



CV

Dr. Sheela Suryanarayanan (Saravanan)

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EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2004-2008, PhD in Public Health

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

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

1993-1995, Master of Arts in Development Planning

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

Master’s Thesis: Agro-forestry and Wasteland Development: A Case Study of Pudupatty Village of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu, India.

Village Study: Impact assessment of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed by PRADAN Foundation on women’s empowerment in Meenakshipattinam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

1990-1992, Master of Arts in Geography, Department of Geography, University of Bombay, India.

Specialization: Regional Planning, Thematic Cartography

1985-1990, Bachelor of Arts in Geography, Sathaye College, University of Bombay, India.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECEIVED

March 2004 to December 2006, **International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS)** for Ph.D. at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Brisbane, Australia.

EMPLOYMENT – Short-term Research Consultancies

15th Jan – 29th Feb 2020 Consultant (Researcher), OXFAM, New Delhi, India.

Dec 2019 – 15th Jan 2020 Consultant GIZ (The German Society for International Cooperation) at Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi.

Feb 2019 – Consultant, E.O.N.D.F.R. (The European Observatory for Non-Discrimination and Fundamental Rights), France

Dec 2018 - Consultant GIZ (The German Society for International Cooperation) at IIHMR, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Rajasthan`.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY – Academic (Research and Teaching in Universities/ Colleges/ Research Institutes)

Feb 2016 - Jan 2018, Research Associate at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Research project titled ‘A Study of ‘Desired Children’ in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions’.

Jan 2015 - Dec 2015, Senior Researcher at the Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Goettingen, Germany.

Research project titled ‘A Study of ‘Desired Children’ in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions’.

Jan 2014 – Dec 2014, Research Fellow - Lichtenberg-Kolleg, University of Goettingen, Germany.

A fellowship to write proposals and obtain funds for the University of Goettingen.

July 2009 – June 2010, Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Karl Jasper Centre, Asia-Europe Cluster of Excellence, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Research proposal titled ‘Social Construction of Transnational Surrogacy in India’

Nov 1998 - Oct 2002, Researcher at Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi, India.

Research project titled ‘Micro Impact of Macro Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) - Gender Planning Network (South Asia)’.

Aug 1995 – May 1996, Researcher at M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India.

Project titled ‘Inter-relationship between Mangrove Ecosystem and Human Economy in Bhitarkanika Reserved Forest, Orissa, India’.

Aug 1992 - June 1993, Lecturer of Environmental Studies at Saint Andrews College, Bombay. (Taught Environmental Studies and Foundational Course)

EMPLOYMENT – Technical (GIS) Geographical Information System

May 1998 to September 1998, Mapping and Charting Technician (GIS) Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Sep 2005- Nov 2006, GIS Analyst, School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia.

Aug 2003 to Jan 2004, GIS Analyst, IYB Services, Brisbane, Australia.

Grants Obtained

- **German Research Foundation (DFG) - Individual Grant (Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2018), €300,000** for conducting research on ‘Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany & India’.
- **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)** travel and daily allowance funds for an exchange program of scholars between Department of Medical Ethics, University of Goettingen and Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics.

SPOKEN LANGUAGES KNOWN

English	Expert Knowledge
Hindi, Marathi,	Good in speaking, reading and writing
Tamil, Malayalam,	Fluent in speaking
German, Gujarati, Bengali & Odiya.	Working knowledge

LIST OF PROJECTS

Managed single-handedly or as a team-leader

1. 'A Study of 'Desired Children' in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions', as a Principal Investigator (PI) with individual research grant obtained from *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) - German Research Foundation - Individual Grant (Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2018).
2. 'Social Construction of Transnational Surrogacy in India', as an individual researcher of a project within the Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg, funded by *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) - German Research Foundation (July 2009-July 2010).
3. 'Gender Planning Network', as a co-ordinator at the Institute of Social Studies Trust, India funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada (November 1998 to November 2002).

Research project as a team member

4. A Home away from Home: 'Cultural Capital' of the Indian Diaspora in Germany (Jan 2017 – Present) with Dr. V.S.Saravanan as the Principal Researcher.

