

# Paromita Sanyal

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## Professional Appointments

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2016      | Associate Professor of Sociology, Florida State University |
| 2011-2015 | Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cornell University       |
| 2008-2011 | Assistant Professor of Sociology, Wesleyan University      |
| 2007-2011 | Research Consultant, The World Bank, Washington, D. C.     |

## Education

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|------|-------|--|
| 2008 | Ph.D. | Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Sociology             |
| 1999 | M.A.  | Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, Sociology |
| 1997 | B.A.  | Presidency College, Kolkata, India, Sociology            |

## Publications

### Books:

**Sanyal, Paromita.** 2014. *Credit to Capabilities: A Sociological Study of Microcredit Groups in India.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press

Winner of the **OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD** from the American Sociological Association, Section on Sociology of Development, 2015.

**Sanyal, Paromita,** and Vijayendra Rao. (Under Advance Contract) *Declarative Democracy: An Analysis of Gram Sabhas in Indian Village Governments.* Cambridge University Press, [Proposal Available].

### Articles and Chapters:

**Sanyal, Paromita.** 2015. "Group-based Microcredit and Emergent Inequality in Social Capital: Why Socio-Religious Composition Matters." *Qualitative Sociology* 38(2): 103-137.

**Sanyal, Paromita.** 2015. "The Role of Emotions in Deliberative Development." Pp. 167-191 in *Development and Deliberation: Rethinking the Role of Voice and Collective Action in Unequal Societies*, edited by Patrick Heller and Vijayendra Rao. World Bank Group: Washington D. C.

Rao, Vijayendra, and **Paromita Sanyal**\*. 2010. "Dignity through Discourse: Poverty and the Culture of Deliberation in Indian Village Democracies." *The Annals of the American Association for Political and Social Sciences* 629: 146-172. \*  
Equal author

**Sanyal, Paromita**. 2009. "From Credit to Collective Action: The Role of Microfinance in Promoting Women's Social Capital and Normative Influence." *American Sociological Review* 74(4): 529-550.

**Sanyal, Paromita**. 2006. "Capacity Building through Partnerships: Intermediary Nongovernmental Organizations as Local and Global Actors." *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 35(1): 66-82.

### **Work in Progress:**

**Sanyal, Paromita**, Vijayendra Rao, and Shruti Majumdar. "Recasting Culture to Undo Gender: An Analysis of the Jeevika Intervention in Rural Bihar, India."  
*Published as Policy Research working paper, no. WPS 7411. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.*

**Sanyal, Paromita**, Vijayendra Rao, and Umang Prabhakar. "Oral Democracy and Women's Oratory Competency in Indian Village Assemblies: A Qualitative Analysis."  
*Published as Policy Research working paper, no. WPS 7416. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.*

Davidson, Thomas R., and **Paromita Sanyal**. "Microcredit SHGs and Social Networks in India: Expanding Poor Women's Personal Ties."

Das, Sabyasachi, Pushkar Maitra, and **Paromita Sanyal**. "Social Networks, Political Engagement, and Public Goods Provision."

### **Book Reviews:**

**Sanyal, Paromita**. 2014. Review of *Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh* by Lamia Karim. Minnesota, University of Minnesota Press. *Contemporary Sociology* 43(1): 95-97.

**Sanyal, Paromita**. 2006. Review of *Brothers and Sisters in India: A Study of Urban Adult Siblings* by G.N. Ramu. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. *Canadian Review of Sociology*.

