

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Sheela Saravanan

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Personal Information

Date of Birth: 26.09.1970.

Birthplace: Bombay (now Mumbai), India.

Citizenship: Indian.

Educational Qualifications

PhD
March 2004 –
October 2008

in Public Health from

The School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

Dissertation Title: ‘Training of Traditional Birth Attendants: An Examination of the Influence of Biomedical Frameworks of Knowledge on Local Birthing Practices in India’.

Master’s Degree
1993-1995

in Development Planning from

Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA), University of Pune, India.

Dissertation Title: ‘Agro-forestry and Wasteland Development: A Case Study of Pudupatty Village of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu, India’.

Master’s Degree
1990-1992

in Geography with specialisation in ‘Regional Planning’ and ‘Cartography’ from Department of Geography, University of Bombay, India.

Bachelor’s Degree
1987-1990

in Geography from

Parle College, University of Bombay, India.

Academic Career

January 2015 – December 2017	Senior Researcher at the <i>Institut für Ethik und Geschichte der Medizin</i> , Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Goettingen.
January 2014 – December 2014	Research Fellow - Lichtenberg-Kolleg, University of Goettingen, Germany.
October 2011 – May 2012	Senior Researcher at Zentrum für Entwicklung Forschung (ZEF), Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany.
June 2009 - May 2010	Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Karl Jasper Centre, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
Sept. 2003 - March 2004	Researcher at Multicultural Development Association (MDA), Brisbane, Australia.
November 2002 - February 2003	Researcher at Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, India.
November 1998 - October 2002	Researcher at Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi, India.
November 1996 - February 1998	Assistant Editor at Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), Pune, India.
August 1995 - May 1996	Researcher at M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, India.
August 1992 - June 1993	Lecturer in ‘Environmental Studies’ at Saint Andrews College, Bombay, India.
Maternity Leaves	April 2000 to September 2000 September 2005 to March 2006

Research Funds Acquired

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - German Research Foundation Grant (Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2017).	for the research project titled, ‘ <i>Wunsch Kinder in Deutschland und Indien als Kontext für Pränataldiagnostik und selektive Abtreibungen</i> ’ - ‘A Study of ‘Desired Children’ in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions’, at <i>Institut für Ethik und Geschichte der Medizin</i> - Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Goettingen.
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Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) - German Academic Exchange Service (January 2015-December 2016)

For the Indo-German Exchange Program titled ‘Contested avenues of assisted reproductive technologies: A study of transnational transfers and cross-cultural practices’ between *Institut für Ethik und Geschichte der Medizin*, Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Goettingen and Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

Scientific Awards

March 2004 - December 2006

International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS), a research grant for completing Ph.D. at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Brisbane, Australia.

Languages Known

Advance knowledge

in **English** (medium of instruction at school) and **Hindi** (Indian National language).

Spoken and written knowledge

in **German**- completed The European Language Certificate (TELC) Test’s **Zertifikat Deutsch at B1 level** - (*Test für Zuwanderer*).

Speak fluently

in **Tamil, Malayalam** (spoken at home) and **Marathi** (language at school).

Working Knowledge

in **Gujarati, Odiya and Bengali** (learnt by working in parts of Indian) and **Sanskrit** (language at School).

Research Affiliations

January 2015 - December 2018

Collaboration with the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, India (for the forthcoming DFG funded research at the Department of Medical Ethics, University of Goettingen, Germany).

August 2011 - July 2012

Guest Researcher at the *Institut für Ethik und Geschichte der Medizin*, the Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine at University Medical Center, University of Goettingen.

February - April 2010

Guest Researcher at the Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad, India.

Important Publications

- Saravanan, S. (2013). An ethnomethodological approach to examine exploitation in the context of capacity, trust and experience of commercial surrogacy in India, *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine*, 8:10.
- Saravanan, S., Johnson, H., Turrell, G., & Fraser, J. (2012). Re-examining authoritative knowledge in the design and content of a traditional birth attendant training in India, *Midwifery*, 28(1):120-30.
- Saravanan, S., Turrell, G., Johnson, H., Fraser, J., & Patterson, C. (2011). Traditional birth attendant training and local birthing practices in India, *Evaluation and Programme Planning*, 34(3): 254-265.
- Saravanan, S. (2010). Transnational surrogacy and objectification of gestational mothers, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(16): 26-29.
- Saravanan, S., Turrell, G., Johnson, H., & Fraser, J. (2010). Birthing practices of traditional birth attendants in South Asia in the context of training programmes, *Journal of Health Management*, 12(2): 93-121.
- Saravanan, S., Johnson, H., Turrell, G., and Fraser, J (2009). Social roles and birthing practices of traditional birth attendants in India with reference to other developing countries, *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 15(4): 57-89.
- The gap in my publications at this point was because I was writing my PhD (2004-2008) along with a baby and a shift to Germany lacking in day care facility.*
- Saravanan, S. (2003). Reproductive Health of Women in South Asia – Beyond Beijing, *Asian Women*, (17): 171-203.
- Saravanan, S. (2002). Female Infanticide in India - A Review of Literature, *Social Change*, 32(1&2): 58-66.