COURSES TAUGHT

Semesters	Taught Courses
October 2017 - Feb. 2018 (2 hours per week - Semester)	'Gendered Embodiment and Complementary Medicine' to the Master of Arts Health and Society in South Asia (MAHASSA) students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
April – June 2017 (2 hours per week - Semester)	'Feminism and Public Health' to the Bachelor students from the Department of Anthropology, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
October-Feb. 2016-17 (2 hours per week - Semester)	'Theories and Practice of Assisted Reproductive Technologies' to the MAHASSA students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
April – June 2016 (2 hours per week - Semester)	'Introduction to Socio-ethical Dimensions of Assisted Reproductive Technologies' to the MAHASSA students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
December 2015 (6 hours block seminar)	'Methoden der Geschlechterforschung' (Methods of Gender Research) , two sessions (4 hours) to Social Science and Gender Studies students in Goettingen University, Germany.

August 1992 -
June 1993
(12 hours per
week, for 2
semesters)

1) **Environmental Studies**, and 2) **Foundational Course** which included; Globalization and Indian Society, Human Rights, Ecology and Understanding & Managing Stress and Conflict in Contemporary Society to undergraduate students at **Saint Andrews College, Bombay, India.**

SUPERVISION (PhD/Master's thesis)

of completed degrees

PhD

1. 3rd supervisor to Henrietta Asante-Sarpong (2016) 'Free delivery policy and access to professional care at birth: Experiences on utilization from the Central Region of Ghana', PhD thesis submitted to Development Studies at the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana.

of Master's thesis

1. 2nd supervisor to Amy Clare (2016) 'Biomaterial Accessibility from Toronto to India: A Transnational Feminist Perspective on Women Seeking Oocyte Donation', postgraduate thesis submitted for obtaining the degree of Masters of Arts Health and Society in South Asia, Medical Anthropology, South Asia Institute Heidelberg University.
2. 2nd supervisor to Mathesis, Yoon Junghyun (2017) 'Engaging the Dharma of Gender in the Bodhisattva Path', thesis submitted as Master's thesis to South Asia Institute, Heidelberg.
3. 1st supervisor to Khan Rahat Al Rafe (2017) 'Health Communication Campaign in Slum in Bangladesh 'An Analysis from Audience Perspective', postgraduate thesis submitted for obtaining the degree of Masters of Arts Health and Society in South Asia, Medical Anthropology, South Asia Institute Heidelberg University.
4. 1st supervisor to Imogen Pierce (2017) 'Talking Through the Taboos: Menstrual Health in India', postgraduate thesis submitted for obtaining the degree of Masters of Arts Health and Society in South Asia, Medical Anthropology, South Asia Institute Heidelberg University.

of Bachelor's thesis

1. 1st supervisor to Alena Eicker (2018) 'Weibliche Genitalverstümmelung im westlichen Kontext - Mögliche Ansätze zur Verbesserung der Situation genitalverstümmelter Frauen in Deutschland'.

EXTERNAL EXAMINER (PhD thesis)

Philippa Mary Trowse (2018) Exploitation and harm in the context of Indian Commercial Surrogate Women submitted in fulfilment for the degree of doctor of philosophy. Faculty of Law, School of Law Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Single authored book



Sheela, Saravanan. (2018) '*A Transnational Feminist View of Surrogacy Biomarkets in India*'. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Sheela, S. (2016) 'Humanitarian' thresholds of the fundamental feminist ideologies: evidence from surrogacy arrangements in India.' *Analyze: Journal of Gender and Feminist Studies* 6(20): 66-88. (Invited article in a special issue)
- Asante-Sarpong, Henrietta; Adobea Yaa Owusu, Sheela S., Ernest Appiah and Mumuni Abu (2016) 'Determinants of use of supervised delivery care under Ghana's fee exemption policy for maternal healthcare: the case of the Central Region.' *BioMed Central* 16: 172. (Impact Factor 2.180 - 2016)
- Sheela, S. (2015) "Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India" *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 18(3): 295-307. (Impact Factor 0.794 - 2015)
- Sheela, 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. (Impact Factor 0.354 – 2015)
- Sheela, 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. (Impact Factor 1.861 - 2015)
- Sheela, 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. (Impact Factor 1.000 – 2015)
- Sheela, 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. (Impact Factor 0.960 – 2011)
- Sheela, S. (2010). Transnational surrogacy and objectification of gestational mothers, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(16): 26-29. (Impact Factor- widely circulated in India)
- Sheela, 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. (Impact factor 0.214 -2015)
- Sheela, S. (2003). Reproductive Health of Women in South Asia – Beyond Beijing, *Asian Women*, (17): 171-203. (Impact Factor 1.625 – 2015)
- Sheela, S. (2002). Female Infanticide in India - A Review of Literature, *Social Change*, 32(1&2): 58-66. (Impact Factor 0.12 – 2015/16)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Sheela, S. (2016). 'My Heart is Hurting' in , Jennifer Lahl, Melinda Tankard Reist, Renate Klein. ed. 'Broken Bonds: Surrogate Mothers Speak Out'. Spinifex Press, Melbourne, Australia.
- Sheela, S. (2016). Addressing Global Inequalities in Surrogacy. In E, Scott Sills. ed. Handbook of Gestational Surrogacy: International Clinical Practices and Policy Issues. Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York: Cambridge University Press, 41-44. (invited book chapter contribution)
- Sheela, 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, 334-377. (invited book chapter contribution)

