

The University of Queensland - IIT Delhi Academy of Research Joint PhD Project

PROJECT TITLE	UNDERSTANDING HUMAN-WATER RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURES
PROJECT CODE	UQIDAR 00178
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>Water is essential to sustainable development and for human and environmental flourishing. In many places, water sources are threatened by scant regulation of industrial use and extraction of water, inadequate scientific knowledge (especially of groundwater), and other problems with infrastructure and ecological management. Emergent research in the social sciences indicates how water everywhere is intensely embedded in the political domain, increasingly the subject of political economic manipulation, and implicated in complex relationships of power. Social scientific studies of what has become known as the 'hydrosocial' - the inextricable relationship of social and political systems with water resources - demonstrate that we must understand the complexity of human relationships with water in greater depth if water sources and flows are to be secure and sustainable into the future. This project will apply the social scientific approach of political ecology to investigate the 'hydrosocial' in one (in-depth) or two comparative sites in India and/or Australia. This research project challenges a doctoral researcher to expand existing knowledge of the case specific and comparative human relationships with water and how these intersect with the economic, ecological and political drivers of water use and access. We are interested in supervising projects that investigate the key role the modern state has played in defining rights over water resources, especially for development projects, and that consider the ways in which such rights have intersectional implications (race, gender, tribe, caste, class, indigeneity). The project seeks to contribute conceptual knowledge into 'the hydrosocial' as well as practical contributions to reducing social and environmental inequalities associated with water sustainability. Thematic areas of potential interest include gender and water; the political ecology of urban infrastructure; caste, drinking water, and sanitation; 'cultural flows' of water and indigenous environmental management; hydropower and riverscapes; groundwater and water pollution.</p>
PROJECT OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will deliver practical knowledge that will help draw apart some of the complexities of 'hydrosocial' relationships that threaten the sustainability of water resources as well as reproduce water inequalities. Practical knowledge will be delivered in policy briefs. • The project will deliver conceptual knowledge in the social scientific understanding of hydrosocial relations. • The project will establish academic relationships between social science researchers at UQ and IITD in the area of social scientific research into water, providing a platform for future cross institutional collaboration.
ADVISORY TEAM	<p>Dr Sally Babidge https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1621s.babidge@uq.edu.au School of Social Science The University of Queensland</p>

	<p>Associate Professor Vibha Arora http://hss.iitd.ac.in/faculty/vibha-arora aurora@hss.iitd.ac.in Department of Humanities & Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology Delhi</p>
TYPE OF STUDENT	Applications are open to i/a students who meet eligibility criteria . note: i-students must have own scholarship to apply (CSIR, UCG-NET, etc)
DISCIPLINE BACKGROUND OF STUDENT	Ideally, this project requires students with a background in social anthropology, sociology, geography, development studies, political science, social work, environmental studies
IDEAL CANDIDATE	<p>Essential capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good Masters/postgraduate qualifications in Social Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Development Studies, Political Science, Social Work, and Environmental Studies.• Ability to undertake independent research and collect data, analyze and communication skills. <p>Desirable capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One year of work experience in development sector/teaching/journalism is desirable;• good communication skills in the English Language with computer literacy;• requisite language competency for undertaking fieldwork(fieldwork related) <p>Expected qualifications (courses, degrees, etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-time Undergraduate degrees in Social Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Development Studies, Political Science, Social Work, and Environmental Studies. First Class in English medium instruction.• Full-time Postgraduate degree in Social Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Development Studies, Political Science, Social Work, and Environmental Studies. First Class in English medium of instruction.• in India - you should have cleared UGC Net exam.
APPLICATION PROCESS	Apply online by the due date: https://www.uqidar.org/students/how-to-apply/