

MEERA NANDA

Address in India: Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali. Punjab.

Address in the US: 71 Brainard Road, West Hartford, CT 06117, USA

Tel. +91-81-4687-3893 (India)

+1-860-656-6662 (USA)

Email: meera@iisermohali.ac.in, nanda.meera@gmail.com (preferred)

Date of Birth: July 28, 1954.

ACADEMIC RECORD

Ph.D., Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy NY, May 2000. Dissertation: *Prophets Facing Backward: Postmodern Critiques of Science and New Social Movements in India*. Dissertation directed by Professor Langdon Winner.

Ph.D., Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India. 1983. Dissertation: *Studies on the Biosynthesis of Cellulases in Trichoderma reesei QM9414*.

M.Sc., Microbiology, Punjab University, Chandigarh, India. 1978. Distinction.

High School, Govt. Junior Model School, sector 22, Chandigarh 1972. Distinction.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professor, History of Science
Department of Humanities and Social Science
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, India.
2009- 2017.

Visiting Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 110067
2008-2009.

Research Fellowship from the Templeton Foundation, 2005-2008.

Research Fellowship from American Council of Learned Societies, 2000-2001

Teaching assistant assignments in Science and Technology Studies, RPI 1993-1995

Editorial Writer, *The Daily Gazette*, Schenectady, NY. 1990-1992.

Project Director and Editor, *International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture*, Minneapolis, MN. 1986-1989.

Science Correspondent, *Indian Express*, New Delhi, India. 1982-1985.

PUBLISHED WORK

BOOKS IN PRINT

Science in Saffron: Skeptical essays on the Hindutva History of Science. New Delhi: Three Essays Press. January, 2016.

The God Market: How Globalization is making India more Hindu. New Delhi: Random House India. Aug. 2009. (US edition published in 2012 by Monthly Review Press)

The Wrongs of the Religious Right: Reflections on secularism, science and Hindutva. New Delhi: Three Essays Collective. July 2005.

Prophets Facing Backward: Postmodern Critiques of Science and the Hindu Nationalism in India. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 2004. (Indian edition published by Permanent Black in July 2004 and a second paperback edition in 2005.)

Postmodernism and Religious Fundamentalism: A Scientific Rebuttal to "Vedic Science," Navayana, Chennai, India. 2003.

Breaking the Spell of Dharma and Other Essays. New Delhi: Three Essays Collective. 2002.

Planting the Future: A Resource Guide to Sustainable Agriculture in the Third World, International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Minneapolis, MN. 1990.

ACADEMIC PAPERS (HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE)

Philosophy of science/ social constructivism, alternative epistemologies debate

"Response to My Critics." *Social Epistemology*, (Special issue focusing on the *Prophets*) Vol. 19, January-March 2005: 147-191.

"Anti-Science," *The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science*. Edited by John I. Heilbron, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

"Science as the Standpoint Epistemology of the Oppressed: Dewey Meets the Buddha of India's Dalits. In *Scrutinizing Feminist Epistemology*, edited by Cassandra Pinnick. Rutgers University Press, 2003.

"A 'Broken People' Defend Science: Reconstructing the Deweyan Buddha of India's Dalits," *Social Epistemology*, vol. 15 (4), Dec. 2001: 335-365.

"Breaking the Spell of Dharma: A Case for Indian Enlightenment." *Economic and Political Weekly* (Mumbai, India). July 7, 2001, Pp. 2551-2566.

"The Epistemic Charity of Social Constructivist Theories of Science and Why the Third World Must Reject the Offer," in Noretta Koertge (ed.), *A House Built on Sand: Exposing Postmodernist Myths about Science*. NY: Oxford University Press. 1998. Pp. 286-311.

"Against Social De(con)struction of Science: Cautionary Tales from The Third World," in Ellen Meiksins Wood and John Bellamy Foster (eds.) *In Defense of History: Marxism and the*

Postmodern Agenda. NY: Monthly Review Press, 1997. Pp. 74–96. (A shorter version appeared in *Monthly Review*, March, 1997).

“Restoring the Real: Rethinking Social Constructivist Theories of Science,” in Leo Panitch (ed.) *Socialist Register*. London: Merlin Press, 1997. Pp. 302–352

“The Science Question in Postcolonial Feminism.” *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 775 (1996): 420–436.

