

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Academic Qualifications

1975	B.A. (Joint Hons.) Economics and Sociology, Durham University, England.
1976	M.A. (Econ.) in Sociology, Manchester University, England.
1984	M.Sc. (Econ.) in International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, England.
1986	Ph.D., Dept. of Sociology, Manchester University, England.

Present Employment

2006->	Senior Researcher and Head of Research Unit 'Politics and Governance', Danish Institute for International Studies
2003-2006	Head of Department, Department of Development Research, Danish Institute for International Studies
1992-2003	Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Development Research (CDR) and thereafter Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS)
2006	2 months: Visiting Professor, Delhi School of Economics, Dept. of Sociology.
2003-2006	Programme Leader for the DIIS-University of Nijmegen joint research programme Local Politics, Poverty and Decentralisation (LPPD)
2001-2002	4 months: Contracted to Danida as Team Leader to revise and draft Danida and Asian Development Bank's Secondary Education Support Programme (SESP) in Nepal. Stationed in Kathmandu, Nepal
2001	4 months: Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Economic and Development Administration, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.
1995 - 2001	Programme Leader for CDR research programme Local Organisations and Rural Poverty Alleviation (LORPA)
1995 - 1998	Member of CDR's Management Committee

Current research

- (i) Long-term research project on political interventions for rural development and poverty reduction in West Bengal. The core of this work has been repeated village studies

- undertaken in 1977-78, 1987-8 and 1998. The current focus is upon accessing education within a livelihoods approach for poverty reduction.
- (ii) Poverty reduction, decentralised government and local service delivery in West Bengal. The research examines the local politics of participation and representation and its outcomes for citizens in the field of education.
 - (iii) Senior researcher on a new research programme: Elites and the New Poverty Agenda. This is based around comparative study of elites' roles in two selected productive sectors in Bangladesh, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. DIIS is coordinating the study with participation from five southern research institutions, plus Århus University in Denmark and Oxford University in the UK. Funding is from the Danish Development Research Fund for 2008-2010. I am working on elites in the fields of ready-made garments and the prawn production in Bangladesh.

Employment experience

- 1979 Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Wales, Aberystwyth
- 1979-80 Temporary Lecturer in Sociology, City of Liverpool College of Higher Education.
- 1980-84 Lecturer in Sociology, City of Liverpool College of Higher Education, England.
- 1984-92 Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Politics, School of Social Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, England.
- 1986-89 Tutor in Third World Studies, Faculty of Technology, Open University, North-West Region, England.
- 1988-91 Summer School Tutor, Third World Studies, Open University, England.
- 1988-89 Guest Researcher, Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen, Denmark. □
- 1988-89 External Lecturer in Comparative Politics, Institute of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark.
- 1991-92 Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 1992-94 External lecturer, International Development Studies, Roskilde University Centre.
- 1996-99 Lecturer on Organisation and Management, Danida Project Managers' Course, Niels Brock International Business Centre, Copenhagen.
- 1996 -> Regular trainer on poverty and poverty reduction for Mellemfolkligt Samvirke's Development Workers.
- 2000 ->2002 Lecturer on Danida project and programme managers' course: Institutions and Human Resource Development
- 2000 -> Lecturer on M.A. programme: International Public Health, Copenhagen University. Second semester module: the Politics of Health Policy.
- 2005 March-April: Visiting Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University.
- 2008 May-June: Visiting Professor, Royal Institute of Management, Thimpu, Bhutan.

Languages

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English		Mother tongue	
Danish	Good	Excellent	Moderate
French	Moderate	Good	Poor
Bengali	Moderate	None	None

Professional Bodies

- 2001 -> Board Member of Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET)
- 2004 -> Board Member of Danish Network for Research on Health (SUNNET)
- 1998 -> Board Member of the Danish Association of Development Researchers (FAU)
- 2008 -> Board Member European Association of South Asian Studies (EASAS)
Member of the external board of examiners, Political Science, at Aarhus and Copenhagen Universities and Copenhagen Business School

