

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Dr. Jayalaxshmi Mistry

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EDUCATION

- 1992 – 1995 Ph.D. in Physical Geography (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) “Fire management in the Brazilian savannas using bioindicators”
- 1989 – 1992 Biology BSc Honours - Upper Second Class (King's College, University of London)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2014 - present Reader in Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London.
- 2007 - 2013 Senior Lecturer in Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London.
- 1998 - 2006 Lecturer in Geography (on maternity leave for one year over 2001-2002 and 2003-2004), Royal Holloway, University of London.
- 1995 - 1998 Associate lecturer in Geography: Royal Holloway, University of London; School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Birkbeck College, University of London

KEY SKILLS

- Over 22 years' experience as principal and/or co-investigator on a range of multidisciplinary projects in South America, the Caribbean and Europe
- Particular expertise in environmental management and governance, combining environmental and social methods and analyses (including biophysical methodologies, participatory methods, participatory video and GIS)
- Project development, management, implementation and reporting
- Trainer and facilitator on environmental and social data collection techniques
- Author and co-author of a range of peer-reviewed articles, books and reports on environmental management and governance
- Media presentations through film, radio, press releases, newspaper articles and online
- Over 20 years teaching experience, from undergraduate to doctoral level
- Organiser of a range of symposium/sessions at international conferences/workshops
- Refereeing/advisor for various academic journals, publishers and funding bodies.
- Fluent in English and Portuguese, basic Spanish

RECENT PROJECTS

I have been principal and/or co-investigator on projects funded by the Royal Society, British Academy, Nuffield Foundation, National Geographic and the prestigious Darwin Initiative (DEFRA, UK government), which has a wide audience both nationally and internationally. From 2011 to 2015, I was Project Coordinator for an EU Seventh Framework programme grant entitled ‘Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America’ (COBRA) (€1.9 million, 10 partners across Europe and S. America). This was one of only five grants awarded. The project involved a 30 people project team distributed through different academic, civil society and business organisations. See www.projectcobra.org

I am currently working on two projects on community owned approaches to fire management funded by Woodspring Trust, UK and the British Academy, UK. These involve Indigenous communities in Venezuela, Brazil and Guyana.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Mistry, J., A. Berardi, C. Tschirhart, E. Bignante, L. Haynes, R. Benjamin, G. Albert, R. Xavier, B. Robertson, O. Davis, D. Jafferally, and G. de Ville (2015). Community owned solutions: identifying local best practices for social-ecological sustainability. *Ecology and Society* (accepted – as

part of Special Feature on Community-based natural resource management in Latin America and the Caribbean)

- Tschirhart, C., **Mistry, J.**, Simpson, M., Berardi, A., Bignante, E., Haynes, L., Benjamin, R., Albert, G., Xavier, R., Robertson, B., Davis, O., Verwer, C., de Ville, G. and Jafferally, D. (2015). Learning from one another: evaluating the impact of horizontal knowledge exchange for environmental management and governance. *Ecology and Society* (accepted – as part of Special Feature on Community-based natural resource management in Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Berardi, A., **J. Mistry**, C. Tschirhart, E. Bignante, O. Davis, L. Haynes, R. Benjamin, G. Albert, R. Xavier, D. Jafferally and G. De Ville. (2015). Applying the system viability framework for cross-scalar governance of nested social-ecological systems in the Guiana Shield, South America. *Ecology and Society* 20 (3):42. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol20/iss3/art42/>
- Mistry, J.**, Berardi, A., Verwer, C. and de Ville, G. (2015). *Up-Scaling Support for Community Owned Solutions. A Project COBRA Report for Policy Makers*. [online] URL: <http://projectcobra.org/up-scaling-support-for-community-owned-solutions>
- Mistry, J.**, Berardi, A., Bignante, E. and Tschirhart, C. (2015). Between a rock and a hard place: ethical dilemmas of local community facilitators doing participatory projects. *Geoforum*, 61: 27-35.
- Mistry, J.**, Berardi, A., Tschirhart, C., Bignante, E., Haynes, L., Benjamin, R., Albert, G., Xavier, Jafferally, D. and de Ville, G. (2014). Indigenous identity and environmental governance in Guyana, South America. *Cultural Geographies*, early view online, doi: 10.1177/1474474014560998
- Mistry, J.**, Tschirhart, C., Verwer, C., Glastra, R., Davis, O., Jafferally, D., Haynes, L., Benjamin, R., Albert, G., Xavier, R., Bovolo, I. and Berardi, A. (2014). Our common future? Cross-scalar scenario analysis for social-ecological sustainability of the Guiana Shield, South America. *Environmental Science & Policy* 44: 126-148.
- Berardi, A., Bignante, E., **Mistry, J.**, Simpson, M., Tschirhart, C., Verwer, C., and de Ville, G. (2014). *How to find and share community owned solutions. A Handbook*. [online] URL: <http://projectcobra.org/how-to-find-and-share-community-owned-solutions>
- Mistry, J.**, Bignante, E. and Berardi, A. (2014). Why are we doing it? Exploring participant motivations within a participatory video project. *Area*, doi: 10.1111/area.12105.
- Berardi, A., Tschirhart, C., **Mistry, J.**, Bignante, E., Haynes, L., Albert, G., Benjamin, R., Xavier, R. and Jafferally, D. (2013). From resilience to viability: a case study of indigenous communities of the North Rupununi, Guyana. *EchoGéo*, 24: <http://echogeo.revues.org/13411>
- Mistry, J.**, Berardi, A., Haynes, L., Davis, D., Xavier, R. and Andries, J. (2013). The role of social memory in natural resource management: insights from participatory video. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 39(1): 115-127.
- Mistry, J.** (2013). Commentary on participatory video. *J-Reading: Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography*, 1: <http://www.j-reading.org/index.php/geography/article/view/26>
- Mistry, J.**, and Berardi, A. (2012). The challenges and opportunities of using participatory video in geographical research: a case study exploring collaboration with indigenous communities of the North Rupununi, Guyana. *Area*, 44(1): 110-116.

Films and photostories

Facilitated over 20 films and photostories in Project COBRA: see www.projectcobra.org

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT/ IMPACT

I am currently a member of the Darwin Expert Committee (DEC), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK government, tasked with developing strategies for and evaluating applications to the conservation and development funding mechanism, the Darwin Initiative. I am part of the Guiana Shield Facility (UNDP) Committee, a multi-donor funding facility for the long-term financing of national and regional activities to conserve ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and to sustain livelihoods within the Guiana Shield. In May 2015, I was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's (with IBG) Busk Medal in recognition for two decades dedicated to conservation and policy impact research in the Global South.