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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, Duke University, 2006 (expected).

Major Fields: Comparative Politics, specialization in Environmental Politics and South Asia.

Dissertation Committee : Margaret McKean (chair), Karen Remmer, Steven Wilkinson, Randall Kramer (environmental economics).

M.A. Political Science (Comparative Politics and Political Methodology), Duke University, 2004.

B.A. (Honors) Economics, University of Delhi, 1990.

PUBLICATIONS

Chhatre, Ashwini, and Vasant Saberwal, (forthcoming, 2007). Politics, Democracy, and Visions of Nature: Conflicts over Conservation in the Western Himalayas. *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Chhatre, Ashwini, and Vasant Saberwal, (forthcoming, 2006). *Democratizing Nature: Politics, Conservation, and Development in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Agrawal, Arun, and Ashwini Chhatre, (2006). Explaining Success on the Commons: Community Forest Governance in the Indian Himalayas. *World Development* 34(1): 149-166.

Agrawal, Arun, and Ashwini Chhatre, (2005). Interpreting Long Tails: Qualitative analysis of regression residuals. *Political Methods* (Working Paper Series of the IPSA Committee on Concepts and Methods), No. 6, www.concepts-methods.org.

Chhatre, Ashwini, and Vasant Saberwal, (2005). Political Incentives for Biodiversity Conservation. *Conservation Biology* 19(2): 310-317.

Chhatre, Ashwini, (2003). The Mirage of Permanent Boundaries: Politics of Forest Reservation in the Western Himalayas, 1875-97. *Conservation and Society* 1(1): 137-159.

Chhatre, Ashwini, (2001). Territorialization, Resistance, and the Mirage of Permanent Boundaries. *Himalayan Research Bulletin* 21(2): 15-25.

Gadgil, M., P.R. Sheshagiri Rao, G. Utkarsh, P. Pramod, A. Chhatre, (2000). New Meanings for Old Knowledge: The People's Biodiversity Registers Programme. *Ecological Applications* 10(5): 1307-1317.

Chhatre, Ashwini, (1997). Towards a Pro-people Forest Legislation : The Forest Bill Campaign. In S. Joshi, M.K. Bhatt, and K. Edwin (eds.) *Experiences of Advocacy in Environment and Development*. Lucknow, India: Development Support Initiative.

Chhatre, Ashwini, (1996). A Socio-ecological Basis for Natural Resource Management: The Forest Bill Debate. *Economic and Political Weekly* 31(18): 1084-1090.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Agrawal, Arun, and Ashwini Chhatre (2006). Qualitative Analysis of Regression Residuals. Under review at *World Politics*.

Agrawal, Arun, and Ashwini Chhatre (2006). Institutions, Co-Governance, and Forests in the Indian Himalayas. Under review at *Comparative Studies in International Development*.

Chhatre, Ashwini, (2005). Universalist Agendas and Contingent Realities: Politics of participatory conservation and development. Under review at *Contributions to Indian Sociology*.

WORK IN PROGRESS (Selected)

Chhatre, Ashwini. Illegible Lands, Unruly People, and Technologies of Government: Environmental Decentralization in Historical Perspective. Preparing for submission to *Progress in Human Geography*.

Agrawal, Arun, and Ashwini Chhatre. The Politics of Environmental Co-Governance: State, Community, and Institutions in India. Book manuscript – four draft chapters finished.

Chhatre, Ashwini. The Environmental State: Democratic Competition and Environmental Policies at the Sub-national Level in India, paper presented at the seminar “Rethinking Environmentalism”, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, December 6, 2001 (under preparation).

Chhatre, Ashwini. Community as the Last Resort: Property Rights and Coercive Conservation in Punjab, 1846-1947. Early draft presented at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Environmental History, Providence, RI, 2003 (under preparation).

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Post-doctoral Fellowship, Center for International Development, Harvard University (2006-07).

Ciriacy-Wantrup Post-doctoral Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley (2006-08, declined).

Agrarian Studies Post-doctoral Fellowship, Yale University (2006-07, declined).

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (2004-06).

F. K. Weyerhaeuser Forest History Fellowship for Dissertation Research (2004-2005).

Duke University Graduate School. Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship (2004).

Duke University Graduate School. Graduate Awards for International Research (2003).

Duke University Center for International Studies. Graduate Research Awards (2003).

Duke University Graduate School. Graduate Awards for International Research (2002).

Duke University Center for International Studies. Graduate Research Awards (2002).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Environmental Politics in Developing Countries (Poli Sci 147). Spring 2006.

Teaching Assistant, Environmental Politics in Developing Countries (Poli Sci 147). Fall 2002, Fall 2003. Prof. Margaret McKean.

Teaching Assistant, Environmental Politics Beyond the Borders (Poli Sci 148). Spring 2003, Spring 2004. Prof. Margaret McKean.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political competition: Impact on social development, economic growth and redistribution, democratic stability, environmental quality and regulation, and other outcomes.

Environmental politics: Study of interactions between nature and society, mediated through institutions created by asymmetrically-located actors, and the efforts of social actors to change these institutions.

Preference formation: Role of institutions in creating and changing individual preferences.

Political Methodology: Research design, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, modeling ignorance through intelligent specification of covariance structures and random effects.