## Invited Presentations

- 2014 **University of Notre Dame**, Kellogg Institute for International Studies,  
Title: Credit to Capabilities: Microcredit through a Sociological Lens
- 2013 **Brown University**, Watson Institute & the Dept. of Sociology,  
Title: Credit to Credibility: Microcredit's economic and associational  
impacts on Women in India
- 2013 **Cornell University**, 'Agrarian Crisis in India?' Annual Conference of  
the Cornell-Syracuse Title VI South Asia Consortium.  
Chaired session on 'Farmer Suicides'  
Panelist in the final 'Roundtable on the Way Forward: Political Crisis?'
- 2013 **Cornell University**, Young Social Scientists' Sustainability Research  
Forum (YSSRF)  
Title: Microcredit Groups and Gram Sabhas: The Indian Civic Sphere  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA\\_HY19W0B8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA_HY19W0B8))
- 2012 **Cornell University**, Department of Development Sociology  
Research Presentation at Demography Proseminar
- 2012 **Northwestern University**, Department of Sociology  
Title: Credit to Credibility: Microcredit and the question of Women's  
Agency.
- 2012 **Cornell University**, Center for the Study of Economy and Society,  
Department of Sociology  
Title: Making Sense of Sentimental Economies: Microcredit, Women's  
Agency, and Social Capital.
- 2010 **The World Bank**: World Development Report on Gender Equity and  
Development, 2012  
Invited by the Director of the WDR Committee to present my research  
and findings on microcredit and on key linkages between gender  
equity, culture, and development.
- 2010 **Universität Bayreuth**, Bayreuth, Germany  
Public lecture: Institut für Afrikastudien  
Title: Deliberative Democracy: Empirical Evidence from Gram Sabhas  
in South India
- 2010 **London School of Economics**, Department of Sociology  
Title: Credit, Capital, or Coalition: Microfinance, Women's Agency, and  
Social Capital
- 2010 **Brown University**, Watson Institute  
Conference: Six Decades of Indian Democracy: Achievements, Failures,  
Promises, and Challenges
- 2010 **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**,  
Washington, D.C.  
Workshop on Decentralization – "Opening the Black Box"  
Title: Dignity through Discourse: Poverty and the Culture of  
Deliberation in Indian Village Democracies
- 2010 **United Nations**, Department of Economic and Social Affairs,  
Division of Social Policy and Development  
Title: Credit, Capital or Coalition: Microcredit and Women's Agency

- 2009 **Harvard University**, Kennedy School of Government,  
Invited talk by co-author on joint research  
Title: Deliberative Democracy in India
- 2009 **Universität Bayreuth**, Bayreuth, Germany  
Department of Economics,  
Program on International Development  
Title: Development through Deliberation: Evidence from Gram Sabhas  
in South India
- 2008 **The University of Chicago**,  
Conference: Culture and Poverty  
Title: Poverty and the Culture of Deliberation: Village Meetings in  
Rural India
- 2007 **The World Bank**, Social Science and Policy Seminar Series  
Social Development Department and Development Research Group  
Title: Credit, Capital or Coalition: Accounting for Women's Agency and  
Group-based Collective Mobilizations of Microfinance Groups
- 2007 **Harvard University**, Dept. of Sociology  
Course: Gender and Work  
Title: Microfinance in the context of gender and work in developing  
countries
- 2006 **Brown University**, Department of Sociology  
Title: Credit, Capital, or Coalition: Microfinance & Pathways to  
Women's Agency
- 2006 **Princeton University**, Department of Sociology  
Title: Credit, Capital, or Coalition: Microfinance & and Pathways to  
Women's Agency
- 2006 **University of Massachusetts (Boston)**  
Title: Microfinance Groups as Vehicles of Human Rights

## Conference Presentations & Sessions Organized

- 2015 Paper presentation: "Talking to the State: Women's 'Self Help Group  
(SHG)' Membership & Civic Participation in Rural India."  
Session on 'Gender, Politics & Governance'  
Sociology of Development Conference  
Brown University
- 2015 'Author meets Critic' session: Commentator  
For the book *Plastic Money: Constructing Markets for Credit Cards in  
Eight Postcommunist Countries* by Akos Rona-Tas and Alya Guseva,  
2014. Stanford University Press.  
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual meeting, New York City
- 2014 Session Organizer (with co-organizer: Alya Guseva): 'Credit, Poverty  
and Inequality'  
Section on Economic Sociology

