

Susmita Mitra

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Academic Profile

I am an environmental economist working at the intersection of socio-ecological systems, sustainability transitions, and development in the Global South. My research focuses on climate change adaptation, water–agriculture systems, and livelihood resilience, with particular attention to how institutional dynamics, ecological constraints, and community decision-making shape development outcomes. I adopt an interdisciplinary, mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative analysis, participatory fieldwork, and case-based research with systems mapping and agent-based modelling to examine feedbacks within complex socio-ecological systems.

Grounded in extensive field engagement across rural India, my work generates policy-relevant insights on adaptive governance, equitable sustainability transitions, and locally grounded development pathways. I am particularly interested in bridging research, policy, and practice through knowledge systems, capacity building, and teaching, contributing to interdisciplinary learning and sustainability-oriented scholarship in the Global South.

Academic Position

Assistant Professor (Stage 3), Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi (2014-Present)

- Lead interdisciplinary research on climate change, sustainability, and rural livelihoods
- Design and implement mixed-methods and systems-based research projects
- Mobilised over INR 3.5 crore in research funding across national and international projects
- Teach research methodology and sustainability-related themes
- Mentor postdoctoral fellows, Master's students, and research interns
- Lead knowledge management and policy dissemination for large-scale environmental programmes (including GEF-SGP-India OP7)

Research Areas	Research Methods & Skills	Teaching Interests
• Socio-ecological systems and sustainability transitions • Climate change adaptation, vulnerability, and resilience • Water–agriculture systems and rural livelihoods • Environmental governance and institutional dynamics • Gender, equity, and development • Systems mapping, and agent-based modeling	• Interdisciplinary mixed-methods research combining quantitative analysis, participatory fieldwork, and case-based approaches • Socio-ecological systems analysis using systems mapping and agent-based modelling • Econometric analysis and impact evaluation • Knowledge synthesis and interdisciplinary research collaboration • Tools: STATA, R, QGIS, MS Office	• Research Methods for Sustainability Studies • Climate Change and Society • Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation • Systems Approaches to Sustainability • Case-based Learning in Global South Contexts

Education

- Ph.D in Economics, Centre for the Study of the World Economy (formerly Centre for International Trade and Development-CITD), School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) (2013)
Thesis: Mitigating Greenhouse Gases through Emissions Trading: A Theoretical Analysis
Supervisor: Prof. Aparna Sawhney
- Visiting Ph.D. Scholar (Junior Visiting Fellow) at Department of Economics, University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Berlin, Germany (April – June 2011)
- M.Phil in Economics, Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University (2009).
Thesis: Profitability of Investment and Export: Evidence from East Asia
Supervisor: Prof. Manmohan Agarwal
- M.A, Economics, CITD, JNU (2005) (Topped in first two semesters)
- B.Sc., Economics, Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta University (2003)

Academic Achievements

- **Junior Visiting Fellowship (2011)** under the UNCTAD vi DAAD, at the HTW Berlin, Germany (April– June 2011)
- **Junior and Senior Research Fellowship (2006 - 2011)** in UGC-NET
- **Ford Foundation Scholarship**, for high CGPA during M.A. (2003 - 2005) (record not digitally archived)
- **Best paper award.** International Conference on Envisioning the Future India, School of Humanities, K R Mangalam University, Gurugram (May 9-10, 2025)
- **Best paper award.** 2nd International Conference on Recent Developments in Science, Engineering and Technology (REDSET 2015), G. D. Goenka University, Gurugram (October 30-31, 2015)

Professional Experience

- **Assistant Professor**, Council for Social Development (July 2014-present)
- **Consultant**, Sustainability Outcomes Pvt. Ltd. (SOPL), New Delhi (Nov 2024–present)
Projects supported by Commonwealth of Learning (CoL)
Role: Advisory, research design, policy papers, and systems mapping for complex governance challenges
- **Book Review Editor**, Social Change (3 years: May 2022-June 2025)
Role: Ensured quality and critical review of academic books (including regional and international works)
- **Coordinator**, Training Course on Research Methodology in Social Sciences, CSD (7 years: 2015-2021)
Role: Course design, coordination, teaching, and curriculum refinement
- **Consultant**, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (5 months: January to June, 2014)
Role: Macroeconomic data analysis, report writing, and presentations
- **Junior Visiting Fellow**, University of Applied Sciences (HTW) Berlin, Germany, (3 months: April to June, 2011)
Role: Working paper development, academic engagement, and presentations on India's renewable energy
- **Earlier roles:** Project Associate, NIPFP (14 months: August 2005 to October 2006); Research Assistant, CITD, JNU (8 months: October 2004 to May 2005)

