

Institute of Development Studies
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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

DATE OF BIRTH: 29 January

NATIONALITY: Indian

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Policy Processes; State-Society relations; Politics and Power; Gender relations; Unpaid Care Work; Social Protection; Citizenship

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: South Asia – India, Nepal

OVERVIEW

Deepta is a social scientist with a focus on women's empowerment and politics of policy processes. Her research interests primarily focus on the empowerment of women and girls, and its core links with their paid work and unpaid care work. She is a dynamic project leader who has developed, fundraised for, and implemented various research projects on social protection and gendered political economy analysis of women's economic empowerment programmes and policies. She works closely with state and non-state partners in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and is known for her excellent organizational and managerial capabilities. Deepta has extensive experience in political economy analysis, and has worked intensively on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Food Rights Act in India. Deepta has had high impact in the policy and practice of international development, especially in relation to her work on the care economy and MGNREGA. She is an expert on mixed methods research design and qualitative methodologies, and aligns herself closely with issues of power and participation, citizen engagement and governance. Deepta is an enthusiastic and popular teacher; she convenes the PhD programme at IDS in addition to convening and teaching on a range of relevant modules.

EDUCATION

2011 – 2013 **Post graduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCertHE)**, University of Sussex, UK

2005 – 2009 **PhD in Geography**, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, UK
Thesis title: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), India: Towards an Understanding of Policy Spaces.

2002 – 2004 **MPhil in Development Studies**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
With Distinction. Dissertation title: Comparing Rights Based, Livelihoods and Economic approaches in Bhuj, Gujarat.

1997 – 1999 **Masters in Social Work (MSW)**, Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi, India

1994 – 1997 **BA (hons) in Economics**, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, India

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2010 - PRESENT **Research Fellow, Governance Cluster**, Institute of Development Studies, UK

I have independently developed, fundraised, led and delivered several successful research projects during this time:

- a) **'Sustaining Power: Women's struggles against backlash in contemporary South Asia'** – ESRC large grants project. This five-year project starts in January 2020, and will be implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The research will aim to generate empirical and theoretical understandings of when, how and why women's struggles succeed in retaining power and sustaining their gains against backlash and counter attacks. I am the Principal Investigator for this project, and also the India and Nepal lead.
- b) **'Balancing unpaid care work and paid work: successes, challenges and lessons for women's economic empowerment programmes and policies'** - Growth of Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) (DFID-IDRC-Hewlett foundation funded) project. This was a 33-month mixed methods research project working in India, Nepal, Tanzania and Rwanda to explore how policies and programs to economically empower women should take into account the unpaid work that most women perform as caregivers; and provide evidence for the links between economic empowerment, time use and unpaid care work. I was the Principal Investigator for this project, and also the India and Nepal lead.
- c) **Political Economy Determinants of the MGNREGA's implementation, India.** This two year project investigated why the performance of the MGNREGA differed across eight states of India, with state capacity and elite commitment as the two main analytical lens (DFID funded RPC on Effective States and Inclusive Development – ESID, through University of Manchester). I was the IDS lead researcher on this, and also the lead for the qualitative work on this project.
- d) **Under Nutrition and Public Policy in India:** This project examined the ways in which public policy could address persistent undernutrition in India - with a specific focus on the political economy of the National Food Security Act (IDRC funded). I was the lead researcher on this.

In addition, I have led and delivered on several large components of programmes within IDS, including:

- e) **Making Unpaid Care visible** – this was one component of the 'Gender, Power and Sexuality' grant, looking at the political economy determinants of making care visible in Indonesia and Bangladesh (SIDA funded). I was the lead researcher for this component on this 3 year project. April 2012 – March 2015.
- f) **Making Unpaid Care Visible in Nepal, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda:** this was one component of IDS's Accountable Grant's theme on 'Empowerment of Women and Girls' (DFID funded). I was the lead researcher for this component, in addition to being the overall lead for the Empowerment of Women and Girls theme. The other two components that I coordinated under the theme were: Health of women and girls in rapidly urbanizing contexts; and Gender based violence. April 2012 – March 2016.
- g) Country study on **India's international development engagements**, Rising Powers in Development: A sub component of the DFID Accountable Grant theme on Rising Powers (DFID funded), I was part of a team of researchers working on this country case study. April 2014 – March 2015.