- American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, San Francisco
- 2014 Paper presentation: "Microcredit Money: Converting Loans to Leverage."  
Session: 'Money Advances: International Developments'  
Section: Economic Sociology  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, San Francisco
- 2014 Paper presentation: "Microcredit Groups and Women's Social Capital: Why socio-religious composition matters?"  
Session: 'Development and Gender'  
Section: Sociology of Development  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, San Francisco
- 2012 Organizer & Panel Chair: 'Microcredit: (De)Constructing Capabilities in the Age of Capitalism.'  
Network: States & Society  
Social Science History Association (SSHA) meeting, Vancouver
- 2012 Paper presentation: "How religious composition matters for a capitalist welfare intervention: Collective Action and Sanctioning by Microcredit Groups in India."  
Network: States & Society  
Social Science History Association (SSHA) annual meeting, Vancouver
- 2012 Paper presentation: "Economic and Political Culture in the Indian Public Sphere: A study of 'Gram Sabha' Deliberations."  
Session: Sociology of Culture & Economic Sociology  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, Denver
- 2012 Paper presentation: "Hazards of Heterogeneity (and Homogeneity): Collective Action and Sanctioning in Microcredit Groups."  
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual meeting, New York City
- 2010 Paper presentation: "Dignity through Discourse: Poverty and the Culture of Deliberation in Indian Village Democracies."  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, Atlanta
- 2009 Paper presentation: "From Credit to Collective Action: The Role of Microfinance in Women's Social Capital and Normative Influence."  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, San Francisco.
- 2009 Paper presentation: "From Credit to Collective Action: The Role of Microfinance in Women's Social Capital and Normative Influence."  
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual meeting, Baltimore

- 2007 Paper presentation: "Credit versus Coalition: Exploring the Influence of Microfinance Programs on Women's Agency."  
Session: Development  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, New York City
- 2007 Paper presentation: "Microfinance and Beyond: Structural Interventions Promoting Economic Opportunity and HIV Risk Reduction."  
Yale University, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), New Haven, Connecticut
- 2005 Paper presentation: "Contentious Collaborators: Research and Practice in the field of Microfinance"; "Capacity Building through Partnership: Intermediary Nongovernmental Organizations as Local and Global Actors."  
Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations (ARNOVA) annual meeting, Washington D.C.
- 2005 Paper presentation: "Microfinance: Cultural consequences of an economic intervention."  
American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, Philadelphia

## Awards & Honors

- 2013 New Faculty Institute, Center for Teaching Excellence,  
**Cornell University**
- 2006-2007 Pascucci Fellowship- for Dissertation Completion  
**Harvard University**
- 2005 Emerging Scholar Award,  
The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (**ARNOVA**)
- 2005 Certificate of Distinction For Teaching  
**Harvard University**
- 2004 "Distinction" in field Examination  
**Harvard University**, Department of Sociology
- 2001 "Honors" in Qualifying Examination  
**Harvard University**, Department of Sociology

## **Fellowships & Grants**

- 2013-2014    Affinito-Stewart Grant  
President's Council of Cornell Women  
Research Project Title: Talking to the State: Women's Participation in  
Deliberative Development.  
Role: PI  
Grant amount: **\$4,600**
- 2011-2017    International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) grant  
Research Project Title: Poverty and Empowerment Impacts of the  
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project  
Role: Co-PI  
Grant amount: **\$480,000**  
3ie is a non-profit organization supporting evaluation research on  
development programs <<http://www.3ieimpact.org/>>

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Florida State University Graduate Courses**

- 2016            Gender and Development (Spring)

### **Cornell University Graduate Courses**

- 2015            Readings in Economic Sociology (Spring)  
2013            Culture in Economic Sociology (Fall)  
2013            Gender in Global Capitalist Production

### **Cornell University Undergraduate Courses**

- 2015            Introduction to Sociology - Online (Winter, Summer)  
2015            Introduction to Sociology (Fall)  
2015            Introduction to Sociology (Spring)  
2014            Introduction to Sociology (Fall)  
2013            Introduction to Sociology (Spring)  
2012            Culture in Markets and Economies (Spring)  
2012            Gender, Work, and the Family (U.S. & Europe) (Spring)