Advisory Role

Advisory Committee Member, Centre for Complexity Economics, Applied Spirituality and Public Policy (CEASP), Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University (April 2026 – Present)
Provides strategic input on complexity-informed public policy, contributes to interdisciplinary research on systems thinking and sustainability transitions, and supports academic–policy collaborations.

Publications

My research and publications span two interconnected themes: (1) Environment and Sustainability Related, and (2) Social Dimensions of Sustainability & Human Capabilities:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Mitra, S.**, Raj, N., & Mishra, S.K (2026). Beyond Megawatts: Energy Transition, Health, and Livelihoods in India's Mining Regions. *Economic and Political Weekly* (Forthcoming) (WoS, ABDC, Scopus)
2. **Mitra, S.**, Mehta, P. K., & Mishra, S. K. (2021). Farmers' Perception, Adaptation to Groundwater Salinity, and Climate Change Vulnerability: Insights from North India. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 13(4), 797-811. (WoS, Scopus)
3. **Mitra, S.**, Mishra, S. K., & Abhay, R. K. (2023). Out-of-school girls in India: a study of socioeconomic-spatial disparities. *GeoJournal*, 88(1), 341-357. (WoS, Scopus)
4. Poornima, M., **Mitra, S.**, Kaur, R. & Samariya, A. (2026). Does PMGDISHA Contribute to Digital Diffusion and Enhanced Wellbeing in Rural India? Exploration through the Capability Approach. *Social Change*, 56(1), 41-65. (Scopus)
5. Sharma, A. & **Mitra, S.** (2023). Rationalisation of Schools and its Impact on Children's Right to Education: Narratives of Violation of the RTE. *Social Change*, 53(4), 500-517. (Scopus)
6. Sawhney, A., & **Mitra, S.** (2011). Examining tradeable permits with market power, banking and non-compliance: A finite period model. *Economics Bulletin*, 31(2), 1265-1274. (WoS, ABDC, Scopus)
7. Agarwal, M., & **Mitra, S.** (2010). Role of government in trade and investment boom: lessons from East Asia. *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, 13(4), 285-304. (WoS, ABDC, Scopus)
8. **Mitra, S.** (2012). Survey of literature on the impacts of inclusion of the aviation sector in the European Union Emission Trading Scheme/System (EUETS). *Competence Centre on Money, Trade, Finance and Development* (Working Paper Number 1202). HTW Berlin.
9. Pankaj, A., & **Mitra, S.** (2018). Chhattisgarh Rajya mein Prathamik Shiksha ki Sthiti evang Chunauiyyon ka ek Vishleshan (An analysis of Status of and Barriers to School Education in Chhattisgarh) (Hindi), in *Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha* [SAGE Hindi journal], Vol 5, Issue 1, pp: 22-41 (Formerly listed in UGC-CARE List)
10. Rai, A., Palit, S., & **Mitra, S.** (2014). Child Rights in India: Contemporary Challenges. *Journal of the National Human Rights Commission India*. (Formerly listed in UGC-CARE List)

Under Review Process

11. **Mitra, S.**, Mishra, S. K., Debsarma, D. & Mehta, P. K.: Beyond profitability: Social and institutional drivers of micro-irrigation adoption in rural North India. *Journal of Rural Studies* (WoS, Scopus)
12. **Mitra, S.**, Singh, N., & Mishra, S. K.: Rethinking Governance in a Complex World: Lessons from Indigenous Knowledge, Systems Thinking, and Adaptive Practice in the Global South. *Environmental Science & Policy* (WoS, Scopus)
13. **Mitra, S.**, Ansari, S., & Devi, M.: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) as a Coping Mechanism for Children during Disasters and Emergencies: A Case Study of COVID-19 Pandemic. *Children and Youth Services Review* (WoS, Scopus)
14. Abhay, R. K., **Mitra, S.** & Mishra, S. K.: Mapping inter-regional vulnerability and educational exclusion of school girls in Uttar Pradesh, India. *Quaestiones Geographicae* (Scopus)

