



CV

Dr. Sheela Suryanarayanan

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Sheela Suryanarayanan (Saravanan) is presently an Associate Professor at the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad. Her specialisation on maternal health and assisted reproductive technologies draws upon her extensive field work on women's reproductive health in South Asia since 1998. Her research focus includes; birthing practices, prenatal screening and selective abortions and surrogacy. Her work is influenced primarily by feminist writers; Vandana Shiva, Maria Mies, Janice Raymond, Andrea Dworkin, Renate Klein, Gena Corea, and Dorothy Roberts, among others.

She was invited by Rajya Sabha Surrogacy Committee, Government of India to provide her inputs on the Draft Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 and her suggestions have been included in the Bill. She delivered a keynote speech on surrogacy at the United Nations, Geneva and has been invited in several forums as a specialist in Europe and also in 'We the People' NDTV, India. She has authored a book on commercial surrogacy in India titled '*A Transnational Feminist View of Surrogacy Biomarkets in India*'. She has applied the concepts of Authoritative Knowledge, Agency, Intersectionality, Transnational Feminism, Reproductive Justice and Global Justice to her empirical research using both positivist and qualitative feminist methodologies.

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'.

The thesis drew conceptually on Jordan's 'authoritative knowledge', and used both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess whether a local TBA (Traditional Birth Attendants) training programme in Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra in India has been successful in disseminating biomedical knowledge in the birthing practices as applied by TBAs and in the incorporation of local knowledge into the training.

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

FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

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

Jan 2021 to Dec 2022, awarded **the German Corporation for International Co-operation 'Returning Expert' fellowship** by CIM/GIZ (The Centre for International Migration and Development/*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*) for knowledge sharing in her country of origin (India).

EMPLOYMENT - Academic (in Universities/ Colleges/ Research Institutes)

Since March 2020 - Associate Professor, Centre for Women's Studies (CWS), School of Social Science, University of Hyderabad, India

Head, (CWS), University of Hyderabad. (1st July 2020 to 18th April 2021)

Teaching courses on Women's Studies to Master's and Bachelor's students, Research, Publishing, Fund Raising, Administration.

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

Along with teaching Master's and Bachelor's students of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Heidelberg, I obtained funded from German Research Foundation for 3 years titled '*A Study of 'Desired Children' in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions*' as the Principle Investigator of the Indo-German comparative project understanding the social constructions of gender and disability in the context of prenatal diagnosis and selective abortions,

I conducted field work interviewing gynecologists, policy makers and approximately 100 pregnant women and 20 gynecologists in Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Odisha and Delhi understanding the notions of *Vansh/Wunschkind*. I conducted two workshops in Delhi and Heidelberg in Germany on the use of reproductive technologies such as; ultrasound, organ scans, amniocentesis and Non-invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) from an ethical and social justice perspective, and its impact on selective abortions and women's rights. The purpose of the workshops was to; liaison with lawyers, activists, researchers and NGOs working on this topic to be able to contribute to policy change.

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

I was teaching gender methodology and began working on the research project mentioned above.

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. I obtained the DFG project funds during this period.

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

Along with teaching Gender Methodology, I conducted intensive field work for 6 months using participant observation and personal accounts of surrogate mothers, their spouses, intended parents and doctors in 2 In-Vitro Fertilisation clinics in Gujarat, India. Several peer-reviewed journal articles, conference presentations, a documentary film and a book are some of the outcomes of this project.

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

I co-ordinated the project funded by IDRC Canada titled 'Gender Planning Network' in five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal). The study conducted a randomized controlled trial of women working in the export processing zone in New Delhi. I was also involved in co-ordinating the data collection and analysis process of the impact of liberalization on working women in New Delhi. I was responsible for the preparation of thematic maps on Gender Development Indicators in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) at various geographical levels (country, state and district level).

Apart from co-ordination, I was responsible for undertaking research on manifestations of gender bias and facets of violence against women in India. Some of the research focus in this report included; gender education, poverty level, employment, health and forms of violence (female foeticide-infanticide, child marriage, sexual abuse, child labour, domestic violence, eve-teasing and violence against aged women). A report based on this literature review has been documented and is available on the IDRC website.

Aug 1995 – May 1996, Researcher at M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India. (Implementation Oriented project)

I was responsible for research and implementing of the social aspects of the programme 'Coastal Wetlands: Mangrove Conservation and Management'. I conducted research in Cuttack district on the socio-economic dependence of local villagers on the fragile yet second largest mangrove ecosystem (Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary) in India. I also co-ordinated the implementation programme on forming and organising horticulture groups as an economic intervention programme of women's empowerment and school awareness programme on forest conservation.