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- Sheela, S. (2018) ,Socio-ethics of Surrogacy in India and Reproductive Justice', *India Foundation Journal*, 6(6): 23-31.
- Sheela, S. (2017) 'When Doctors Rock the Cradle', *Governance Now*, February 16-28, 8(2): 56-58.
- Sheela, S. (2016) 'Surrogacy and Gender Justice', *Governance Now*, September 16-30, 7(16): 40-42.

THESIS

- Sheela, S. (2008). Training of Traditional Birth Attendants: An Examination of the Influence of Biomedical Frameworks of Knowledge on Local Birthing Practices in India. Doctor of Philosophy. School of Public Health, Queensland university of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.
- Sheela, S. (1995) Agro-forestry and Wasteland Development: A Case Study of Pudupatty Village of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu, India. Master of Arts. Centre for Development Studies and Activities, Pune, India.

RESEARCH REPORTS

- Sheela, S. (2000). 'Violence against Women in India – A Literature Review', Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), submitted to **International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.**
- Google Scholar Citations - 51
- Sheela, S. (2019). ` Surrogacy in India: Bioethics, Human Rights and Agency`, **The European Observatory for Non-Discrimination and Fundamental Rights (E.O.N.D.F.R.), France.**
<http://europeanobsndfr.org/wp-content/uploads/etudes-et-rapports/final-surrogacy-report-in-india-17th-june-2019-dr-sheela-Sheela.pdf>
- Sheela, 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.**
- Sheela, 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.**

POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Sheela S. (2019) `Surrogacy Arrangements and the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children`, **United Nation's Special Rapporteur**, submitted to the United Nations, Geneva.
- Sheela, S. (2020) 'Response to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019' submitted to the **Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Government of India.**

BOOK REVIEWS

- Sheela, S. (2017, November). [Review of the book *Conceptions. Infertility and Procreative Technologies in India*, by Bharadwaj, Aditya]. *Anthropos*, A.112. 2017/2, 640-641.
- Sheela, S. (2018). Book review: Surrogacy: A human rights violation by Renate Klein. *Dignity: A Journal of Sexual Exploitation and Violence*. Vol. 3, Issue 2, Article 7.

BOOK (Forthcoming)

Sheela, S. (2019) '(Un)Desired Fetal Elements: Gendered and ablist Embodiment of Prenatal Screening in Germany and India.' Berghahn Books, 'Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality' series: Oxford, New York.

DOCUMENTARY FILM (on commercial surrogacy in India)

Sheela, S. and Ranadive, R. 2010. 'Mother anonymous' (Documentary Film). India: Frame of Mind Communications Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai. Funded by Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Cluster of Excellence, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Video Weblink: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_yevJkBDhQ&feature=youtu.be

TRANSLATED ARTICLE

Sheela, S. (2018) 'Humanitäre Grenzen und Grenzüberschreitungen feministischer Rechtsforderungen – ein Bericht über Leihmutterschaft in Indien.' *Streit: Feministische Rechtszeitschrift*, 2: 70-80. (article in *Analyse* translated into German by Barbara Streidl).

