2010

United Nations Development Program, India

- Networked and liaised with potential community partners
- Contributed to the designing of survey questionnaire
- Administered the recruitment of field assistants
- Trained and supervised the activity of field staff
- Conducted interviews and focus groups with community members and engaged with local stakeholders
- Coordinated with the UNDP project office and the principal investigator (PI)
- Documented case studies and prepared reports
- Contributed to the analysis of qualitative data

State Project Coordinator

Jan 2005 – Dec 2006

Prayas – Gujarat Chapter, India

- Networked and liaised with potential project partners
- Administered staff recruitment process and training of new staff
- Monitored project level activities and contributed to evaluation
- Established coordination between project office and main office
- Contributed to report writing and proposal development
- Represented organization at various levels
- Engaged with various stakeholders including donor agencies, and government departments

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Ph. D. Student Representative

2016 - 2018

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

Student Counsellor

2015

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

Student Secretary

2002 - 2003

Utkal University, India

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS & ACCOLADES

University of Manitoba, Canada

- Program Completion Scholarship 2021
- Emerging Leader Award 2018
- Berkes Graduate Scholarship in community-based research 2018
- International Graduate Student Scholarship 2016 - 2017

- Graduate Student Associations' Conference Travel Award, University of Manitoba 2017
- GETS Scholarship (PhD), University of Manitoba 2016
- Faculty Graduate Student Conference Award, University of Manitoba 2015
- Stephen and Alison Philips Scholarship in Environmental Studies, University of Manitoba 2014
- International Graduate Student Scholarship, University of Manitoba 2014
- St. John's College Bursary, University of Manitoba 2014
- St. Paul's College Bursary, University of Manitoba 2013
- Research Grant for Norfolk Researchers, Sir Philip Reckitt Educational Trust, UK 2008
- International Postgraduate Scholarship, University of East Anglia, UK 2007

University of East Anglia, England

- Overseas Development Group Research Grant, University of East Anglia 2008
- International Postgraduate Scholarship, University of East Anglia 2007

Bajaj Auto Ltd (CSR), India

- One-month research internship on need assessment for microenterprise development in Pune region 2004

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Local UNDP Representative 2010

Conference on Minimum Standards for food, Water supply, Sanitation & Hygiene, Health Services & Medical cover, and psycho-social support in Disaster Relief. Bhubaneswar, India

Gujarat State Representative 2007

Press conference on Child Abuse in India. New Delhi, India

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

Topic: *Community-based research* 2021

Environmental Policy Institute, Memorial University

Topic: *Ontology, Epistemology & Methodology* 2020

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

Topic: *Qualitative research* 2019

The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi

Topic: *Ethnography in fieldwork* 2018

Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg

CONFERENCES

Biswal, R. Meaningful public participation in community-based environmental assessment. *International Association for Society and Natural Resources*, Virtual. October 2022.

Biswal, R. Meaningful public participation in community-based environmental assessment. *Friday Light Informal Research Talks*, Grenfell Campus, Newfoundland. April 2022.

Biswal, R. Social learning in community-based environmental assessment: examining the relationship. *International Association for Society and Natural Resources*, Virtual. June 2021.

Biswal, R. Action for sustainability through community-based environmental assessment. *International Association for Impact Assessment*, Virtual. May 2021.

Biswal, R., and Sinclair, J. Next generation community-based environmental assessment – Actioning local sustainability. *International Geographical Union*, Virtual. December 2020.

Biswal, R. and Johnson D. The socioeconomic dynamics of the bag net fishery on the west coast of Gujarat, India. *Society for Applied Anthropology*, Santa Fe, USA. March – April 2017.

Biswal, R., and Johnson D. Is fishing as a ‘way of life’ still desirable for coastal bag net fishers in Gujarat? An ethnographic study of fishers’ perceptions in Gujarat, India. *XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology*, Toronto, Canada. August 2016.

Biswal, R. and Johnson, D. Markets, opportunities and risks: An ethnography on Gir Somnath’s bag net fishery in India. *4th International Marine Conservation Congress*, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. July – August 2016.