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

I was teaching; 1) Environmental Studies, and 2) Foundational Course to First Year Commerce students. The subjects 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.

EMPLOYMENT – Research Consultancies

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

As a diaspora expert consultant, I conducted an impact assessment study of ISST's livelihood training programme in East Delhi. I also conducted an assessment of Women's Water Challenges in one of the East Delhi Low-income dwellings.

Jan 2019 Consultant (Researcher), OXFAM, New Delhi, India.

Research on Intersectionalities between Gender (SDG5) and Responsible Business in India.

Research for a policy brief that will employ the lens of responsible business conduct when assessing their intersectionalities with gender equality, decent work, discrimination, justice and human rights, respectively. The policy brief will be juxtaposed with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) recently revised National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) and NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

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

Conducted research on the 'Experience and Impact of Surrogacy on the health, emotion and social well-being of surrogate mothers in India'. I conducted intensive field work in Nadiad, Anand and Ahmedabad speaking to 45 women who have been surrogate mothers to understand the economic, health and social impact of surrogacy on their lives.

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

I conducted intensive field work in around Jaipur city in Rajasthan to explore the feasibility and use of mhealth (mobile phone based health) and eplatform (electronic platform) for enhanced maternal and infant health care provision and access during emergencies.

EMPLOYMENT – Technical (GIS) Geographical Information System

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

Conducted verification of Agri-Environmental data using GIS with the information provided by farmers in England who were paid by the Ministry of Agriculture, Farming and Forestry (MAFF), U.K. to conserve agro-environmental sensitive areas.

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

Used MapInfo software to spatially investigate socio-economic differences in food purchasing behaviour in Brisbane city. I was also involved in another project at its beginning stage in using GIS in the process of randomised sampling method with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household data.

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

Carried out spatial analysis of market intelligence using Map Info software to assess the existing market for the sales of broadband connection in Brisbane suburbs.

Grants Awarded

Ongoing

- 20th August 2021 to 20th November 2021 research funding awarded by the German Corporation for International Co-operation 'Returning Expert' fellowship by CIM/GIZ (The Centre for International Migration and Development/*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*) of Rs 85,000/- to undertake research on the topic 'Transforming Educational Landscape towards Women's Empowerment'.

Completed

- Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2018 Individual research grant by German Research Foundation (DFG) of €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.

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 - March 2017).

COURSES TAUGHT

<u>Semesters</u>	<u>Taught Courses</u>
October 2021 to December 2021 (4 hours per week – Semester)	‘Introduction to Women’s Movement’ to Master of Arts – Gender Studies students, Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad. (ongoing)
August 2021 to Dec 2021 (4 hours per week – Semester)	‘Women, Ecology and Environment’ to Master of Arts (MA), Social Science and Humanities students, University of Hyderabad.
March to July 2021 (4 hours per week – Semester)	‘Introduction to Gender Studies’ to Bachelor of Arts students of Humanities and Social Science at the Centre for Integrated Studies, University of Hyderabad.

March to July 2021 (4 hours per week – Semester)	‘Women and Health’ to Master of Arts – Gender Studies students, Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
October 2020 – Feb 2021 (4 hours per week – Semester)	‘Introduction to Women’s Movements’ to MA – Gender Studies students, Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
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)	‘ <i>Methoden der Geschlechterforschung</i> ’ (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)

Master’s

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.

Bachelor's

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)

1. 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.

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 PUBLICATIONS

SINGLE AUTHORED BOOK

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



PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Sheela, S. (2021) 'Impact of Commercial Surrogacy on Women in India and the Changing Paradigm towards Altruism', *SwissFuture*, 01(21): 15-17.
2. 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.
3. Asante-Sarpong, Henrietta; Adobea Yaa Owusu, Sheela Sheela, 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 Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 16: 172.
4. Sheela, S. (2015) "Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India" *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 18(3): 295-307.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Sheela, S. (2010). Transnational surrogacy and objectification of gestational mothers, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(16): 26-29.
10. 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.
11. Sheela, S. (2003). Reproductive Health of Women in South Asia – Beyond Beijing, *Asian Women*, (17): 171-203.
12. Sheela, S. (2002). Female Infanticide in India - A Review of Literature, *Social Change*, 32(1&2): 58-66.

Publications Submitted (in review process)

1. Sheela, S. 'Women's Empowerment and Prenatal Selective Preferences: Narratives of 'Vansh Raakhya' from Odisha, India', submitted to *Social Change* in December 2020.
2. Sheela, S. 'Commercial Surrogacy in India: Intersectionality of its impact on Women's life and Experience', submitted to *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* in April 2021.