“Science and the Progressive Agenda: Rethinking the Left Critiques of Science in India,” *Economic and Political Weekly* (Mumbai/Bombay, India) Vol. XXXIII (16), April 18, 1998: 913–922. (Reprinted in *Humanscape* (Mumbai), August, 1999)

“Science Wars in India.” *Dissent*, Winter 1997. Reprinted in *The Sokal Hoax: The Sham that Shook the Academy*. Lingua Franca Books, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Religious Studies/Science and religion debate

“Ambedkar’s Gita,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol LI, no. 49, December 31, 2016, pp. 38-45.

“Hindutva’s Science Envy,” *Frontline*, September 16 2016.

“Ideological Convergences: Hindutva and the Norway Massacre,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol - XLVI No. 53, December 31, 2011

“Madame Blavatsky’s Children: Modern Hindu encounters with Darwinism” in *Science and the Authority of Religion*, edited by James R. Lewis and Olav Hammer. Leiden: Brill, Forthcoming in 2010

“Hindu Triumphalism and the clash of Civilizations,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, July 11, 2009

“Secularism without secularization: Reflections on God and Politics in America and India,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, January 6, 2007.

“How modern are we? The cultural contradictions of India’s modernity,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, February 11, 2006.

“Godless States in God lands: Dilemmas of secularism in America and India,” *Axess: Magazine for Liberal arts and Social Sciences* (Sweden), Number 8, 2005. Special Issue on The Enlightenment and its Discontents).

“Trading faith for Spirituality: The Mystifications of Sam Harris,” Published on line at the website of Butterflies and Wheels at butterfliesandwheels.com

“Postmodernism, Hindu nationalism and Vedic Science” (a two-part essay), *Frontline*, Dec. 18, 2003 and Jan. 2, 2004

Alternative epistemologies and new social movements

“Dharma and the Bomb: The Rise of Reactionary Modernism in India.” *Logos*. Summer, 2002.

“Do the Marginalized Valorize the Margins? Exploring the Dangers of Difference.” In Kriemild Sunders (ed.) *Development or Post-Development: Which Way for Women in the 21st*

Century? London: Zed. Forthcoming. [A shorter version appeared as "Women and the Third World: Exploring the Dangers of Difference," *New Politics*, Winter 1999.]

"We are All Hybrids Now!: The Dangerous Epistemology of Postcolonial Populism." (Review Essay), *Journal of Peasant Studies*, vol. 28, no. 2, Jan. 2001. Pp.162-186

"In Search of an Epistemology for Third World People's Science Movements," *Rethinking Marxism*, Fall, 1999, Vol. 11(3): 104-123.

"Who Needs Post-development? Discourses of Difference, The Green Revolution and Agrarian Populism in India." *Journal of Developing Societies*. Vol. 15, No. 1, April, 1999: 1-31.

"History is What Hurts: A Materialist Feminist Perspective on the Green Revolution and its Ecofeminist Critics," in Rosemary Hennessy and Chrys Inghram (eds.) *Materialist Feminism: A Reader*. (NY: Routledge, 1997), pp. 364–394.

"Is Modern Science a Western, Patriarchal Myth? Critique of the Neo-populist Orthodoxy," *South Asia Bulletin*, Vol. XI, No 1 & 2 (1991), pp. 32–61.

Global political economy

"Post-Fordist Technology and the Changing Geography of Production: Challenges for Third World Women." *Gender, Technology and Development*.* Vol. 4(1) Jan-Apr. 2000: 25-60. (*A peer reviewed journal from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand).

"Trans-nationalization of the Third World State and Undoing of the Green Revolution," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 30 (4), Jan. 28, 1995: 20–29. (Reprinted in EPD *Entwicklungs-Politik* (Frankfurt), Dec. 1995.)

Academic papers (Biology)

Nanda, M., V.S. Bisaria and T.K. Ghose "Effect of L(-) sorbose on cellulase activity of *Trichoderma reesei*, QM9414," *Journal of General Microbiology*, vol. 132, pp. 3201–3207, 1986.

Nanda, M., V. S. Bisaria, and T. K. Ghose "Effect of L(-) sorbose on release of b-glucosidase in *Trichoderma reesei* QM9414," *Journal of General Microbiology*, vol. 132, pp. 973–978, 1986.