Research Funding Received in Denmark

- (i) In 1988 and 1990-1991 funding was received from the Danish Development Research Council to the sum of 320,000 Danish kroner and 700,000 Danish kroner respectively. The first was to conduct research and to write a book on the experience of decentralisation in West Bengal; the second to study and write a series of articles on forms of cooperative and collective action in rural India. The subsequent appointment as Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Development Research includes funds to continue these and subsequent research projects.
- (ii) As Programme Coordinator for the Local Organisations and Rural Poverty Alleviation (LORPA) research programme, external funds amounting to 2.9 million Danish kroner was obtained for two PhD students and one post-doctoral researcher. In addition GTZ provided the programme with funding for an Indian research fellow (18 months salary and research costs) and for an international workshop in India (approximately 130,000 Danish kroner in total). On the basis of the programme's work, I have served as a resource person for a number of organisations including: the United Nations Capital Development Fund at their conference on *Decentralisation and financing local development* in Bangkok, January 1999; for the FAO at their *Technical Meeting on Rural Household Income Strategies for Poverty Alleviation and Linkages with the Local Institutional Environment* in May 1999, Rome. Since May 2000 I have been an adviser to the Department of Politics and Centre for Environment and Development at Oslo University in the their research programme on *Local Politics and Democratization in Developing Countries* and I am a member of an international expert group for the programme.
- (iii) In 1997-8 I was part of a larger research project into European Aid for Poverty Reduction in India. Together with researchers from the Overseas Development Institute in London, and the Third World Centre at the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands, we received funding from CDR, ODI and the Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation to undertake the research. In addition to

- four European researchers, 13 Indian researchers collaborated on the project.
- (iv) In 2003 the Local Politics, Poverty and Decentralisation programme (LPPD) of which I am the coordinator received 500,000 DKK from the Danish Council for Development Research.
- (v) In 2007 I was co-applicant for a Research Programme on Elites and the New Poverty Agenda: A comparative study. The application received 8 million Danish kroner over three years (2008-2010) from the Development Research Committee of the Danish Strategic Research Council

Publications from 1990:

A. Books

- 1992 *Panchayati Raj and the Decentralisation of Development Planning in West Bengal*. K.P.Bagchi Publishers. Calcutta. 149p.
- 1995 (co-ed.) *People Centered Rural Development: NGDOs and Decentralised Government*, with Bhatt, M.K. & Rajasekhar, D., BCO, Bangalore
- 1998 (ed) *In Search of Alternatives: Poverty, the Poor and Local Organisations*. CDR, Copenhagen.
- 2000 with S.Folke, A.Cox & L.Schulpen *Do the Poor Matter? A Comparative Study of European Aid for Poverty Reduction in India*, O.D.I., London. 126p.
- 2002 ed. with Engberg-Pedersen, L. *In the Name of the Poor: Contesting Political Space for Poverty Reduction*, Zed Press, London. Co-author of two chapters and sole author of one.
- 2002 with S.Folke, A.Cox & L.Schulpen, *Do the Poor Matter Enough? A Comparative Study of European Aid for Poverty Reduction in India*, New Delhi, Concept.
- 2009 (forthcoming) ed. With Olle Törnquist and Kristian Stokke, *Rethinking Popular Representation*, Palgrave, London

B. Articles in International journals

- 1990 'Agrarian Relations in Burdwan District, West Bengal: from the economics of Green Revolution to the politics of Panchayati Raj.' *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. 20(2). 177-211.
- 1992 'Panchayati Raj in West Bengal: Participation for the people or the party?' *Development and Change*, 23(4), 129-163.
- 1993 'Cooperation, Cooperativism and Cooperatives in Rural Production, West Bengal.' *Journal fur Entwicklungspolitik*, IX/3, 309-328.
- 1994 'One Step Backwards, Two Steps Forwards: The Establishment of 'Tribal' Women's Cooperatives in Bankura District, West Bengal.' in *European Journal of Development Research*, 6(2), pp.95-103
- 1995 'Democracy, Decentralised Government and NGOs in Indian Rural Development', *Journal fur Entwicklungspolitik*, Vol 11, no 2, 187-212.
- 1995 'The Role of NGDOs in Indian Rural Development: Some lessons from West Bengal and Karnataka' in *European Journal of Development Research* Vol 7, no 2, 407-433.

- 2009 Submitted for review: 'Taking control of one's economic life in a West Bengali village.'

