

Sonalini Kaur Sapra

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Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University
VU Station B # 35187
Nashville, TN 37235
Tel: 615.945-4329

Email: sonalini.k.sapra@vanderbilt.edu

Education

- 2008 Dissertation in Progress. Title: "Feminist Environmentalism and Neo-Liberal Globalization: Activist Initiatives for Environmental Justice." Expected date of completion May 2009.
Committee: Brooke A. Ackerly (chair), James Booth, Monica Casper (Sociology) and Florence Faucher-King.
- 2007 Institute of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research, Arizona State University
- 2006 Comprehensive Exams: Political Theory and International Relations
- 2002 M.A., University of Warwick, United Kingdom. Politics and International Relations.
Thesis: "The Islamization of Law in Pakistan: A problem of legal, political and religious interaction."
Committee Chair: Professor Barbara Roberson
- 2001 B.A., Honors, History. Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University, India

Research and Teaching Interests

Feminist Political Ecology
Feminist Political Theory
Introduction to Political Theory
Contemporary Political Theory

Environmental Politics
Feminist Methodology
Transnational Feminisms
Women and Representation

Publications

Sapra, Sonalini. "Feminist Perspectives on the Environment." Forthcoming 2008. Feminist Theory and Gender Section, International Studies Association Compendium Project.

Sapra, Sonalini with inputs from Shatadru Chattopadhyay. 2004. "Trade Campaign Paper on India." Christian Aid Report.

Conference Papers

"Participation, Ethics and Power: Engaging in Research Collaborations with Feminist

Environmental Justice Movements.” Paper accepted for presentation at the International Studies Association. February 2009, NY New York.

“Feminist Environmentalism and Neo-Liberal Globalization: Activist Initiatives for Environmental Rights and Justice.” Paper presented at the International Studies Association. March 2008. San Francisco, California.

“Ethical Models of Student-Researcher Activism.” Paper presented at the World Social Forum. January 2007. Nairobi, Kenya.

“Citizenship and citizenship: theory and activism” (with Brooke Ackerly). Paper presented at the International Studies Association. March 2006. San Diego, California.

Sapra, Sonalini. “Scholarship, Sponsorship and Social Activism.” Paper presented at the World Social Forum. January 2005. Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Fellowships

- 2008 Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University. George J. Graham Dissertation Completion Fellowship, \$20,000
- 2004 United Nations University. Tokyo, Japan. Junior Fellow, Peace & Governance Programme, \$4,500

Research Grants and Awards

- 2007 Southern Asian Studies Institute, Columbia University. Taraknath Das Foundation Research Grant, \$3,500
- 2007 Center for Ethics Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, \$2000
- 2006 Global Feminisms Collaborative Graduate Fellow, Vanderbilt University, \$2500
- 2005 Center for the Americas Graduate Fellow, Vanderbilt University, \$2000
- 2005 Mellon Foundation and Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University ‘Social & Political Thought’ Interdisciplinary Colloquium, \$2000
- 2004 CORDAID Grant for holding women’s human rights workshop at WSF, \$2800
- 2004 Arts and Sciences Graduate School Assistantship, Vanderbilt University Tuition waiver and stipend, \$14,500 (continued till 2008)

Travel Grants

- 2008 Arts and Sciences Graduate School, Vanderbilt University. Travel Grant to International Studies Association Conference, \$500
- 2007 Arts and Sciences Graduate School and Dept. of Political Science, Vanderbilt University Travel Grant to World Social Forum Conference, \$2250

- 2006 Political Science Research Methods Award, Vanderbilt University. Grant to attend Institute of Qualitative and Multi-Method Research', ASU, \$1,000
- 2006 Japan Foundation and United Nations University (UNU). Travel Grant to UNU 'Peace, Environment & Development' Conference, \$1500
- 2006 Arts and Sciences Graduate School, Vanderbilt University. Travel Grant to International Studies Association Conference, \$500
- 2005 Arts and Sciences Graduate School, Vanderbilt University. Travel Grant to World Social Forum Conference, \$1000