I have also bid for consultancy/ partnership projects and was successful in obtaining the following:

- i) **Feminist analysis of time diaries** (AAI, secondary data analysis for POWER project, with data from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uganda and Rwanda)
- ii) **Gender Responsive Public Services, poverty and the Lives of Young Urban Women** (AAI, primary and secondary research in Ghana and South Africa)
- iii) **Institutional assessment and training for Social protection Framework** (UNICEF Nepal);
- iv) **Literature review on unpaid care work** (ActionAid International);
- v) **Literature review on Social Protection and Nutrition** (Save the Children UK);
- vi) **Country briefs** for Nutrition Flagship Report (Save the Children UK)

May 2010 – June 2010 **Researcher for ‘Public Works in Asia’ project**, Social Protection Team, Overseas Development Institute, London
Conducting a literature review and analysis of all Public Works projects in South Asia.

Jan 2005 – Dec 2005 **Research Fellow**, Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University (Health and Safety Executive funded)
I was part of a three member team at WLRI responsible for this project. I led and conducted research in 2 of 5 project areas (London and North-East of England), including in-depth interviews with over 80 BME migrant workers and employers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – present **Director of Doctoral Studies**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
- 2013 – PRESENT **PhD Supervisor**
1 PhD supervised to completion (thesis titled: Nurturing Emergent Agency: Networks and Dynamics of Complex Social Change Processes in Raipur, India);
3 on-going PhD supervisees on topics related to gender, social protection and political commitment.
- 2013 – PRESENT **Course Convener and Module Convener**, Institute of Development Studies
Convener, MA Gender and Development (from September 2015 – Sept 2019); Co-convener for the MA (Development Studies) programme (till September 2015); Module convener for the modules ‘Theoretical Approaches to Gender and Development’ (till September 2020), ‘Poverty Policy and Programmes’ (till September 2016), ‘Research Design’ and ‘Politics of implementing gender’.
- 2010 – Present **Lecturer and Supervisor**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Postgraduate teaching on MA (Gender), MA (Development Studies) and MA (Poverty), including course design, lecturing and term paper supervision. I have also supervised several Masters students for their dissertations on topics of Women’s empowerment, Unpaid care, Gender relations or rights based policies in India and South Asia.
I have been a core teaching and curriculum design team member for the core course ‘Ideas in Development Studies’ taken by all Masters students at IDS.
I have also moderated two core courses – Poverty and Inequality; and Disciplinary Perspectives in Poverty.
I regularly supervise and mark term papers and Masters dissertations, assess student presentations and am involved in course administration.

- 2006 – 2010 **Lecturer and Supervisor**, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge (part time)
Postgraduate teaching on Qualitative Research Methods (including software training) and
Discourse Analysis. Undergraduate teaching included sessions on Social Policy and
Entitlements; Gender; Participation Theory and Practice; and regular supervisions of
undergraduate students.
- 2007 – 2010 **Course Convener and Lecturer**, Certificate Programme in International Development,
Institute of Continuing education, University of Cambridge (part time)
Community Outreach teaching to a range of students including postgraduates and
undergraduates. I designed the course syllabus for this certificate programme, including
reading lists etc; and was responsible for course administration and teaching of 4 core
modules: Introduction to International Development; Strategies and Skills in International
Development; Understanding and Engaging with stakeholders in International Development,
Issues in International Development.
- 2004 – 2005 **Teaching Assistant**, Development Economics, IDS (Part time)
Responsibilities: Supervision and tutorials for all Masters students taking this course.
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PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Chopra, D.**, Hossain, N. and Nazneen, S. (2019) (ed). “Contentious Empowerment: Women, Development, and Power in South Asia’, Introduction for the Special Issue of Contemporary South Asia, Volume 27 (3)
- Ghosh, A. and **Chopra, D.** (2019) Paid work, Unpaid Care Work and Women’s Empowerment in Nepal, Special Issue of Contemporary South Asia, Volume 27 (3)
- Chopra, D.** (2019) ‘Taking care into account: leveraging India’s MGNREGA for women’s empowerment’ *Development and Change*; 50(6): 1687–1716
<http://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12535>
- Chopra, D.** (2018) ‘Accounting for Success and Failure in Policy Implementation: The role of commitment in India’s MGNREGA’, *Development Policy Review*, article doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12404>
- Chopra, D.** (2016) Demand Shortfalls or supply side constraints: what explains the shrinking Employment Guarantee in Rajasthan, India. *Journal of South Asian Development*, 11(2).
- Chopra, D.** and Sweetman, C. (2014) Introduction to Gender, Development and Care, Special issue on care *Gender and Development* Volume 22 (3)
- Chopra, D.**; Ekeoba, P.; Moussie, R.; Nesbitt-Ahmed, Z.; Sherpa, M. (2014) ‘Policy Advocacy for Women’s Unpaid care work: Comparing approaches and strategies in Nepal and Nigeria’ *Gender and Development* Volume 2 (3)
- Chopra, D.** (2014) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, India: Examining pathways towards establishing rights-based social contracts. *European Journal of Development Research* Volume 26 (3)
- Chopra, D.** Williams, P. and Vira, B. (2011) Politics of Citizenship: Experiencing State-Society Relations from the Margins, *Contemporary South Asia* 19.3
- Chopra, D.** (2011) ‘Interactions of ‘Power’ in the Making and Shaping of Social Policy’, *Contemporary South Asia* 19.2