Biswal, R., and Johnson D. Fishing is more than just a livelihood: A social wellbeing perspective on the bag net fishery in Gir Somnath, India. *Society for Applied Anthropology*, Vancouver, Canada. March – April 2016.

Biswal, R., and Johnson, D. Divergent perceptions of the social and cultural contributions of small-scale fisheries in Gujarat, India. *MARE people and the sea conference*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. June 2015.

Biswal, R. The irony of small hydropower projects (SHP): Do they really make the Himalayan region of India more sustainable? *Natural Resources Institute research and learning forum 2015*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. November 2015.

Vasudevan, S., and **Biswal, R.** Contribution of Non-timber forest products to livelihoods: A study from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. *Proceedings of the biodiversity and livelihoods conference*. Coonoor, India. March 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Biswal, R., Sinclair, J., Spaling, H., & Mutui, F. (2025). Applying next generation community-based environmental assessment: Case studies from Kenya. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*.

Biswal, R., Sinclair, J., & Spaling, H. (2023). Moving to the next generation of community-based impact assessment. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*. (Cited 5 times)

Biswal, R. and Johnson, D. (2023). A social wellbeing approach to the gendered impacts of fisheries transition in Gujarat, India. *Maritime Studies* 22(2). (Cited 11 times)

Biswal, R., Johnson, D., & Berkes, F. (2017). Social wellbeing and commons management failure in a small-scale bag net fishery in Gujarat, India. *International Journal of the Commons* 11(2). (Cited 10 times)

Working Papers

Biswal, R., Sinclair, J. & Mutui, F. The scope for meaningful public participation in environmental assessment: The case of community-based environmental assessment in Kenya. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Biswal, R. Integrating learning into practice: Case studies of community based environmental assessment in Kenya. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Book Chapter

Johnson, D., **Biswal, R.,** and Sathyapalan, J. (2018). History and social difference in arguments for the societal values of small-scale fisheries in Gujarat, India. In D. Johnson, T. Acott, N. Stacy & J. Urquhart (Eds.), *Social wellbeing and the values of small-scale fisheries* (pp. 267 – 291). Cham, Switzerland: Springer. (Cited 7 times)

Research Reports

Biswal, R. (2018). Small-scale bag net fisheries of Gir Somnath, Gujarat State, India. In Leis, M.O., Chuenpagdee, R (Eds.). *The meaning of small: Diverse values of small-scale fisheries*. TBTI Publication Series.

Chhotray, V., Hill, J., **Biswal, R.,** & Behera, S. (2013). Socio-political dimensions of vulnerability and recovery in coastal Odisha: Critical lessons since the 1999 super-cyclone. *United Nations Development Program Research Report*.

OTHER ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

Served as a 2nd reviewer for a publication for the journal of Impact Assessment and

2024

Project Appraisal

Reviewed a book chapter for the “Too Big to Ignore” project, Memorial University, Newfoundland	2023
Served as a guest reviewer for a publication for the journal of International Association of Society and Natural Resources	2022

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Canadian Association of Geographers

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

- Sociocultural, academic & professional experience, India
- Academic & volunteering experience, United Kingdom
- Academic exposure to Mayan agroecology, Belize
- Academic exposure to ecotourism, Grenada
- Research (Doctoral) experience in community-based environmental assessment, Kenya
- Academic & volunteering experience, Canada
- Travel experience, Colombia

RESEARCH SKILLS & INTEREST

- Empirical and qualitative research
- Collaborative research
- Stakeholder engagement
- Community-based/engaged participatory research
- Human dimensions of natural resource management
- Public participation in decision making
- Rural and Indigenous communities
- Livelihoods and governance

Language SKILLS

- Odia
- English
- Hindi
- Gujarati (Basic)

Volunteering Experience

- Society for Applied Anthropology, Vancouver & Santa Fe
- International Centre, University of Manitoba
- Geo Political Economy Group, University of Manitoba
- Siloam Mission, Winnipeg
- St. John's College and St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba
- St. Martin's Housing Trust, U.K.
- Part of Boy Scouts in high school, India