

April 2011

BEJOY K. THOMAS

Centre for Environment and Development
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)
Royal Enclave, Srirampura, Jakkur Post, Bangalore – 560064, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91-(0)80-23635555, Fax: +91-(0)80-23530070
E-mail: bejoykt@yahoo.com , bejoy.thomas@atree.org

Experience

2008-till date: Fellow (at the level of Asst. Professor), Centre for Environment and Development, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, India

2008: Research Associate, IT for Change (ITfC), Bangalore, India

2002-2003: Research Assistant, IVO, Tilburg University, The Netherlands & Department of Applied Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), India

Education

2009: Ph.D. (Development Studies), Tilburg University, The Netherlands (Committee: Prof. Dr. Arie de Ruijter – supervisor, Dr. Roldan Muradian – co-supervisor, Prof. Dr. Bas de Gaay Fortman, Prof. Dr. Isa Baud, Dr. Luuk van Kempen)

2001: M.B.E (Business Economics), Cochin University of Science and Technology, India
2000 Feb-Aug: Prepared Masters dissertation in Development Economics at Tilburg University, The Netherlands with Jan Tinbergen Scholarship

1998: B.A. (Economics), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India

Research interests

Social-ecological vulnerability, multidimensional poverty, participatory development, rural livelihoods, social implications of environmental change

Teaching interests

Development studies, political economy, field research methods in social sciences

Publications

Peer reviewed journal articles

2010: B.K. Thomas, R. Muradian, G. de Groot & A. de Ruijter, 'Confronting or Complementing? A Case Study on NGO-State Relations from Kerala, India', *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 21(3): 258-70

2010: B.K. Thomas, 'Participation in the Knowledge Society: the Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Movement Compared with Participatory Development', *Development in Practice*, 20(2): 270-6

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2010: B.K. Thomas, R. Muradian, G. de Groot & A. de Ruijter, 'Resilient and Resourceful? A Case Study on How the Poor Cope in Kerala, India', *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 45(1): 29-45

2009: B.K. Thomas, R. Muradian, G. de Groot & A. de Ruijter, 'Multidimensional Poverty and Identification of Poor Households: A Case from Kerala, India', *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 10(2): 237-57

2008: B.K. Thomas, 'Methodological Debate in Poverty Studies: Towards 'Participatory Qual-quant'?', *Development in Practice*, 18(2): 280-8

Book reviews

2009: B. K. Thomas, 'International Development Studies-Theories and Methods in Research and Practice' by A. Sumner and M. Tribe, *Development and Change*, 40(5): 977-8

2007: B. K. Thomas, 'Doing Development Research' edited by V. Desai and R. B. Potter, *Development and Change*, 38(3): 560-1

Dissertation

2009: B. K. Thomas, 'Poverty Knowledge and Development Actors', PhD dissertation, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, xvi + 160 pp. ISBN 9789066290105

Research projects

As major investigator

2010-ongoing: Land, Water and Livelihoods programme project at ATREE; internally funded; participating faculty – interdisciplinary project with inputs from hydrology, geography and social sciences; field visits in Kerala and Karnataka, India

2003-07: PhD project on Poverty Knowledge and Development Actors; funded by IVO, Tilburg University, The Netherlands; primary investigator – interdisciplinary project with inputs from economics and social anthropology; fieldwork in Kerala, India; output includes four peer reviewed publications and one invited policy level presentation

As team member

Research Associate (post doctoral) – ICT's participatory local development; advocacy project; funded by UNDP; field visits in Gujarat, India (2008)

Research Assistant (post Masters) – impact assessment of NGO programmes on household living standards; funded partially by IDPAD; fieldwork in Kerala, India (2002-03)

Teaching

2009, 2008: Social Sciences foundation (F2), Research methods (C2): co-taught, ATREE PhD programme

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Occasional lectures on theoretical and topical issues in development and research methods for early and mid career professionals based in academic centres and NGOs

Supervision

On the dissertation committee of one PhD candidate at ATREE/Manipal University

Occasional supervision of research interns (Masters and post Masters) at ATREE

Major awards

2007: 2020 Vision Doctoral Student of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): One among ten leading doctoral students working on poverty, selected by IFPRI through a global competition

2000: Jan Tinbergen Scholarship from Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education for studies at Tilburg University, The Netherlands during February-August 2000

1998: Merit Scholarship from Malayala Manorama, a leading Indian newspaper, at the Masters level

Professional service

External

Ad hoc reviewer of research papers, grant proposals and curriculum design for journals and agencies including National Science Foundation, USA, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and Kerala State Higher Education Council

Internal

Joint coordinator of a national level certificate course by ATREE in environment and development for early and mid career professionals (March 2011). Modules covered both socio economic and bio physical aspects.

Executive committee member (elected), ATREE, 2011-13

Reviewer for ATREE general small grants (Environment and Development category)

Professional membership

Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA)

Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)

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Select external lectures and presentations

Invited

2011 Feb: UGC-Academic Staff College, University of Calicut, India; Refresher course in Environmental Science

2009 Jan: National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India; The Knowledge Society Debates of The STEPS Centre, IDS, Sussex

2008 Mar: Kerala State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram, India; State Level Workshop on Poverty in Kerala

2007 Oct: Beijing Normal University, China; IFPRI 2020 Vision Doctoral Students Workshop

Other

2007 Nov: Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium; Chaire Quetelet 2007 on Poverty Dynamics and Vulnerability

2006 Apr Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, The Netherlands Development Economics PhD Seminar

2005 Dec: Warsaw School of Economics, Poland; EADI/DSA Multidimensional Poverty Working Group Meeting