### **Wesleyan University Undergraduate Courses**

- 2008-2011    Sociological Methods  
2008-2011    Introduction to Economic Sociology  
2008-2011    Introduction to Sociology  
2008-2011    Gender and Development (Global South)

## Harvard University Undergraduate Courses

2005            Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory

## Student Advising

### Graduate Students

- 2014-            Yujin Oh, Cornell University, Department of Sociology,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2014-            Hilary Holbrow, Cornell University, Department of Sociology,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2013-            Tara Agrawal, Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2014            Jerry Benjamin, Cornell University, Asian Studies  
Member of the Masters Thesis Committee
- 2013            Erin Lentz, Cornell University, Department of Sociology,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2013            Jung mee Park, Cornell University, Department of Sociology,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2013            Alexa P. Yesukevich, Cornell University, Department of Sociology,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2013            Preeti Mudliar, University of Texas, Austin, Dept. of Communications,  
Member of the Graduate Doctoral Thesis Committee
- 2011            ATM Jahiruddin, University of Queensland, Australia, Department of  
Sociology,  
External Reviewer for Ph.D. thesis

### Undergraduate Students

- 2015            Jeong Hyun Oh, Cornell University, Department of Sociology  
Thesis Title: "You Win or You Die": The Effect of Limited Resource on  
Child Mortality  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee (Advisor)
- 2013            Chloe Hart\*, Cornell University, Department of Sociology  
Thesis Title: Em'Body'ed Capital: The Pursuit and Ranking of  
Attractiveness among Women at an Ivy League University  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee (Advisor)  
  
\*currently pursuing graduate studies in Sociology at Stanford  
University
- 2012            Adam Kahn, Cornell University, Institute of Labor Relations  
Thesis Title: Microfinance in Andhra Pradesh: Perspectives on the  
Causes and Impacts of the October 2010 Microfinance Crisis  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee, Second Reader

- 2011 Anna Cash Waber, Wesleyan University, Department of Sociology  
Thesis Title: Social Entrepreneurship and Processes of "Culture-Making" in the World of Poverty Alleviation  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee (Advisor)
- 2011 Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver\*, Wesleyan University, Department of Sociology,  
Thesis Title: Women Waging Wars: Uncovering the Role, Significance, and Lasting Effects of Women in Nepal's Peoples War, 1996-2006  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee (Advisor)  
*\*graduated* with Honors from the College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University
- 2009 Carlyn Wright-Eakes, Wesleyan University, Department of Sociology  
Thesis Title: Women's Work in the Informal Garbage Collecting Community in Guatemala City  
Undergraduate Thesis Committee (Advisor)

## **Service to the Profession**

### **Section Leadership, American Sociological Association:**

- 2016 *Section on Economic Sociology*, Viviana Zelizer Book Award Committee, Committee Member
- 2016 *Section on Comparative Historical Sociology*, Reinhard Bendix Best Student Article Award Committee, Committee Chair

### **Conference Session Presider & Chair:**

- 2012 Roundtable Session Presider: 'Sociology of Economic Behavior', American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, Denver
- 2005 Session Chair: 'Organization Analysis in Comparative Perspective', ARNOVA annual meeting, Washington D.C.
- 2005 Session Chair: 'Welfare and National Organizations', American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting, Philadelphia

### **Reviewer for Grant Committees:**

- 2014 Economic and Social Research Council, U.K. (ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research)
- 2014 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- 2014 Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Department of Social Sciences, Research Talent

## **Peer Reviewing:**

Reviewer for the following Journals: *American Sociological Review; American Journal of Sociology; Sociological Theory; Mobilization; Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; Socio-Economic Review; Geoforum; Contemporary South Asia; The European Journal of Development Research; Oxford Development Studies; Journal of Asian and African Studies*

## **Service to Cornell University**

2014-2015 South Asia Program, Fulbright Committee (member)  
2012-2015 Faculty Senate (member)  
2014-2015 Graduate Admissions Committee (member)  
2012-2013 Graduate Admissions Committee (member)  
2011-2012 Mellon Post-doc Selection Committee (member)