Book Chapters

- Saravanan, S. (2007). 'Reproductive Health Status of Women in South Asia', in *Gender Concerns in South Asia*, (Eds.) Bhatia, M., Bhanot, D., & Samanta, N. Jaipur: Rawat Publications, pp. 334-377.

Research Reports

Saravanan, S. (2002). 'Manifestation of Gender Bias in South Asia: An Overview', Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), submitted to International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Saravanan, S. (2000). 'Violence against Women in India – A Literature Review', Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), submitted to International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. Available online:

www.isst-india.org/PDF/Violence%20Against%20Women%20India.pdf

Saravanan, S. (1996). 'Inter-relationship between Mangrove Ecosystem and Human Economy in Bhitarkanika Reserved Forest, Orissa, India'. M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) India, submitted to Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD), Norway.

Media Interviews

Interview with Congress International Feministe, Le féminisme à l'épreuve des mutations géopolitiques, in Paris on 'Commercial Surrogacy in India' on 4th December 2010.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yHYu5u3m0Y>

Interview with 'Deutsche Welle', in Bonn, Germany published on 24th August 2010 'Childless Couples turn to Indian Surrogate Mothers for Help'.

<http://www.dw.de/childless-couples-turn-to-indian-surrogate-mothers-for-help/a-5938948>

Interview with 'The Times', in New Delhi, India published on 25th November 1999 'One in Two Indian Wives face Beatings or Abuse'.

<http://chora.virtualave.net/indianwives.htm>

Presentations/Colloquiums

6th - 8th January 2015 (forthcoming), 'Capabilities Approach for Mutual Fellowship in Commercial Surrogacy', at the 10th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Jerusalem, Israel.

23rd July 2014, 'Evidence-making and Therapeutic Practices of Commercial Surrogacy: A Case Study of Western India' at the 23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

28th May 2014, ‘Individual Expectations of Children in Germany and India in the Context of Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis and Selective Abortions’ at the Lichtenberg Kolleg, Goettingen, Germany.

15th May 2013, ‘Gender Concerns in the Context of Structural Inequalities of Commercial Surrogacy in India’ at the Institut für Soziologie, Universität Duisburg, Essen, Germany.

13th December 2012, ‘Spatial dimension of disease co-morbidity in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Neglected Public Health Approach’ at the Urban climate change adaptation: Access to drinking water and sanitation in fast-growing economies held at Zentrum für Entwicklung Forschung, Bonn, Germany.

30th June 2012, ‘Ethical Concerns of Structural Injustices in Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India’ at the 11th World Congress International Association of Bioethics. Rotterdam, Netherlands.

5th December 2010, ‘Asymmetrical Autonomy in the Process of Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India’ at Congress International Feministe, Le féminisme à l’épreuve des mutations géopolitiques, Paris, France.

Presentation available online at http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xhf4yw_transnational-commercial-surrogacy-in-india-sheela-saravanan_news

28th November 2010, ‘Distancing Maternity in the Context of Transnational Commercial Surrogacy: Experiences of Indian Gestational Mothers’ at a Workshop on ‘Moving Bodies – Transforming Values’ organised by University Medical Center, Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Goettingen, Germany.

7th October 2010, ‘Commercial surrogacy in India: Objectification of gestational mothers and babies’, at Karl Jasper’s Centre, Heidelberg, Germany.

11th August 2010, ‘Crossing Frontiers: Objectification in the Transnational Quest for Wombs and Babies’ at the Mannheim School of Public Health, Mannheim, Germany.

27th July 2010, ‘Maternal-fetal bonding in the complex setting of Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India’ at 21st European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Bonn, Germany.

19th May 2010, ‘Transnational surrogacy and objectification of gestational mothers in India’, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany.

15th June 2009, ‘European Parents in the Quest for India Wombs: Surrogacy and the Making of Transnational Babies’ at the Workshop on Making India a Global Healthcare Destination: Historical and Anthropological Enquiries on Cross border Health care, at Karl Jasper’s Centre, Heidelberg, Germany.

29th April 2009, ‘Training of Traditional Birth Attendants: An Examination of Influence of Biomedical Frameworks of Knowledge on Local Birthing Practices in India’, at the 12th World Congress on Public Health, organized by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) Turkish Public Health Association, Istanbul, Turkey.