C. Chapters in Books

- 1994 'One Step Backwards, Two Steps Forwards: The Establishment of 'Tribal' Women's Cooperatives in Bankura District, West Bengal.', and in Folke Frederiksen, B. & Wilson, F. *Gender and Ethnicity*, London, Frank Cass.
- 1995 'A conceptual approach towards to NGOs and Decentralised Government in Rural Development' in Bhatt, M.K., Rajasekhar, D., & Webster, N. *ibid*, BCO, Bangalore.
- 1996 'Panchayati Raj in West Bengal: Participation for the people or the party?' (Re-publication of 1992 article) in Kuldeep Mathur (ed) *Development Policy and Administration, Readings in Indian Government and Politics series. Volume One*, Sage, London.
- 1999 'NGOs and Local Government: The Democratisation of Local Development', in Rajasekhar, D. (ed) *Decentralised Government and NGOs: Issues, Strategies and Ways Forward*, Concept, New Delhi: 34-52.
- 1999 'Institutions, Actors and Strategies in West Bengal's Rural Development - the case of irrigation' in Bose, S., Harriss-White, B. & Rogaly, B. (eds) *Sonar Bangla? Agricultural Growth and Agrarian Change in West Bengal and Bangladesh*, Sage, London: 329-356.
- 2000 'Democracy, Development and the Institutionalised Participation of the Poor for Poverty Reduction', in Paul Collins (ed) *Applying Public Administration in Development: Guideposts to the Future*, John Wiley: London: 315-328, also published in Portuguese in the series *Textos de Discussao*, Ministry of State Administration, Maputo, Mozambique.
- 2002 'Introduction to Political Space', 'Local Organisations and Political Space in the Forests of West Bengal', and 'Political Agencies and Spaces', in Webster and Engberg-Pedersen *In the Name of the Poor: Contesting Political Space for Poverty Reduction*, Zed Press, London.
- 2005 'Understanding the evolving diversities and originalities in rural social movements in West Bengal' in Ghimire, K. (ed) *Civil Society and the Market Question: Dynamics of rural development and popular mobilization* UNRISD & Palgrave Macmillan
- 2009 (forthcoming) 'Representative local governance or the cooption of new citizens? A study of service users in local politics in West Bengal' in Törnquist, Webster and Stokke, *Rethinking Popular Representation*, Palgrave, London
- 2009 (forthcoming) with Törnquist 'Towards the democratic institutionalisation of popular representation' in Törnquist, Webster and Stokke, *Rethinking Popular Representation*, Palgrave, London

D. Danish edited works and articles

- 1992 Co-ed. with with Lerche, J. *1990s India: Between Hope and Confusion* (in Danish) Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen. 67p.
- 1992 'Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold: The election in 1991 and the political crisis in India today' (in Danish) *1990s India: Between Hope and Confusion*,

- Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen. 34-43.
- 1993 'NGOs role in democracy and development at the local level' (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden*, 26(4), 102-111.
- 1995 Co-ed. with Rye-Olsen, G. & Therkildsen, O.: When the Bubble Breaks - Alternative Conflict Resolution, (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden* 28(2)
- 1995 with Lars Engberg-Pedersen, 'The Dynamic of Poverty' (in Danish), *Zig Zag*, Ibis, Copenhagen.
- 1997 Co-ed. with Folke, S.: India - 50 years: Progress and Poverty, (in Danish), *Den Ny Verden*, 30(2).
- 1997 'The Democratisation of local development in India', (in Danish), *Den Ny Verden*, 30(2): 101-114.
- 1997 'Actors act, but do structures structure? New perspectives on the relationship between actors and structure?' (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden*, 30(3): 51-65.
- 1998 Co-ed. with S.Folke: In the Name of the Poor - Does development aid reach the intended? (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden* 31(4)
- 1998 with A.M. Jeppesen 'When Institutions Make a Difference' (in Danish) *ibid.* 31-47.
- 2000 'Why don't they fix the hand pump? Sustaining participation and ownership in local government.' (in Danish) in *Den Ny Verden*, 33(4):138-156
- 2001 Co-ed. With Kirsten Westergaard: *Poverty reduction: when the poor act* (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden* 34(2)
- 2001 'Introduction: Local organisations and the poor's bargaining power' (in Danish), *Den Ny Verden* 34(2): 5-14
- 2001 'Political space in the Forests of West Bengal' (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden* 34(2): 111-124
- 2007 'Alignment and Harmonisation: experiences from project support to local governance in Bangladesh' (in Danish) *Den Ny Verden*, 40(3): 63-70.