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

1. **6th March 2019**, 'Exploitation of Global surrogacy in the Indian Surrogacy Market' at a panel on Maternal Surrogacy and Human Dignity of Women and Children at the United Nations 40th regular session of the **Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva**.
<https://adfinternational.org/news/experts-at-un-event-on-surrogacy-modern-exploitation-of-women-and-children/>
2. **10th October 2018**, 'Transnational Surrogate motherhood in India' organised by *Büro für Frauengesundheit und Gesundheitsziele Wiener Programm für Frauengesundheit* at the City Hall, **Vienna, Austria**.
3. **5th March 2018**, 'Surrogacy Bio-markets in India: Exploitation of Women and Child Trafficking'. Behind the Baby Bed, a Panel Discussion on 'Why do we need an International Ban', organized by *Stoppt Leihmutterschaft* (Stop Surrogacy), **Vienna, Austria**.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION/ INVITED LECTURES (selected 2014-)

1. 18th December 2019 'An Intersectional Approach to Gendered Water Challenges in East Delhi Low-income Settlements', at the **Water Resources: Challenges and Sustainable Management Practices** **Kalina University, Mumbai**.
2. 11th December 2018 'Human Rights, Reproductive Justice and the Surrogacy Practice', at **IIHMR (Indian Institute of Health Management Research), Jaipur**.
3. 24th – 27th July 2018 'Embodied Notions of Vansh in India in the Context of Prenatal diagnosis and Selective abortions" at the **25th ECSAS – European Conference on South Asian Studies, Paris, France**.
4. 10th May 2018 'A Feminist Discourse on the Global Indian Surrogacy Bazaar' at the "The Sexual Contract: 30 Years On" **School of Law and Politics and Feminist Legal Studies, Cardiff, UK**. Video Weblink: <https://vimeo.com/284532186>
5. 10th April 2018 'Transnational Surrogacy Bazaar in India from a Feminist Perspective'. **Institute for Anatomy and Cell Biology, Halle, Germany**.
6. 16th October 2017, Surrogacy body bazaar in India: Transnational feminism towards Reproductive Justice' organised by **Dhira e.V. Chemnitz, Germany**.

7. 10th October 2017, 'Female Genital Mutilation: Feminism and Health Rights' at **Leiden University College, The Hague, Netherlands**.
8. 23rd March 2017 'Reproductive justice and transnational feminism: Surrogacy in India and Germany', at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, a feminist meeting to include Surrogacy in the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) list of harmful practices & human rights of women, **Rome, Italy**.
9. 28th June. 2016, 'Humanitarian' Thresholds of the Fundamental Feminist Ideologies: Evidence from Surrogacy Arrangements in India', at the **Medical Anthropology Forum, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany**.
10. 2nd Feb. 2016, 'Commercial surrogacy in India and global Injustice'. Feminists from all over the world signed a Charter (in an Assisesi) at the **Assemblée Nationale, Paris, France**.
Video Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o00oq0nDZs&feature=youtu.be> (19:00 to 29:00 mts).
11. 20th May 2015, 'Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India', Colloquium at the **Centre for Modern Indian Studies CeMIS, Goettingen, Germany**.
12. 6th May 2015, 'Socio-ethical and regulatory challenges of global reproductive technologies in Europe and Asia', along with screening of documentary film 'Anonymous Mother'. Workshop on International Medically Assisted Reproduction (IMAR) – The **Central and Eastern European Perspective, at the Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria**.
13. 7th January 2015, 'Capabilities approach for mutual fellowship in commercial surrogacy', at **the 10th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Jerusalem, Israel**.
14. 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**.
15. 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**.

WORKSHOP/PANEL DISCUSSIONS ORGANISED

(Both within the DFG project (refer page 2: Research Grant Obtained))

- 13th - 14th September 2017, Notions of 'Wunschkind/Vansh¹' expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India, held at **the International Academic Forum (IWH) Heidelberg, Germany**.
- 27th January 2018, Future Challenges of Advancing Prenatal Diagnosis Technologies in India: Linking Medical (Mis)Use with Regulatory Gaps and Trailing Social Reforms. **India International Centre, New Delhi, India**.

¹ *Wunschkind* and *Vansh* are the commonly used local expressions in Germany and India. *Wunschkind* in German language means 'desired children'. In India, a lineage or an inheritor is referred to as '*Vansh*' or '*Waaris*'.