In Submission Process

15. **Mitra, S.**, Singh, N & Mishra, S.K.: Understanding Micro-Irrigation Adoption as a Complex Adaptive System: A Participatory Systems Mapping Approach from Semi-Arid India. *Agricultural Systems*

16. **Mitra, S.** Kaur, H., Pandey, M.K., & Goyal, A.: Community-Led Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Livelihoods: Insights from Three Decades of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India. *Environmental Development*
17. Mishra, S. K., and **Mitra, S.**: Water-Saving Micro-Irrigation in Semi-Arid India: An Agent-Based Modelling Approach to Farmer Adoption and Policy Pathways. *Journal of Environmental Management*
18. Debsarma, D., & **Mitra S.**: Micro-Irrigation Adoption in Semi-Arid Northern India: A KAP-Based Analysis of Farmer Behaviour. *Indian Journal of Extension Education*
19. Debsarma, D., Saikia, A., **Mitra S.**, & Nanda, N.: Decoding the Grassroots Collaboration for Green Health: The Role of Local Partnerships in GEF-SGP Herbal and Traditional Medicine Projects in India. *Public Health in Practice*

Books, Monographs and Technical Publications

20. **Mitra, S.**, Pandey, M. K., Giriyan, A. L., & Goyal, A. (2026). *Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration in Coastal India*. TERI, New Delhi. <https://teriin.org/files/Community-Led-Biodiversity-Booklet.pdf>
21. Dubey, M., & **Mitra, S.** (Eds.). (2020). *Vision of Education in India*. Routledge.

Scopus Indexed Book Chapters

22. Nanda, N., & **Mitra, S.** (2023). Environment and Sustainable Development in South Asia. In *The Routledge Handbook of South Asia* (pp. 276-292). Routledge.
23. **Mitra, S.** (2020). Socio-Economic Determinants of Secondary Education in India. In *Universal Secondary Education in India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects* (pp.245-262). Springer.
24. Sawhney, A., & **Mitra, S.** (2015). Growth of Clean Energy Capacity in India and Associated Technology Import. In *World Scientific Reference on Asia and the World Economy* (pp. 249-260). World Scientific.
25. **Mitra, S.**, & Agarwal, M. (2020). Public Investment in Education and Out of School Children: The Case of India in South Asia. In *ECONOMICS OF G20: A World Scientific Reference Vol 2: How Developing Countries can Achieve Sustainable Development Goals* (pp. 237-257). World Scientific.
26. Agarwal, M., **Mitra, S.**, & Whalley, J. (2015). Indian Economic Growth, Its Ups and Downs. In *World Scientific Reference on Asia and the World Economy* (pp. 59-80). World Scientific.

Book Reviews in Journals

27. **Mitra, S.** (2025). Review of “Acharya Sarthi & Mehta S Balwant. Mapping the Path Progress and Promise on the SDGs: Analysis for India, Academic Foundation, 2025”. *Indian Journal of Human Development* 19 (2) 384-386 (Scopus)
28. **Mitra, S.** (2024). Review of “Subhash Sharma and Ksipra Sharma, Environment and Society: Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Routledge, 2023”. *Social Change* 54(4) 596-599 (Scopus)

Professional / Magazine Articles

29. **Mitra, S.**, & Nanda, N. (2025) Decoding India’s Leadership in South Asia for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions: Perspectives from GEF-SGP. *TerraGreen*, 17(12) 43-46
30. Nanda, N., & **Mitra, S.** (2024) Women Farmers’ Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation. *TerraGreen*, 16(11) 36-38.

Popular Press

31. **Mitra, S.** & Tiwari, A.K. (2026). Why micro-irrigation needs more than subsidies. *The Economic Times* (9.7.2026)<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/why-micro-irrigation-needs-more-than-subsidies/articleshow/132295475.cms>
32. Dubey, M., Pankaj, A., & **Mitra, S.** (2018). Still too many children out of school. *The Hindu*, (4.9.2018). <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/still-too-many-children-out-of-school/article62111134.ece>

Research, Projects and Grants

Over the past decade, I have led and contributed to research and evaluation projects across climate change, agriculture, gender, education, and development policy, mobilising over INR 3.5 crore in research funding.