Teaching Experience

- Summer 2008 Graduate Instructor, *Introduction to Political Theory*. Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University.
- Summer 2008 Participant: Teaching Seminar on "Teaching Texts: The Hard Stuff of Reading." Center for Ethics. Vanderbilt University.
- Summer 2007 Participant: Teaching Seminar on "Pedagogy of the Difficult: Exploring the Hard Stuff." Center for Ethics. Vanderbilt University.
- Fall 2006 Teaching Assistant to Professor Brooke Ackerly
Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University
Course: *Introduction to Political Theory*

Research Experience

- 2007-2008 Research Assistant to the Global Feminisms Collaborative (GFC), Center for Ethics, Vanderbilt University. Analyzed the work done by women's movements and examine the research questions that emerged from it. Worked on building ethical and sustainable networks with these groups.
- 2004-2008 Research Assistant to Professor Brooke A. Ackerly, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University. Researched background material, did fieldwork and conducted interviews with women's human rights activists for book on Universal Human Rights.
- 2003-2004 Research Assistant to Dr. Navsharan Singh. International Development Research Center (IDRC). New Delhi, India. Researched background material, transcribed interviews and sorted data in preparation for a report detailing the impact of a literacy campaign on women's empowerment in Bhali village in Haryana, India.
- 2002-2004 Researcher at the Center for Education and Communication (CEC). New Delhi, India Trade and Labor Rights Unit. Did research and advocacy on the impact of globalization and liberalization on India's farming community, garment industry and tea plantation sector. Conducted fieldwork in three Indian States – Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Editorial Experience

2005-2006 Editorial Associate to Professor John Geer. Journal of Politics, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University

Professional Service

2006-2008 Student Representative, Feminist Theory and Gender Section, International Studies Association

2006-2007 Reviewer, Journal of Politics

Professional Memberships

Member, International Studies Association (ISA)
Member, Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section, ISA
Member, Indian Association of Women's Studies (IAWS)

Convened Conferences and workshops

Co-Convener, *Environmental and Gender Justice – Perspectives from and for Global Feminisms*. Workshop on activism and scholarship for gender and environmental justice.
April 24-26, 2008. Vanderbilt University. Nashville, TN.

Co-Convenor, *Constructing Feminist-Inspired Community-University Partnerships*. Workshop on the ethics of community-university partnerships.
June 29, 2007. US Social Forum. Atlanta, Georgia.

Co-Convenor, *Student Researcher Activists: Models of doing Service Research*. Workshop on student research and its connections with social change.
January 22, 2007. World Social Forum. Nairobi, Kenya.

Co-Convenor, *Locally-Based Activism and the Academy*. Workshop on local activism and its relationships with the academy.
Marcy 2006. C.O.O.L Idealist Conference, Vanderbilt University. Nashville, TN.

Convenor, *Sponsorship, Scholarship and Women's Human Rights Activism: Building Bridges and Fostering New Leadership* Workshop on collaborations and networking among activists, donors and scholars.
January, 2005. World Social Forum. Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Community and Global Activism

Participant, Nashville Peace and Justice Center Leadership Institute. Intensive nine-week training course on social justice issues and effective community organizing, Spring 2005

Project Assistant, Al-Zahraa. Sakhnin, Israel. Responsible for writing project reports and updates about the status of Arab women in Israel. Networked with NGOs and government departments in addition to fundraising. Summer 2001

Teacher, Sakhnin Higher Secondary School. Sakhnin, Israel. Taught students English and organized summer school activities. Summer 2001

Intern, UNICEF. Pyongyang, North Korea. Worked on designing a country-specific booklet entitled “Facts for Life” which disseminated information on child and maternal health and vaccination schedules. Summer 1999

Coordinator, Voluntary Agency Placement Programme. New Delhi, India. Worked in a team of three to establish contacts with various NGOs, understanding their project goals, and helped place college student with these organizations. Held blood donation drives on campus and organized workshops on issues related to the environment, women’s development, education and economic development.

References

Brooke Ackerly (Dissertation Chair)
Associate Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Vanderbilt University
301 Calhoun Hall
VU Station B # 351817
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235
brooke.ackerly@vanderbilt.edu
tel: 615.322.6231

Monica Casper
Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Women’s Studies
Director, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (HArCS)
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University
P.O. Box 37100
Phoenix, AZ 85069-7100
monica.casper@asu.edu
tel: 602.543.6057

James Booth
Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Vanderbilt University
301 Calhoun Hall
VU Station B # 351817
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235
william.j.booth@vanderbilt.edu
tel: 615.322.2491