Chopra, D. (2011) 'Policy Making in India: A Dynamic Process of Statecraft', *Pacific Affairs* 84.1

Williams, P., Vira, B. and **Chopra, D.** (2011) 'Introduction: Marginality, Agency and Power: Experiencing the State in Contemporary India', *Pacific Affairs* 84.1

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

Chopra, D. (2020) (forthcoming) 'Women in the labour market: Structural constraints and solutions towards gender equality and empowerment', in Hirway, I. (ed) India Social Development Report 2020, Centre for Social Development (CSD)

Chopra, D. (2020) (forthcoming) Paid work and unpaid care work in India, Nepal, Tanzania and Rwanda: a bi-directional relationship' – in IDRC and GROW Research Series at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development (ed) *Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: Insights from Developing Countries*. Routledge

Desai, S., Haddad, L., **Chopra, D.** and Thorat, A. (2015) (ed.) UnderNutrition and Public Policy in India: Investing in the Future. Routledge, India

Chopra, D. (2014) Mediation through state and non-state actors in Policy Making in India: the case of MG National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Von Lieres, B. and Piper, L. (ed) *Mediated Citizenship The Informal Politics of Speaking for Citizens in the Global South*. Chapter 6. Palgrave Publishing Ltd.

Koehler, G. and **Chopra, D.** (2014) (ed) *Development and Welfare Policy in South Asia*. Routledge (Single authored peer reviewed chapters in the book include Chapter 6: The Indian case: towards a Rights based Welfare State' and Chapter 12: Welfare, Development, Rights in South Asia'.

Chopra, D. (2014) "Exercising my rights: ethical choices and moral predicaments in accessing government documents" in Lunn, J (ed) *Fieldwork in the Global South Ethical Challenges and Dilemmas* Oxon: Routledge

Chopra, D. (2014) The Indian case: from welfare to rights. In Koehler, G. and Chopra, D (ed) *Development and Welfare Policy in South Asia*. Routledge

OTHER ACADEMIC OUTPUTS: Working papers and bulletin articles

Chopra, D., Saha, A., Nazneen, S. and Krishnan, M. (2020) 'Are Women Not 'Working'? Interactions between Childcare and Women's Economic Engagement' IDS working paper 533, Brighton: IDS

Chopra, D. with Ugalde, A. (2018) 'Initiating women's empowerment; achieving gender equality: Interlinkages amongst Social Protection, Infrastructure and Public Services'. Background paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting for the 63rd Commission for the Status of Women, UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019/preparations/expert-group-meeting>

Zaidi, M., Chigateri, S., **Chopra, D.** and Roelen, K. (2017) 'My Work Never Ends': Women's Experiences of Balancing Unpaid Care Work and Paid Work through WEE Programming in India; IDS working paper 494, Brighton.

Ghosh, A.; Singh, A.; Chigateri, S.; **Chopra, D.** and Müller, C. (2017) 'A Trapeze Act: Balancing Unpaid Care Work and Paid Work by Women in Nepal', IDS Working Paper 500, Brighton.