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 ARTICLES

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming

Sheela S and A. Bhardwaj (2021) Gender Inequalities at Workplace in India: Present Situation and Persisting Challenges, in 'Gender Equality and Empowerment: Workspace, Safety and Wellbeing' SSDN Publishers, New Delhi.

Published

Sheela, S. (2019). '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 JOURNAL 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.

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(2). Article 7.

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.

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.

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.

Weblink1: <https://www.facebook.com/ADFInternational/videos/sheela-saravanan-ob-stopsurrogacyun/267875550796130/>

Weblink2: <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 *Stopt Leihmuttertschaft* (Stop Surrogacy), Vienna, Austria.

Resource Person (at Interviews/Presentations/TV talk shows)

24th July 2020, Interviewed by Aline Kinzie on 'the surrogacy situation in India', for 'Wissen2go', a popular German TV channel, Germany.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rseY3MX1KqI> at 9.45mts

31st May 2020, Interview with Vaishnavi Sundar, Lime Soda Films about the Surrogacy Regulation Bill and the Problems, India.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s05TMJ5Ei8Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2OEYxUKmddBUwmQ8f3QXF-iCc6dkr9-J1sWikfPHke2QWNnFGwPeDv03I>

21st January 2020, Invited to the Deliberations of the Select Committee on Surrogacy headed by Harsh Vardhan, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, Government of India to provide inputs on the Draft Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019. Suggestion included in the report of the Select Committee, pg 11-12.

Weblink: https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/Select%20Comm%20Report-%20Surrogacy%20Bill.pdf

24th November 2019, Resource person at We the People, NDTV, India.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbcYe4UOfvo>

September 2019, Interviewed by Teresa Domínguez, from Spain, a columnist on human rights, also in Stop Vientres de Alquiler, [@stopsubrogacion](#) an organisation against surrogacy in Spain.

Weblink: <https://letraescarlata.org/surrogacy-in-india-today-interview-to-sheela-saravanan-part-2/>

CONFERENCE PARTICPATION/ INVITED LECTURES (since 2014)

(Forthcoming) February 2022, 'Commercial Surrogacy in India: Intersectionality of its impact on Women's life and Experience', Webinar on Mothers and Maternal Figures in the Religious Traditions of South Asia, Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

1. 6th October 2021, Transnational Surrogacy Bazaar in India' at the webinar on 'Women's Bio-capital: The Uses and Abuses by Technology and the Market', Lumsa University, Rome, Italy.
2. 28th September 2021, 'Transnational Surrogacy Biomarkets in India' at SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, India.

3. 1st July 2021, Physical and Psychological Health Impacts of Surrogacy on Surrogate Mothers and their Children, Webinar on Surrogacy Kills, ICASM, Paris, France.
Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbIHsstsCKc&t=11s>
4. 25th June 2021, Definitions & Standard Practices used in Gender Domain. 'Gender Workshop', Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Delhi.
5. 22nd June 2021, 'How do we stop the reproductive trade in women and children? Swedish Women's Lobby', Stockholm, Sweden.
Weblink: <https://fb.watch/6n5f7FRoS/>
6. 17th March 2021, 'Physical and Mental Impact of Surrogacy in India', Swedish Women's Lobby', Stockholm, Sweden.
7. 12th Feb 2020 paper titled 'Gender Inequalities at Workplace in India' at a Webinar on 'Gender Mainstreaming at Workplace: Vigilance & Initiatives' organised by Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Central University of Odisha, Koraput, Odisha.
8. 13th January 2021 paper titled 'Sexual Harassment at Workplace: Local Complaint Committee for Women in Unorganised and Local Government Setup' in a Webinar on Prevention & Response Mechanism for Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace organised by Directorate of Mahila Kalyan, Department of Women and Child, Government of Uttar Pradesh in association with Vatsalya, Lucknow, India.
Weblink:
9. 11th January 2021 paper titled 'Sex Ratio at Birth and Child Sex Ratio in Uttar Pradesh: Situation, Causes and Implications' awareness session on PCPNDT Act organised by Directorate of Mahila Kalyan, Department of Women and Child, Government of Uttar Pradesh in association with Vatsalya. Lucknow, India.
Weblink:
10. 27th October 2020 paper titled 'Gender Approaches to Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation', Online Short-time Course organised by UGC-HRDC, University of Mumbai, Mumbai.
11. 5th October 2020 paper titled 'Unwanted Girls in India: Sex Selective Abortions, Patterns, Technology and Implications' in Workshop on 'Pre-Birth Discrimination Against the Girl Child' organised by Girls Count and ADF, Delhi.
12. 9th September 2020 paper titled 'Feminism and Multiculturalism' at the online Refresher Course in Multiculturalism for Assistant Professors and Associate Professor of Degree Colleges and Universities across India organised by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India.
13. 30th July 2020, paper titled 'The Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown and Reproductive Health in India: Intersectionalities of Gender Inequalities' at the Webinar on 'Promoting Gender Equality: Strategies and Challenges', organised by the University College for Women, (Autonomous) Koti, Hyderabad, India.
14. 30th June 2020 paper titled 'Gender-based Violence under Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown in India.' presented at the Webinar on 'Transnational Feminist Dialogues in times of Corona Crisis' organised by Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender

Studies in cooperation with the MA Program Gender, Intersectionality and Politics at Freie Universität Berlin, Academy in Exile and Academics for Peace Germany, in Berlin, Germany.

