

Thounaojam Somokanta
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
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EDUCATION

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, September 2019

Project: “South Asian Dams at a Tipping Point? The Case of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur, India”

Supervisors: Prof. Eran Feitelson & Dr. Amit Tubi

Central University of Gujarat, India

PhD, Science, Society and Development, December 2016

Thesis: “Transition Experiments for Sustainability: Case of Solar City Projects in Gujarat”

Supervisor: Dr. Kunal Sinha

University of Sussex, England

STEPS Summer School Visiting Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, May 2013

Group Presentation Mentor for water studies: Dr. Lyla Mehta

Central University of Gujarat, India

MPhil, Science, Society and Development, April 2012

Dissertation: “Risk and Politics of Large Dams in North East India: A Case of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur”

Supervisor: Dr. Kunal Sinha

Maharaja Sayajirao University, India

MA, Sociology, March 2010

Maharaja Sayajirao University, India

BA, Major: Sociology (honors), April 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban sustainability, energy transition, climate governance, coalition studies, transboundary water studies, resource politics, environmental movement, environmental conflict, gender and society, science and technology studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India (February 2022 till now)

Assistant Professor of Sociology (guest), Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India (December 2021 – February 2022)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (January 2018 – September 2019)

Assistant Professor of Sociology (guest), Department of Sociology, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, India (July – November 2017)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Responsible Business, India (March – July 2017)

BOOK

T. Somokanta, 2018, *Large Dams in India: The Missing Dimension of Science, Technology and Society (STS)*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

JOURNAL ARTICLE

T. Somokanta, 2022, Urban Climate Change Experiments in Gandhinagar City, India, *Urban Climate*, 43, 101149.

T. Somokanta, E. Feitelson, A. Tubi, 2021, South Asian Dams at a Tipping Point? The Case of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur, India, *Water Alternatives* 14, pp. 491-519

K. Sapana Devi and T. Somokanta, 2016, 'Case of Education in a Conflict Ridden State, Manipur: A Narrative Analysis', *Economic and Political Weekly* 51, pp. 52-59.

W. Premi Devi and T. Somokanta, 2016, 'Gender, Technology and Work: Case Study of Women Employees in Selected Food Processing Industries in Manipur', *Gender, Technology and Development* 20, pp. 81-104.

T. Somokanta, 2014, 'Sociological Understanding of Risks: An Empirical Case of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur, India', *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainability Development* 8, pp. 363-379.

DISCUSSION PAPER

A. Antony, T. Somokanta, J. Kishor, M. Lakum and A. Sajitha, 2015, 'Rubber-Based Industries' In *Innovation and Development: The Case Of Natural Rubber*, Discussion Paper No. 41, pp. 65-77, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala

MANUSCRIPT UNDER REVIEW

The Shifting Discourse of Hydroelectric Dams in Neoliberal India, for the proposed edited book to be published by Routledge, "Political Economy of Technological Change: Concerns in Contemporary India" edited by Prof. Prof. Vijayabaskar and Keshab (completed second round of reviews)

Governance of Bal Urja Rakshak Dal Program in Gujarat (Asian Journal of Social Science)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Framing the Concept of Hydro Hegemony in South Asia

The Environmental Politics of Dam Removals in South Asia

The Global Politics of Water Grabbing in Periphery India

The Shifting Ecofeminist Discourse in Contemporary India

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL/WORKSHOP

Interdisciplinary Environmental Workshop organized by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, March 2018