Rohwerder, B.; Müller, C.; Nyamulinda, B.; **Chopra, D.**; Zambelli, E.; Hossain, N. (2017) 'You Cannot Live Without Money': Balancing Women's Unpaid Care Work and Paid Work in Rwanda', IDS Working Paper 498, Brighton.

Zambelli, E.; Roelen, K.; Hossain, N.; **Chopra, D.** and Twebaze Musoke, J. (2017) 'How Can It Be a Problem If You Need Them Both?' Women Juggling Paid and Unpaid Care Work in Tanzania' IDS Working Paper 495, Brighton: IDS.

Chopra, D. and Mueller, C. (2016) Connecting perspectives on women's empowerment *IDS Bulletin* Volume 47 (1A), Institute of Development Studies.

Chopra, D. (2015) Political Commitment in India's social policy implementation: shaping performance of the MGNREGA *ESID working paper No. 50*. Effective States in Development, University of Manchester.

Chopra, D. (2014) 'They don't want to work' versus 'They don't want to provide work': Seeking explanations for the decline of MGNREGA in Rajasthan. *ESID working paper 31*. Effective States in Development, University of Manchester.

Devereux, S.; Roelen, K.; Bene, C., **Chopra, D.**; Leavy, J. and McGregor, J.A. (2013) Evaluating outside the Box: An Alternative Framework for Analysing Social protection Programmes, IDS Working paper 431, Brighton: IDS

Chopra, D. and te Lintelo, D. (2011) 'Democratic Governance for Social Justice: The Politics of Social Protection' in Devereux, S., Béné, C., Chopra, D., Koehler, G., Roelen, K., Sabates-Wheeler, R. and te Lintelo, D. 'Social Protection for Social Justice', *IDS Bulletin* 42.6, Brighton: IDS

RESEARCH and POLICY REPORTS

Chopra, D., Saha, A., and Maestre, M. (2018) 'Unpaid care work: A feminist analysis of time diaries from Ghana, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Rwanda'. IDS report submitted to AAI, POWER project

Chopra, D. with Zambelli, E. (2018) 'No time to rest: women's lived experiences of balancing paid work and unpaid care work' IDS report, Brighton: IDS

Zambelli, E., Morales, M.M., **Chopra, D.** and Fontana, M. (2017) Gender-Responsive Public Services, poverty and the lives of Young Urban Women. IDS report submitted to AAI.

Edstrom, J., **Chopra, D.** Mueller, C., Nazneen, S., Oosterhoff, P., Wood, S., and Zambelli, E., (2017) Reframing Gender Justice in an unequal, volatile World. IDS's Directions for Future research on Gender and Sexuality. IDS.

Chopra, D., and Nazneen, S. (2016) 'Addressing unpaid care for economic empowerment of women and girls – a position statement'. IDS – IDRC – OXFAM report to the UN High level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

Chopra, D., and Nazneen, S. (2016) Transforming Care dynamics: Lessons from Programme and policy. IDS evidence paper (including appendix containing 50 cases of programmes and policies). IDS – IDRC – OXFAM report to the UN High level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

Chaturvedi, S., Chenoy, A., **Chopra, D.**, Joshi, A., and Laghdiyan, K.H. (2014) 'Indian Development Co-operation: The State of the Debate', IDS Evidence Report, Brighton: IDS

Chopra, D. (with Kelbert, A. and Iyer, P.) (2013) A Feminist Political Economy Analysis of Public Policies Related to Care: A Thematic Review, IDS Evidence Report 9, Brighton: IDS

kabeer, N., Cook, S., **Chopra, D.**, and Ainsworth, P. (2010) *Social Protection in Asia: Research Findings and Policy Lessons*, SPA Programme Synthesis Report, Brighton: SPA and IDS

Mckay, S., **Chopra, D.** and Craw, M. (2006) *Migrant Workers in England and Wales: An assessment of Migrant Worker health and safety risks*, Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University, published by Health and Safety Executive, UK

Sabates-Wheeler, R., Haddad, L., and **Chopra, D.** (2005) *Risk and Vulnerability: Case Studies of Practical Country-Level Instruments and Approaches Used by Different Agencies*, IDS for OECD-PovNet

POLICY BRIEFS and PROGRAMME NOTES

Chopra, D.; Nazneen, S. and Krishnan, M. (2019) 'Women's Economic Engagement and Childcare: Moving from Survival to a "Triple Boon" ', Brighton: IDS

