

Raksha Balakrishna

PhD Student

School of Sustainability | Arizona State University

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EDUCATION

- August 2021-May 2026 (ongoing)** **Arizona State University**
PhD in Sustainability; Advisor: Dr. Marco Janssen
- June 2015-May 2017** **Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India**
Master of Arts in Development – 8.12/10
- June 2012-March 2015** **Christ University, Bangalore, India**
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Sociology, Economics – 3.59/4

PUBLICATIONS

- Thomas, L., **Balakrishna, R.**, Chaturvedi, R., Mukhopadhyay, P., & Ghate, R. (2022). What Influences Rural Poor in India to Refill Their LPG?. In *Climate Change and Community Resilience* (pp. 191-203). Springer, Singapore.
- Zhang, W., Meinzen-Dick, R. S., Valappanandi, S., **Balakrishna, R.**, Reddy, H., Janssen, M. A., ... & Ghate, R. (2021). *Norms, gender, and payment method affect extraction behavior in a framed field experiment on community forestry in India* (Vol. 2091). Intl Food Policy Res Inst.

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- August 2021-May 2023 (ongoing)** **Arizona State University, School of Sustainability**
Graduate Research Assistant-School of Sustainability
Project: Scaling up commons dilemma experiments for research and education
- Assist in developing survey instruments for the project
 - Support in developing and executing an outreach plan to increase participation of students in the experimental game/ study
 - Qualitative data analysis and text mining of the survey and experimental game data
- June 2020-July 2021** **Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Anand, India**
Consultant-Studies and Policy Advocacy
- Support in developing an online public forum for discussion and dialogue around commons
 - Lead in developing a sourcebook on strengthening management and governance of water as commons
- June 2017-June 2020** **Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Anand, India**
Project Manager-Studies and Policy Advocacy
- Coordinated and led the research team working across rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
 - Supported the team in designing and implementing several research initiatives spanning the areas of energy-poverty-health dynamics, human-nature interactions, climate change adaptation, social-ecological-economic assessments, governance and institutions, and natural resource management in rural India

PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS

- November 2016** Field Research Project titled *The Role of Citizen-led Initiatives in Environmental Conservation: A Case of RR-Nagar-I-Care* in Bangalore, India – studied people’s motivation to engage in collective action for resource management; and lobbying power of stakeholder groups in promoting resource conservation.
Advisors: Dr. Bharat Sundaram and Dr. Harini Nagendra
- May 2016** Six-week field internship with the Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG) in Uttarakhand, India to understand the role of organizations in development action, through a comparative study of intervention and non-intervention villages
- 2014-2016** Volunteered with Headstreams, a Bangalore based NGO, working to improve social, emotional and psychological well-being of women and children from urban slums

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Data analysis and text mining – Python, MySQL, AntConc
- Modeling: STELLA, NetLogo
- Qualitative research methods – Participatory rural appraisal (PRA), experimental games, survey and interview methods

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

- September 2019** Workshop on *Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) Design* facilitated by Dr. Blake Ratner, Collaborating for Resilience (CoRe) in Anand, India
- July 2019** Workshop titled *Reflective Case Writing for Development Practitioners* by Dr. Aparna Sundar; organized by Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India
- January 2019** *Social Returns on Investment (SROI) Practitioners’ Training* organized by KPMG, India and Social Value, UK in Mumbai, India
- January 2018** Course on International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) methodology by Dr. Rucha Ghate in Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad, India

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2016-2017** Student coordinator for the Placement Cell at Azim Premji University in 2016-17, achieving 97% placement rate
- 2012-2015** Recipient of the Social Science Talent Search Scheme Scholarship awarded by the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore University and Christ University, Bangalore, India

LANGUAGES KNOWN

English, Hindi, Kannada, Telugu