On-going Project

1. Knowledge Management and Communication Activities in the Central Semi-Arid and Indian Coastal Region Landscapes (TERI- UNDP- MoEFCC) — *Project Director* (2024- 2026)

Leads documentation, knowledge synthesis, and policy-relevant dissemination of grassroots environmental initiatives under the GEF Small Grants Programme, including case development and South–South learning

Completed Research Projects

1. Agent-Based Modelling for Micro-Irrigation Adoption (ICSSR) — PI (2023–2024)
2. Evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the implementation of PCR Act, 1955 and the PoA Act, 1989, and working of National Helpline against Atrocities on the Members of SCs and STs (MoSJE) — Co-PI (2024)
3. Impact assessment of the Assam state initiative addressing concerns of out of school children — Co-PI (2023)
4. Natural Disaster Impacts on Children (Tata Trusts)—PI (2022)
5. Portability of Cash and In-Kind Transfers in India (KfW–Gol)—*Research Team Member* (2021–2022)
6. Study on the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Children in 4 States (TataTrust) — Co-PI (2021-2022)
7. Impact of COVID-19 on safe and secure secondary education of adolescent girls (RtE Forum) — Co-PI (2022)
8. SDG Training Manual for NGOs (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)—PI (*SDG-13*) (2021)
9. Climate Change Vulnerability of Women farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (ChildFund India)—PI (2021)
10. Rapid assessment of perceptions, fears, and readiness of important stakeholders about post COVID-19 re-opening of schools (ChildFund India) — PI (2020)
11. Implementation and impacts of school rationalization policy in Rajasthan (ChildFund India) — Co-PI (2019)
12. Water Conservation under MGNREGS (MoRD- NIRD&PR)—PI (*Haryana*) (2019)
13. Need Assessment of Airport Adjacent Villages in Ranchi (UNDP) — Co-PI (2019)
14. Baseline Survey of out-of-school children in Patna (Bihar) and Hamirpur (Uttar Pradesh) (RtE Forum with support from Malala Fund Gulmakai Network) — Co-PI (2018)
15. A Decade of MGNREGA: Participatory Assessments and Way Forward (Haryana Report) (NIRD&PR) — Principal Researcher of Haryana Report (2018)
16. Barriers to Primary Education in Chhattisgarh: A Study of Bastar and Sukma Districts (NEG-FIRE) — Co-PI (2017)
17. Impact Assessment of the National Digital Literacy Mission (CSC e-Governance Services) — Co-PI (2016)
18. Climate Change and Agriculture: Implications of Rice Cultivation in West Bengal (CSD) —PI (2015)

Roles: Project Director, Principal Investigator, Co-PI, and Lead Researcher, with responsibilities spanning project conceptualisation, methodology design, field implementation, data analysis, and policy-oriented dissemination

Proposal and Patent (Under Consideration)

1. Integrated Water–Energy–Food–Environment–Economy (WEFEE) Nexus Framework for Climate-Resilient Biofuel Transition in India (ANRF-ARG). Dr. Sudipta K Mishra (PI), **Dr. Susmita Mitra (Co-PI)**.
2. Early Warning and Decision Support System for Disaster-Resilient Water Infrastructure (NIDM) — Dr. Sudipta K Mishra (PI), **Dr. Susmita Mitra (Co-PI)**
3. A low-cost Ultrasonic Doppler-Based System for Riverine Flow Measurement — Inventor: Dr. Sudipta K Mishra. Co-Inventors: **Dr. Susmita Mitra**, Dr. Mainak Basu (Utility Patent published on 27/03/2026. Application No: 202611012900. Indian Patent Office)

Teaching, Mentoring, and Course Development

Teaching Experience

1. Taught postgraduate modules in *Methods of Research in Economics* (M.Sc., TERI School of Advanced Studies, 2023)
2. Co-instructor for UGC–SWAYAM postgraduate course on *Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation* (2026)
3. UGC Remedial Tutor for Statistics and Econometrics (M.A., JNU, 2009–2010)

Course Module Development

Developed two self-learning modules for the course Sustainable Development (IGNOU 2021):