E. Commissioned publications

- 1994 'The Linkages between the Local Community and the Political Environment.' Summary in Nielsen, H.A. *Local Community Development Around the Bay of Bengal: Context, Crises and Perspectives* (Report from the Researcher Training Seminar). Working Paper No. 32, Development Research Series, Aalborg University, 10-13.
- 1996 *The National State and NGOs in Local Development*, Working Paper for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, Copenhagen. (24p)
- 1996 'Twenty years of Panchayati Raj in West Bengal, India: the lessons to be learnt for rural development?', (in Bengali), State Institute for Panchayats, Kalyani. (18p)
- 2004 Co-author with Ruth Alsop, Olvar Bergland and D. Rajasekhar: *The Roles of Rural Local Organisations in Development Projects*. World Bank.
- 2004 Co-author and editor: *Farmer Empowerment: Experiences, lessons learned and ways forward*. Policy Study. Danida. Copenhagen.
- 2004 'Understanding the evolving diversities and originalities in rural social movements in the age of globalisation' UNRISD Thematic Working Paper. (58p)
- 2008 *Between Idealism and Realism: Supporting Good Governance in Fragile States*, DIIS Policy Brief, September.

Countries of Work and/or Advisory visits (excluding Europe)

(* = resident for periods of at least one year)

India*

West Bengal 1978- 2007 Total of 40 months residency for PhD Research work, research fellow Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Thereafter regular research and fieldwork visits for periods of between 2 and 9 months

Karnataka 1989-2002 Research cooperation and field work, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.

Consultancy on watershed project for Danida

International adviser for World Bank research project

Pakistan (2005)

Consultancy on Decentralisation and good governance

Bhutan (2008)

Teaching at the Royal Institute of Management.

Bangladesh (1978 & 2006, 07, 08->)

3 year research project on Elites with Dhaka University;

Consultancies for Danida and UNDP on support to decentralisation.

Nepal*(1997- 2008)

Repeated consultancies for Danida (decentralisation, education) and

Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (Programme review), UNDP/UNCDF

(Programme assessments) with residence for a total of 12 months.

Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Economic and Development

Administration, Tribhuvan University

Egypt (1996, '98, 2000)

Research capacity building for Danida (ENRECA programme with

Social Research Centre, American University in Cairo)

Tanzania (1999, 2000)

Consultancy for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke - Danish Association for

Development Cooperation (Programme review)

Zimbabwe (1999, 2000)

Research supervision. Consultancy for Mellemfolkligt Samvirke

(Programme review)

Uganda (2000)

Consultancy for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (Programme review)

El Salvador (2000)

Consultancy for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (Programme review)

Consultancies Undertaken

As a specialist in sector programming, decentralisation policy, local government and non-government organisations, poverty reduction, education delivery and institutional capacity building, the following consultancies have been undertaken:

- 1989-91 Briefing papers and presentations on Panchayati Raj Programme to Chairman of Zilla Parishad (District Council) and District Planning Officers, Bardhaman District, West Bengal and to Sri Benoy Krishna Chowdhury, Minister for Land and Land Reform, West Bengal State Government.
- 1991 Sociologist to the evaluation team responsible for the Final Report on the North Kanara Irrigation Development Project (Danida), Karnataka State, India.
- 1995 Thematic Study on Decentralisation and Local Organisation for Ibis. Evaluation of IBIS's (a Danish NGO, formerly the WUS) strategy on decentralisation and local organisations.
- 1995 Evaluation of four separate research reports on Empowerment, Development, and Decentralised Government (Panchayati Raj) in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, India, prepared for the Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternative in Development, Dutch Secretariat/NUFFIC, The Hague.
- 1996 Team leader for the CDR background support group to Danida for the Evaluation of Poverty Reduction in Danish Development Assistance.
- 1996 'Final Report on the Identification Mission on Decentralisation in Nepal', Team Member and responsible for the Draft Final Report on the Danida Mission to Nepal, November-December.
- 1997 'Report on Preparation and Appraisal Mission for Danida Programme Support: Human Rights, Good Governance and Decentralisation Support, Nepal.' Team Leader for the Decentralisation Team. August-September.
- 1998 'Appraisal Mission for Danida Support to Decentralisation' Team Leader for decentralisation components and overall editor of the Final Report for the Support Programme to Human Rights, Good Governance and Decentralisation', (Programme document, Component document and Appraisal document). August.
- 1999-2000 Team Leader for the Evaluation of Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke's Programme in the South. (MS is a Danish NGO based upon Danish development workers; formerly the Danish Volunteer Service Overseas. It runs 8 country programmes and one regional programme.) Author of the Final Report: Review of the MS in the South Programme, 2000. MS Copenhagen. 130 pages.
- 1999-2000 Consultant to DAC Informal Poverty Network for drafting the *DAC Policy Guidelines on Poverty Reduction - Chapter Three*. (Total of 2 months funded by Danida and Norad).
- 2000 Consultant for the revision of Danida's NGO Strategy. January-June.
- 2000 Final Report on the Danish Support Programme for Human Rights, Good Governance and Decentralisation in Bangladesh. Team Member and Editor. August.
- 2001 Consultative Group member for the Nepal Human Development Report, 2002.
- 2001-2 Team Leader for the Danida consultants for the preparation of Sector Support Programme to Secondary Education in Nepal. The programme is in collaboration