15. 16th June 2020 paper titled 'The Physical, Emotional, Social and Financial Impact of Surrogacy on Surrogate Mothers in India', presented at the Webinar titled 'Surrogacy Motherhood', organised by The Swedish Women's Lobby with The Federation of Social Democratic Women, The Women's Federation of Centre Party and The Medical Women's Association of Sweden, Sweden.
Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p39pyrpb5tE&t=947s>
16. 16th May 2020 paper titled 'Research Aptitude' at the Webinar on 'NET/SET Guidance Lecture Series', organised by the Department of Geography, University of Mumbai, India, Mumbai.
17. 18th December 2019 paper titled 'An Intersectional Approach to Gendered Water Challenges in East Delhi Low-income Settlements', at the Water Resources: Challenges and Sustainable Management Practices' Department of Geography, Kalina University, Mumbai.
18. 11th December 2018 paper titled 'Human Rights, Reproductive Justice and the Surrogacy Practice', at IIHMR (Indian Institute of Health Management Research), Jaipur.
19. 10th May 2018 paper titled '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. Weblink: <https://vimeo.com/284532186>
20. 10th April 2018 paper titled 'Transnational Surrogacy Bazaar in India from a Feminist Perspective'. Institute for Anatomy and Cell Biology, Halle, Germany.
21. 16th October 2017, paper titled 'Surrogacy body bazaar in India: Transnational feminism towards Reproductive Justice' organised by Dhira e.V. Chemnitz, Germany.
22. 10th October 2017, paper titled 'Female Genital Mutilation: Feminism and Health Rights' at Leiden University College, The Hague, Netherlands.
23. 13th - 14th September 2017, Notions of '*Wunschkind*/*Vansh*' expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India, held at the International Academic Forum (IWH) Heidelberg, Germany.
24. 23rd March 2017, paper titled '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.
25. 28th June. 2016, paper titled '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.

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*'.

26. 2nd Feb. 2016, paper titled '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).
27. 20th May 2015, paper titled 'Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India', Colloquium at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies CeMIS, Goettingen, Germany.
28. 6th May 2015, paper titled '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.
29. 7th January 2015, paper titled 'Capabilities approach for mutual fellowship in commercial surrogacy', at the 10th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Jerusalem, Israel.
30. 23rd July 2014, paper titled '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.
31. 28th May 2014, paper titled 'Individual expectations of children in Germany and India in the context of prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions' at the Lichtenberg Kolleg, Goettingen, Germany.

Gender Training Conducted

- 5 June 2021, conducted a special gender sensitisation training on 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, and University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015' to all faculty members of Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University, Jaipur, Delhi and Bengaluru campuses, organised by IIHMR, Jaipur.

Workshop/Panel Discussions Organised

1. 9th December 2020, Dr. Renate Klein, Women's health activist, author and academic, Australia. Two sides of the same coin: New and old reproductive technologies. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 4 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
2. 20th November 2020, Presentation by Prof. Kumkum Sangari, Vilas Professor of English and the Humanities, University of Wisconsin. Here, there, or everywhere? Questions on social reproduction. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 3 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.

3. 2nd November 2020, Dr. Silja Samerski, Professor, Department of Social Work and Health, Emden, Germany, The decision trap: How prenatal testing perverts female autonomy. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on ‘Women and Reproductive Health’: Lecture 2 at Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
4. 30th September 2020, Presentation by Assistant Professor Pallabi Roy, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University “*Stop crying, forget it and move on*”: Reproductive Loss and Grief in Kolkata, at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on ‘Women and Reproductive Health’: Lecture 1 at Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
5. 17th June 2020, organised International Webinar on ‘Transnational Widening Gender Inequalities amid Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown’, at Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
6. 26th June 2020, organised National Webinar on ‘Missing Girls in India, Implementation of the Law and the Way Forward’ at Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad.
7. 13th - 14th September 2017, Notions of ‘*Wunschkind*/*Vansh*’ expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India, held at the International Academic Forum (IWH) Heidelberg, Germany.
8. 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.

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