DISSERTATION PROJECT

Democracy on the Commons: My dissertation research investigates the impact of political competition on local cooperation for management of natural resources in India. Several developing countries have constituted democratic institutions over the last decade, and democratic institutions have become the chief vehicle for the articulation of social interests. Simultaneously, many of the same countries have embarked upon policies that confer local communities with management responsibilities regarding natural resources such as forests and fisheries. A large literature on collective action and common property resource management has explored the determinants of local cooperation theoretically and empirically. However, most of this research is focused on internal attributes of communities such as group size and heterogeneity, ignoring the political context within which communities must perform. What effect does political competition have on the ability of local communities to cooperate on the commons? I hypothesize that this complex, multi-dimensional relationship is contingent upon local heterogeneity, discretionary powers represented by property rights, and levels of democratic participation. The analysis draws upon historical, ethnographic, and statistical analysis of the experience of community initiatives for the management of forests and fisheries in the north-Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. I conclude that political competition has an overall negative impact on local cooperation, and this impact is higher for heterogeneous communities. However, higher levels of participation and property rights with greater decision-making autonomy provide resources to local communities in adjusting and responding to the effects of political competition.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Institutional Regimes and Forest Condition: A collaborative project with Prof. Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Under this project, data was collected in 2001 in 103 villages and 205 forests in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northern India, covering four centralized and four decentralized institutional regimes for forest management. The research aims to (1) compare the impact of institutional and legal arrangements vis-à-vis broad socio-economic, demographic, and biophysical factors on resource conditions and, (2) examine whether different types of institutional regimes lead to systematically different resource-related outcomes. The project is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. We are currently working on several articles and a book manuscript based on the findings. One article has been accepted for publication in *World Development*.

Democratizing Nature: This book project, in collaboration with Dr. Vasant Saberwal, explores the intersection of two critical issues in nature conservation in India today – first, the conflict between conservation and large-scale development projects, and local livelihoods, and second, the contradiction between exigencies of electoral politics and imperatives of nature conservation. It focuses on the events and experiences in the Great Himalayan National Park, India, to illuminate the contradictions in the current conservation paradigm and argues that politically mobilized communities represent an asset that can be reconciled with conservation priorities. Research for the project was supported by a grant from the Department for International Development, Government of United Kingdom. The book manuscript has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press, New Delhi. One article has been published in *Conservation Biology* and two others are under review.

Environmental Identities and Practices: This project is also being implemented in collaboration with Prof. Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. It seeks to explore the process of preference formation, through a study of the effect of participation in local institutions created through decentralization policies for environmental conservation, on the environmental attitudes and perceptions of rural residents in Himachal Pradesh. The project will explore the experiences of

participants in the World Bank-funded Ecodevelopment Program, and assess the extent to which changes in individual-level environmental attitudes are related to socio-economic identities such as gender, caste, or class, as compared to the level of participation in environmental activities initiated by the Program. The research is based on a quasi-experimental longitudinal design, with pre- and post-treatment surveys in program villages, and a control group of villages outside the program selected on specific criteria. The research aims to cover 3000 individuals in 100 villages over three waves of data collection. The individual and village-level survey instruments were field-tested in spring of 2005 with support from the International Forestry Resources and Institutions Research Program, Indiana University, Bloomington (IFRI). A seed grant from the University of Michigan and additional funding from IFRI will support the first wave of data collection in March 2006, and we are preparing a grant proposal for NSF to be submitted in August 2006 to support later waves.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Reviewer for *World Development*, and *Journal for Environmental Management*.

Member, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, and International Association for the Study of Common Property.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

April 1995 – December 2000 : Involvement with Navrachna – a state-level coalition of Community-based Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, elected representatives, political leaders, trade union activists, academics, and lawyers – focusing on issues of governance and natural resource management.

Co-coordinator and Principal Investigator for Himachal Pradesh, for the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Research Project, initiated by the Center for Ecological Sciences and WWF-India, during August 1996 and January 1998. Responsible for thirteen detailed case-studies of local knowledge and traditional management systems for biodiversity and natural resources across the state, as well as leading involvement in development of a methodology for protecting and documenting such knowledge and systems through the instrument of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers. Resulted in one publication in *Ecological Applications* (Gadgil *et al.* 2000).

April 1994 – March 1995 : Assisting Dr. Walter Fernandes, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, in coordinating the National Campaign Against the Draft Forest Bill. The successful campaign targeted the draconian provisions of the amendments proposed to the Indian Forest Act, particularly those relating to curtailing forest rights and privatization of state forests. More than 9000 organizations participated in the debate on the draft bill. Responsible for organizing the national convention in October 1994, as well as coordinating activities in the Western, Central, and Southern regions of India. Published one pamphlet, two chapters in edited volumes, and one article in *Economic and Political Weekly*.

May 1990 – December 1993 : Full-time activist with *Khedut Mazdoor Chetna Sangath*, an independent trade union working to organize Bhil and Bhilala tribals in central India for rights to land and forest rights. The trade union was part of *Narmada Bachao Andolan*, the movement against destructive development symbolized by large dams. Twenty-eight member villages of the *sangath* were threatened with submergence by the Sardar Sarovar dam on Narmada river, and work involved coordinating support from the rest of the member villages for the opposition to submergence. Also involved in *Shoshit Jan Andolan*, a network of people's organizations in western India, across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.