Zaidi, M.; Chigateri, S., **Chopra, D.** (2017) 'Empowerment Programming and Unpaid Care Work: Learning from 30 years of the Self-Employed Women's Association in Madhya Pradesh (SEWA MP)' Programmatic Guidance notes for Women's Economic Empowerment Policy and programming. Published by ISST and IDS. https://www.isstindia.org/publications/1509606721_pub_PN_India_Final_SEWA_Empowerment_Programming_and_Unpaid_Care_Work.pdf

Zaidi, M.; Chigateri, S., **Chopra, D.** (2017) 'Making Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) More Care-Responsive' Programmatic Guidance notes for Women's Economic Empowerment Policy and programming. Published by ISST and IDS. https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13214/PN_India_Final_Making_MGNREGA_More_Care_Responsive.pdf

Roychoudhury, S., Chenoy, A., **Chopra, D.** and Joshi, A. (2015) Is Indian Development Cooperation Taking a New Direction Under Modi? *IDS Policy Briefing 94*. Brighton: IDS

Chopra, D. (2015) 'Investing in the Future: Reforming Public Policy to End Under-Nutrition in India' *IDS Policy Briefing 85*. Brighton: IDS.

Chopra, D. (2015) Balancing Paid Work and Unpaid Care work to achieve women's economic empowerment. *IDS Policy Briefing 83*. Brighton: IDS.

Chaturvedi, S., Chenoy, A., **Chopra, D.**, Joshi, A. and Lagdhiyan, K.H. (2014) 'Learning from India's Development Cooperation' *IDS Policy Briefing 70*. Brighton: IDS.

Chopra, D. (2014) 'Connecting Unpaid Care Work and Childhood Development for Gains in Women and Children's Rights', *IDS Policy Briefing 51*. Brighton: IDS

Chopra, D. (2014) 'Towards Gender equality with Care-sensitive Social Protection', *IDS Policy Briefing 49*. Brighton: IDS

MEDIA OUTPUTS

2018 'Time to care' Animation, IDS, UK
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX4xfKB9Ba8>)

2018 Audio stories, IDS, UK
India: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LznG2DLmhk>
Nepal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx8JdofMz6E&t=1s>
Tanzania: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYLhQU98i_0&t=3s
Rwanda: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYGaXC7e-j4>

2015	Redistributing care work for gender equality and justice – a training curriculum; published jointly by ActionAid International, IDS and Oxfam UK
2014	'Who cares' Animation, IDS, UK (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVW858gQHoE)
2012 – present	Interactions website, IDS, UK (http://interactions.eldis.org/)

RECENT ACADEMIC AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

2018	Presentation on 'The role of the State in women's empowerment', webinar hosted by ActionAid International's POWER project, November.
2018	'Linking social protection, infrastructure and public services for gender equality' OECD – DAC Gender Network meeting, Paris, October.
2018	Presentation of background paper, at Expert Group Meeting, UN Women, New York, September.
2018	Panel and paper presentation on Women's Economic Empowerment and Unpaid care, International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual conference. New York, June.
2018	Paper presentation, Links between women's paid work and their economic empowerment, Development Studies Association (DSA) Annual conference. Manchester, June.
2018	Invitation to speak live on Radio 4's Women's hour programme, London, May.
2017	Panel and paper presentation on Unpaid care, SEEP network learning forum on Women's Economic Empowerment, Thailand, May.
2017	Panel and presentation on Women's experiences of paid and unpaid care work, International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual conference, Seoul, June.
2016	Presentation of preliminary findings from GrOW project on adolescents and care, UNICEF Innocenti Centre. Florence, December.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

2011 – Present	Member, Political Studies Association (PSA)
2011 - Present	Member, International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)
2009 – Present	Member, British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS)
2006 – Present	Member, Development Areas Research Group (DARG), Development Studies Association

2009 – 2015 Early Career and Post Graduate Network Representative in Executive Council, British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Computer Proficiency: MS Office; Proficient in the use of ATLAS.ti and NVIVO (qualitative analysis software)

Languages: English and Hindi (fluent in reading, writing and speaking); Punjabi (spoken), Nepali (conversational), Spanish (basic conversational)

Research skills: Mixed methods research design; Qualitative interviewing (individual and group); Participatory tools; Coding and analysis.