1. Concepts of Global Commons and Climate Change
2. International Conventions on Sustainable Development

Research Guidance / Mentoring

- Co-supervisor for one Postdoctoral Research (CSD, 2024–2025)
- External supervisor for six Master’s dissertations (TERI School of Advanced Studies, 2023–2026)
- Mentored 11 undergraduate and postgraduate students from leading national and international institutions

Invited Lectures & Academic Engagement

- Invited Resource Person (SAGE Publishing): Delivered workshops at Banaras Hindu University, University of Delhi, and MANIT (Bhopal) on academic writing, systematic reviews, and publishing (2025-2026)
- V.V. Giri National Labour Institute: Session on ‘Decision Making under Climate Uncertainty: Lessons from Nature-Based and Community-Led Interventions’ at the *Training Programme on Managing Livelihood and Social Protection in the Light of Climate Change* (24 June 2026)
- Delivered lectures and training sessions on research methodology and academic writing across institutions including CSD–SRC Hyderabad, University of Delhi colleges, and other national institutions (2015–2025)

Administrative Responsibilities

1. *Staff Council Member*, CSD (December 2025-present)
2. *Organiser*, National Seminar on *Environmental Protection and Poverty*, CSD (2023)
3. *Faculty Representative, Administrative and Financial Committee*, CSD (2021 and 2022)

Conference Presentations

1. Invited panellist in the collaborative seminar “*Systems Mapping, Policy Research and Conscious Leadership*” at O.P. Jindal Global University (2026).
2. “*Systems Mapping as an Innovative Policy Tool: Exploring Impact and Sustainability of UNDP-GEF-SGP-India Grassroots Interventions*” K R Mangalam University, Gurugram (2025) (**Best Paper Award**)
3. “*Agent-Based Modelling for Water-Saving Technology Adoption*” INSEE Biennial Conference, BML Munjal University (2024)
4. “*Climate Change Perception and Adaptation among Women Farmers*” INSEE-IIITD Conference (2021)
5. “*Socio-economic Impacts of Climate Change in Aspirational Districts*” INSEE-CESS Conference (2019)
6. “*Technology and Management Solutions to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Indian Agriculture*” G D Goenka University (2015) (**Best Paper Award**)

7. *"Inter-temporal Emissions Trading in the Presence of Market Power and Non-Compliance"* Young Scholar conference, CESP, JNU (2012)
8. *"From Coal to Renewable Energy in India"* One-Day Seminar: India at HTW Berlin, HTW, Berlin, (2011)
9. *"The Real Exchange Rate and Export Performance: East Asian Story"* JNU-CIGI-NIPFP conference (2010)
10. *"Trade and Growth: Role of Investment and Government, Evidence from East Asia"* JNU-CIGI-NIPFP conf (2008)

Professional Training

1. Two weeks ICSSR Workshop on Research Methodology (2024)
2. One-day INSEE workshop on Behavioural and Experimental Economics for Environmental Policy (2019)
3. Two-day Training Course on Remote Sensing, GIS and Machine Learning Methods for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, IIITD-INSEE, (2019)
4. Two-day Workshop on Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) (Delhi School of Economics) (2018)
5. Two-day Workshop on R for Ecological Economics, INSEE-TERI University (2018)
6. Seven-day Data Analysis Workshop using STATA with Special focus on using NSS data, SNAP Academy - Aligarh Muslim University, Murshidabad Centre (2017)
7. Two-day workshop on Geospatial Technologies and Applications, Shiv Nadar University (2017)
8. Five-day Research Methodology Workshop on Impact Evaluation of Issues Related to Climate Change and Agriculture, IEG - INSEE (2017)
9. Three-day Workshop on Applied Economic Tools and Techniques for Managing Environmental Resources, TERI University (2016)
10. Workshop on Empirical Research on WTO and other Issues in International Trade (UNCTAD India) (2010)

Membership

Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) (Membership No. LIFE-453)

Other Skills

On-stage comparing/anchoring:

- On-stage comparing of 7th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) (The Oberoi, India) (2014)
- Comparing of multiple events of CSD in the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India International Centre, New Delhi.

Referees

Prof. Nitya Nanda (Director, CSD, January 2020 – December 2025)
Council for Social Development,
Sangha Rachna, 53 Lodi Estate,
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supervisor)
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Date: 13/07/2026

Place: New Delhi

Signature: 