STEPS Centre Summer School on Pathways to Sustainability at the University of Sussex from, May 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- T. Somokanta, 'Urban Climate Change Experiments in Gandhinagar, India', 20th Annual Science, Technology and Society Graz Conference (online), Austria, May 2022.
- T. Somokanta, 'The Shifting Discourse of Hydroelectric Dams in Neoliberal India', Authors' Webinar on Political Economy of New Technology in India: Concerns and Potentials at Gujarat Institute of Development Research and Madras Institute of Development Studies, June 2021.
- T. Somokanta, 'Experiments for Sustainability Transitions in Gandhinagar City of India', The Annual Conference for Science and Environment on Challenges in Environmental Sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, June 2018.
- K. Sapana Devi and T. Somokanta, 'Understanding the Linkages of Education, Conflict and Students: Case of Manipur, India', Children and Young People in a Changing World: Action, Agency and Participation Conference at the Liverpool Hope University, England, June 2016 (presented by K. Sapana Devi)
- W. Premi Devi and T. Somokanta, 'Gender, Technology and Work Relations: Case of Women Employees in Food Processing Industries in Manipur, India', The 3rd ISA Forum of Sociology at the University of Vienna, Austria, July 2016 (presented by T.Somokanta)
- T. Somokanta, 'Geographical Contexts of Sustainability Transitions: A Case of Gandhinagar Model Solar City', The 6th International Conference of Sustainability Transitions at the University of Sussex, England, August 2015
- T. Somokanta, 'Environmental Movement and Grassroots Innovation of Bamboo Bicycle: Introducing Sustainability Transitions Thinking in Imphal City of Manipur', The Royal Geographical Society Conference at University of Exeter, England, September 2015.
- T. Somokanta, 'Exploring the grassroots innovation of Bamboo bicycle in Imphal city of Manipur: Geography of sustainability transitions perspective', The International Conference on Creativity and Innovations at Grassroots, at the Indian Institute of Management – Ahmedabad, India, January 2015.
- T. Somokanta, 'Sociological Understanding of Risk: An Empirical Case Study of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur, India', The Global STS Conference at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, March 2014.
- T. Somokanta, 'Theory-Empiric Understanding of Science, Technology and Society: A Study on Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur', ST Global Consortium Science & Technology in Society Conference at the National Academics, Washington, April 2013.
- T. Somokanta, 'Development Project and the Risk of Ecosystem In North East India: A Case Of Tipaimukh Dam In Manipur', The International Conference on Global Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability in the 21st Century at the Assam University, India, February 2012.
- T. Somokanta, 'Resistance and Environmental Risk of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur', The Globalization and Social Transformation: The Indian Experience at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, February 2012.

INVITED TALK

- T. Somokanta, 'Sustainability Transitions in Gandhinagar City: A Narrative Analysis', The Faculty Seminar at the Department of Geography of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, March 2018

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 – 19, Postdoctoral Fellowship (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 2017, Postdoctoral Fellowship (Centre for Responsible Business)
- 2016, Author Aid Gender Travel Grant (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications Limited)
- 2016, Conference Travel Grant (University of Sussex)
- 2015, Conference Travel Grant (European Manipuri Association)
- 2014, Conference Travel Grant (Nanyang Technological University)
- 2013, STEPS Summer School Scholarship (University of Sussex)
- 2013, Conference Travel Grant (George Washington University & Central University of Gujarat)
- 2010, 2nd Position in Master of Arts in Sociology (final year) (Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda)
- 2010, National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professorship in Sociology (University Grant Commission)

METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

- Refresher Course Cum-Research Training in Economics on Innovation and Development at the Centre for Development Studies, January 2013.
- Research Methodology Course for Research Scholars and College or University Teachers at the Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, December 2012.
- Workshop on Ecology and Economics at the Gujarat Institute of Development Research, November – December 2012.
- Workshop on Computer Applications in Social Sciences at the Centre for Social Studies, May 2012.
- Training Course on Research Methodology in Social Sciences at the Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Sciences, March 2012.
- Academic Writing and Publication Workshop at the Central University of Gujarat, November 2010.

MEMBERSHIPS OF ACADEMIC BODIES

- International Sociological Association (ISA)
- Research Committee 24 of ISA –Environment and Society
- Global Environmental Politics
- Junior Sociologist Networks of ISA
- STEPS Centre Alumni Association
- Sustainability Transitions Research Network

JOURNAL REVIEWED

- GeoJournal (Springer)

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Achievement in the 2nd Annual Sport's Meet of Central University of Gujarat, 2011: 1st Position in the Carrom (boys), Badminton (boys) Single, Chess (boys); 2nd Position in the Table-Tennis (boys) Single, Triple-Jump (boys), Long-Jump (boys); 3rd Position in Shot-Put (boys); Runner Up in the Volleyball

2nd Position in the Youth Festival Open Chess Tournament at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, 2009.