- with the Asian Development Bank. Contracted to Danida from December 2001 to May 2002. Co-author and overall editor of the Final Secondary Education Support Programme Document.
- 2002 Team Leader for Joint Donor Appraisal of the Local Government Strengthening Programme in Nepal. April – May. (UNDP, Danida, DFID, SNV, Norad, GTZ).
- 2002 Member of Appraisal Team for Secondary Education Programme in Nepal (joint appraisal Danida and ADB).
- 2002 Team Leader for the preparation of the Programme Document for Phase II of Danida’s Support to Decentralisation in Nepal.
- 2002-4 International Consultant to the World Bank Study into the Roles of Rural Local Organisations in Development Projects, with specific reference to the Rural Local Organisations Project at ISEC, Bangalore, India. Co-author of the Main Report to be published by the World Bank, 2004.
- 2002-3 Team leader for Formative Research Programme Component of Danida’s Interim Project for Secondary Education in Nepal,
- 2002-3 Team leader for Preparation of Guidelines for School Improvement Plans and District Education Plans as part of Danida’s Interim Project for Secondary Education in Nepal
- 2002-3 Coordinator for the five components of Danida’s Interim Project for Secondary Education in Nepal
- 2004 Special consultant for Mellefolkkeligt Sammenvirke’s Poverty Strategy within Partnership: Development of techniques and training of the Travelling Topic Team on Poverty, Nepal. January.
- 2005 Special consultant for India Group on Fyn and Lok Kalyan Parishad (West Bengal), Food Security Project, West Bengal, India. Assessment of strategy with respect to local government and capacity building. 14 days Feb.-March.
- 2005 Resource person at the workshop on Representation in Decentralized Local Governance held at Hua Hin, Thailand June 22-23, organised by UNDP’s Regional Centre in Bangkok and author to the subsequent Proposal for Research on Accountability in Decentralized Local Governance, UNDP Regional Centre serving Asia and the Pacific Rim
- 2005 International consultant to UNDP Pakistan Devolution Support Mission (26th Sept. – 7th Oc.) and co-author to the Policy Support for Devolution Pakistan (First Draft – 9 Nov.)
- 2006 International Consultant to UNDP and UNCDF: ‘Assessment of the Context for Local Governance in Nepal’. Report presented 25th April
- 2006 Team leader on the Appraisal and Identification Mission for Danida Support to Local Governance and Decentralisation in Bangladesh. Appraisal Report and Final Report accepted November.
- 2006 Capacity building support to the Loka Kalyan Parishad’s programme of support to the local governance programme on decentralised natural resource management in West Bengal.
- 2007 Team leader on the Joint Mission on Danida & UNDP Support to Local Governance and Decentralisation in Bangladesh. Final Report May. (151 p)
- 2007 Pre-Appraisal of Seven Country Programme Strategies and One Regional Programme Strategy, Mellefolkkeligt Samvirke, May.

Neil Webster Curriculum Vitæ

- 2008 Support to Building Local Democracy Programme for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke including Appraisal of Country Programme in Nepal. Four weeks in May and November
- 2008 Development and teaching a Civil Service Training Module on Democracy and Politics, Royal Institute of Management. Thimpu, Bhutan. June.