

## Resource Persons' Profile



**Diane E. Davis** is the Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning and Urbanism at Harvard's Graduate School of Design (GSD). Trained as a social scientist (BA in Sociology & Geography, Northwestern University; Ph.D. in Sociology, UCLA) Davis's research interests include the relations between urbanization and national development as well as urban governance, with a special emphasis on the global south and Mexico in particular. Her books include *Cities and Sovereignty: Identity Conflicts in the Urban Realm* (Indiana University Press, 2011); *Discipline and Development: Middle Classes and Prosperity in East Asia and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2004); *Irregular Armed Forces and their Role in Politics and State Formation* (Cambridge University Press, 2003); and *Urban Leviathan: Mexico City in the Twentieth Century* (Temple University Press 1994; Spanish translation 1999). Current projects focus more directly on sustainability, climate change, and ecological challenges for cities and regions. In 2020-21 she served as member of a team sponsored by the UK-Mexico Pact for Sustainability that examined farmer-industrialist conflicts over water in Mexico; in 2022 she led research funded by the World Bank/IFC on disaster resilience in the Philippines and has collaborated with the UN-Habitat's recently founded Urban Economy Forum (UEF) to advance global progress on SDG #11 goals (Cities and Communities). In 2023 Davis was named a CIFAR Fellow and Co-Director of its *Humanity's Urban Future* program.



**Himanshu Burte**, an architect and urbanist, is Associate Professor at Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies at Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. He has taught at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and has a Ph. D. in Urban Planning. Burte practiced architecture in Mumbai and Goa for over a decade and a half and has published extensively across professional, popular and scholarly platforms since 1990. He has edited a special issue of *Marg* titled *Infrastructure as space: Development and its (Dis)Contents* (2019). His latest book (co-edited with Amita Bhide) *Urban Parallax: Policy and the City in Contemporary India* (Yoda Press, India, New Delhi, 2018) gathers diverse disciplinary perspectives to critique urban policy in India. His 2008 book, *Space for Engagement: The Indian Artplace and a Habitational Approach to Architecture* (Seagull Books, Kolkata), proposes an alternative conceptual framework for architecture centred on the act of dwelling.



**Iman Mitra** teaches history at the Department of History and Archaeology, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR. His research interests include economic history, history of economic thought, digital and platform economies, migration and urban history. He has co-edited the book, *Accumulation in Post-Colonial Capitalism* (2016) with Ranabir Samaddar and Samita Sen. He is also a member of the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group.



**John Hutnyk** is currently Associate Professor in Sociology at Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam and in 2024 a Visiting Professor at Bon University, Germany. In 2016 he was a Government of India GAIN scholar at Jadavpur University. Before that he was Visiting Professor at National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan. In 2015 he was in InterCultural Studies at Nagoya City University Japan, and since 2014 was Visiting Researcher at RMIT University in Australia, and at Mimar Sinan University in Turkey. He has held visiting scholar posts in Germany at the South Asia Institute and Institute für Ethnologie at Heidelberg University, and Visiting Professor posts at Zeppelin University and Hamburg University, Germany. For 14 years he was at Goldsmiths University of London in Anthropology and since 2008 as Professor of Cultural Studies. Hutnyk is the author of *The Rumour of Calcutta: Tourism, Charity and the Poverty of Representation* (1996), *Critique of Exotica: Music, Politics and the Culture Industry* (2000); *Bad Marxism: Capitalism and Cultural Studies* (2004); *Pantomime Terror: Music and Politics* (2014); *Global South Asia on Screen* (2018); and co-authored with Virinder Kalra and Raminder Kaur: *Diaspora and Hybridity* (2005). He has edited 4 other books and more than a dozen journal special issues.



**Mouleshri Vyas** is Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, in the School of Social Work, at the Centre for Community Organisation and Development Practice, and Member, Calcutta Research Group. She has more than three decades of experience as an educator-practitioner. Her teaching, research, field engagement, and publications have focused on community development and practice, migration and informal labour, disasters and development, urban restructuring and resettlement, project evaluation research, and social accountability in welfare programmes. She has undertaken and led diverse field extension and research projects, and has engaged with universities in South East Asia, South Africa, North and South America, and Europe as part of teaching and research collaborations. She works in various capacities with academic institutions, voluntary organisations, government and corporates to support and strengthen research and practice addressing community and development issues.



**Paula Banerjee** is the IDRC Chair and the founding Director of the Centre of Gender and Forced Displacement (CGFD) at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Earlier she was the Dean of Arts, University of Calcutta and Vice Chancellor of The Sanskrit College and University. She supervised 32 departments and 10 research centres. She also served as President of the International Association for Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). She served as the Honorary Director of Calcutta Research Group and is currently associated with this institute as one of the members of its Governing Body. She has a long research and publication record on gender and displacement in both South and Southeast Asia.



**Ranabir Samaddar** is currently Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies at the Calcutta Research Group and Fellow at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). He belongs to the critical school of thinking and is considered as one of the foremost theorists in the field of migration and forced migration studies. His writings on migration, forms of labour, urbanisation and political struggles have brought in a new turn in post-colonial thinking. Among his popular work are the edited volumes *Karl Marx and the Postcolonial Age* (2018), *Migrants and the Neoliberal City* (2018), the monographs *The Postcolonial Age of Migration* (2020), *A Pandemic and the Politics of Life* (2021), *Imprints of the Populist Time* (2022), *Alternative Futures and the Present: Postcolonial Possibilities* (2023).



**Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay** teaches History and Political Economy at the Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali. He is also a permanent module fellow of the M.S. Merian – R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies ‘Metamorphoses of the Political’. His earlier and ongoing research projects explore themes in informality, infrastructure technologies, urban history and governmentality studies in late-colonial and postcolonial India. He works on the trajectories of capitalist accumulation and urbanisation in twentieth-century Calcutta, economic informality, postcolonial statecraft and its relationship with knowledge, social policy, rent and tenancy relations in South Asian cities, and mass political formation under popular sovereignty and neoliberalism. Ritajyoti is the author of *Streets in Motion: The Making of Infrastructure, Property, and Political Culture in Twentieth-century Calcutta* (2022).





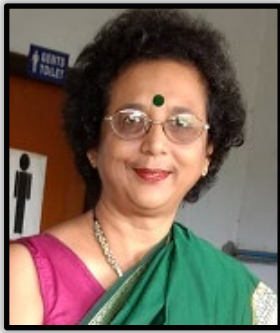
**Roger Keil** is Distinguished Research Professor at the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University in Toronto. He researches global suburbanization, urban political ecology, cities and infectious disease, infrastructure, and regional governance. Among his publications are *The Globalizing Cities Reader* (Routledge, 2017, ed. with Xuefei Ren), *Suburban Planet* (Polity, 2018), *After Suburbia* (UTP, ed. with Fulong Wu, 2022), *Pandemic Urbanism* (Polity, 2023, with S.Harris Ali & Creighton Connolly) and *Turning Up the Heat: Urban political ecology for a climate emergency* (MUP, ed. with Maria Kaika, Tait Mandler & Yannis Tzaninis, 2023). Keil is a Fellow of CIFAR's Humanity's Urban Future program.



**Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury** is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He has also been the Vice Chancellor of this university from 2012 to 2023. He was a Visiting Fellow at the (Institute fur die Wissenschaft vom Menschen (IWM), Vienna, Austria in 2023, a Visiting Professor at Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh in, Visiting Fellow at Peace Research Institute, Oslo, Norway, at Dayton Law School, Ohio, USA (2011), Brunel Law School, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK, Visiting Residential Fellow, South Asia Forum for Human Rights (1999), etc. His recent publications include: *Sites of Statelessness: Laws, Cities, Seas*, (Albany: State University of New York 2024, with Ayse Caglar and Ranabir Samaddar) and *The Rohingya in South Asia: The People without A State*, (Abingdon: Routledge 2018, with Ranabir Samaddar). He is currently the President of Calcutta Research Group (CRG) and Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata (IDSK).



**Samata Biswas** teaches English at the Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata. Previously Samata held positions in Haldia Government College and Bethune College, as part of the West Bengal Education Service. At the Sanskrit College and University, she teaches courses and texts related to gender, caste, partition and colonialism. Samata is the editor of the "Politics, Space, Memory: Identity Making in the Wake of Partition", special issue of *Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration* (2023), co-editor of *Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity* (2020), and the special issue of the *Anveshi Broadsheet on Contemporary Politics on Violence* (2017). Samata is the book review editor of *Refugee Watch: A South Asian Journal on Forced Migration* and a member of the editorial collective of *Refugee Watch Online*, a blog on forced migration. Samata is a member of Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group.



**Samita Sen** is Vere Harmsworth Professor in Imperial and Naval History at the University of Cambridge. She was First Vice Chancellor, Diamond Harbour Women's University (West Bengal, India). She has taught in the universities of Calcutta and Jadavpur. Her monograph on women's employment in the jute industry in colonial Bengal was published in 1999 and won the Trevor Reese Prize in Commonwealth History. She is at present working on women's migration and history of marriage. She has published papers on education, the women's movement, religious conversion, informal labour, including transport workers, and domestic violence. She has participated in action research on gender budgeting, women in governance and women's land rights. Her recent publications include a jointly written book on women domestic workers, *Domestic Days* (2016) and edited translations of three tracts on Assam tea plantations, *Passage to Bondage* (2016). *Love, Labour and Law: Early and Child Marriage in India*, co-edited with Anindita Ghosh, was published by Sage India (2021). She has been a member of Sachetana, an autonomous women's organization in Kolkata (India), since the early 1980s. Samita is a member of Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group.



**Shatabdi Das** is Researcher at the Calcutta Research Group (CRG). She was Junior Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, in Austria (2022), under the 'Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration'. She is currently doing research on cities, urban and environmental issues, and climate change, and has delivered lectures in several international workshops as well as tutored workshop modules. She has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Calcutta (awarded in 2020) for her doctoral thesis on 'the impact of industrial and urban development on the environment of Asansol-Durgapur Planning Area'. Shatabdi has taught Geography at PG level in Sarsuna College, Kolkata (affiliated to the University of Calcutta) and has previously worked as Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban Economic Studies, University of Calcutta.



**Simon Goldhill** is Professor of Greek Literature and Culture at the University of Cambridge, and has just finished as Foreign Secretary of the British Academy. He is currently the co-director of the multinational, large scale project 'Humanity's Urban Future', funded by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). He has published over twenty books, which have been translated into twelve languages and won three international prizes. He has lectured and broadcast all over the world.