

## ASHIMA SOOD

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### EDUCATION

- Cornell University.** PhD in Economics. 2008.  
Dissertation Title: "Three Essays on the Cycle-Rickshaw Rental Market: Informal Markets and Institutions in a City in Central India."  
*Dissertation Committee Chair: Kaushik Basu*
- University of California-Davis.** MA in English. 2007.  
Concentrations: Fiction, Creative Writing  
*Thesis Committee Chair: Lucy Corin*
- Delhi School of Economics.** MA in Economics. 1999.  
*First Class*
- University of Delhi.** BA (Honours) in Economics. 1997.

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- University of California-Davis.** Non-resident Fellowship. 2005 – 2007.
- Cornell University.** International Research Travel Grant. 2003 – 2004.
- Cornell University.** Sage Fellowship for Academic Excellence. 2000 – 2005.
- Delhi School of Economics.** Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence. 1998 – 1999.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Economic and Political Weekly, Hyderabad.**  
*Senior Assistant Editor.* July 2010 – Present.  
*Assistant Editor.* October 2009 – June 2010.  
Dedicated editorial coordinator for the new *Review of Urban Affairs*.
- Hanover Research Council, Charlottesville, Virginia.**  
*Senior Content Analyst, Higher Education.* January 2008 – March 2009.  
*Content Analyst.* July 2007 – December 2007.
- University of California, Davis, California.**  
*Teaching Assistant.* Literature. 2005-2006.  
*Instructor.* Introduction to Fiction. 2006 – 2007.
- ActionAid India, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.**  
*Research Intern.* Summer 2002.
- Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.**  
*Teaching Assistant.* Institutions and Economic Development, Intermediate Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics. 2001 – 2005.
- College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi.**  
*Lecturer in Economics.* Business Law, Business Finance, Economic History of India. 1999 – 2000.
- World Commission on Dams, New Delhi.**  
*Research Associate, Thematic Review on Displacement, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Reparation and Development.* Summer 1999.

### SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

“A future for the informal sector? The cycle rickshaw sector as case study”, Refereed special article, *Economic and Political Weekly*, forthcoming.

“Neighbourhood Organizations”, in George A Barnett (ed) *Encyclopaedia of Social Networks* (Thousand Oaks, California: Sage). 2011.

“Vendor Street”, Book review of *Street Vendors in the Global Urban Economy* edited by Sharit Bhowmik, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 46(29):70-72. 2011.

“Invisible Labour”, Book review of *Circular Migration and Multilocational Livelihood Strategies in Rural India* edited by Priya Deshingkar and John Farrington, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(15): 27-29. 2010.

“Accounting for Economic Performance”, Review Article on *Report of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress* by Joseph E Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(7): 34-40. 2010.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Community in College”, Editorial, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 47(26&27):9.

“High Cost of Information”, Editorial, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(38): 8. 2010.

“Illusory Gains”, Editorial, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(21): 9. 2010.

“Private cities”, Editorial, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(12): 7-8. 2010.

“A ‘Green’ GDP”, Editorial, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 44(49): 6. 2009.

“Transit Visa”, in Ravi Vasudevan, Ravi Sundaram, Jeebesh Bagchi, Monica Narula, Geertz Lovink, and Shuddhabrata Sengupta (ed) *Sarai Reader 07: Frontiers*. (Delhi: Sarai / Center for the Study of Developing Societies). 2008.

“Everyday”, in Anita Roy (ed) *21 Under 40: New Stories for a New Generation* (New Delhi: Zubaan Books). 2007.

“Slum Diaries”, Eight-part feature series on urban poverty and livelihoods in a slum in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh based on project completed for ActionAid Raipur. *India Together*, <http://www.indiatogether.org/states/chhatisgarh.htm>. 2005.

### UNDER SUBMISSION

“How does relationship-based governance accommodate new entrants? Evidence from the cycle rickshaw rental market” (with Tarun Jain). *Indian School of Business Working Paper*. Under review at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

“Together, We Clap: Performing Community as Aesthetic in the Kirtan Mandali.”

“Canonical Borders: Narrative Fictions and Development Studies.”

“Brighter than a Thousand Suns: Making sense of growth and its limits”

“The rise of gates in urban India: Continuity or disruption?”

“Exchange, collective action and the provision of public goods in the Mohalla: Investigating a lower middle class Delhi neighbourhood.”

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

**International Conference on Public Policy and Governance 2012.** "Mapping the Migrant City Using Mixed Methods in the Cycle Rickshaw Rental Market." September 2012. Bengaluru.

**Special IARIW-SAIM Conference on 'Measuring the Informal Economy in Developing Countries'.** "Accounting for Self-employed Workers in the Informal Services Sector: Insights from the Cycle Rickshaw Rental Market in a City in Central India." September 2009. Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Virginia Social Science Association Annual Conference.** "Owning versus renting: Evidence from the cycle rickshaw rental market in Central India." March 2009. Petersburg, Virginia, USA.

**Southeast Conference, Association for Asian Studies.** "Informal Governance and Political Economy of Transport Policy in India." January 2009. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

#### OTHER AWARDS AND GRANTS

**Indian Institute of Advanced Study.** Selected for *Spring School on the Mahabharata*. April 2010. (Declined).

**New York State Summer Writers Institute.** Mimi Bresler Smith and Patricia Robertson Amusa-Shonubi Fiction Scholarship. Summer 2007.

**Indiana University Writers Conference.** Runcible Spoon Fiction Scholarship. Summer 2004.

**ActionAid India.** Research Grant, Investigating the Cycle-rickshaw Rental Market in Bilaspur. 2003 - 2004.

#### REFERENCES

1. Kaushik Basu  
Carl Marks Professor of International Studies  
Department of Economics  
Cornell University  
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Currently with the Ministry of Finance,  
Government of India  
Email: [kb40@cornell.edu](mailto:kb40@cornell.edu)
2. Erik Thorbecke  
Graduate School Professor  
H.E. Babcock Professor of Economics & Food Economics, Emeritus  
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3. Lucy Corin  
Associate Professor  
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