Nanda, M., V. S. Bisaria, and T. K. Ghose "Effect of L(-) sorbose on synthesis and release of b-glucosidase in *Trichoderma reesei* QM9414,". *Abstracts of the VII International Biotechnology Symposium*, New Delhi, pp. 98–100, February 1984

Nanda, M., V. S. Bisaria, and T. K. Ghose "Localization and release mechanism of Cellulases in *Trichoderma reesei* QM 9414," *Biotechnology Letters*, vol. 4, pp. 633-638.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS OF MY WORK

Roundtable discussion of *The Prophets* at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Oct. 2004.

Rethinking Marxism, panel on "Confronting the Decisive Questions of Modernity: Meera Nanda's Critique of Ecofeminist Subsistence Perspective. Organized jointly by *Capitalism, Nature and Society* and *Feminist Economics*. Nov. 8, 2003.

American Philosophical Association, special session on "Truth, Postmodernism and Scientism: The Case of India." Dec. 30, 1999.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES/INVITED LECTURE

Pseudoscience and Psuedo-history of Science in India Today, Afker-e-Taza: Rescuing the Past, Shaping the Future, Information Technology University, Lahore, Pakistan, April 1-3, 2016.

Is the Idea of India relevant with secularism?, InAsia, Asia Day, Department of Culture and Society, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark, Oct. 20, 2014.

The Science Question in Postcolonial Theory, Conference on Margins, Globalization and the Postcolonial, Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Association, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Feb. 20-22, 2014.

Pseudoscience and Resemblance thinking in Construction of Modern Yoga, Conference on Yoga in Transformation: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on a Global Phenomenon, Sept. 19-21, 2013. University of Vienna, Austria.

The Science Question in Postcolonial Theory, Conference on Margins, Globalization and the Postcolonial, Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Association, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Feb. 20-22, 2014.

Reviving the idea of Scientific Temper: Ten Theses for Creating a Secular Commonsense, Puthupally Ragahavan Memorial Annual Public Lecture, Kerala Council for Historical Research, Trivandrum, Oct. 26, 2009.

Relevance of Enlightenment Values in Contemporary India, Professor Hrdaya Kumari Endowment Lecture, Government College for Women, Trivandrum, Oct. 28, 2009.

Hindu Triumphalism and India's Emergence as a Global Power. Asian Dynamics Initiative, University of Copenhagen, September 17, 2009.

Creating a Secular Commonsense, Pant Memorial Lecture, G.B.Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, Sept. 10, 2009

Scientific Temper and Secularism in India, Center for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Jan. 24, 2006

Reclaiming scientific Temper, The Center for Philosophy, JNU, New Delhi, Jan 18, 2006.

Reclaiming Scientific Temper in the Age of Hindutva, National Seminar on Science Teaching in India, Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur, Dec 21-23, 2005.

Modern science, Postmodernism and Hindu Nationalism, South Asia Program, Cornell University, November. 8, 2004.

Hindu Ecology in the Age of Hindutva, Syracuse University, Nature/Religion/Knowledge/Politics, Lecture Series, November 9, 2004.

Manu's Children: How Postmodernism Aids Vedic science. The Annual Daniel Thorner Address, Maison des Sciences de l'homme, Paris, Oct. 28, 2004

Vedic Science, Hindutva and Postmodernism, 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Lunds University, Sweden. July 2004

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(*Invited lectures)

Hindu Scientism: Strategies and Dangers. Continuity+Change, Perspectives on Science and Religion, Metanexus Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, June 3-7 2006.

Making Science Sacred: How postmodernism aids Hindu Nationalism, International History, and Philosophy of Science Teaching (IHPST) conference, Leeds University, UK, July 16, 2005.*

Tolerance as a Source of Ignorance in India: How Postmodernism Aids the Hindu Nationalist Orthodoxy. Conference on Philosophy: Problems, Aims, Responsibilities (in the honor of the 10th death anniversary of Karl Popper). University of Warwick, Sept. 16, 2004.*

Dharmic Ecology and the New Pagan Movement: The dangers of religious environmentalism in India, 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Lund University, Sweden. July 2004

The Other Fundamentalism: Postmodernism and Religious Environmentalism in India, University of Calgary, June 10, 2004.

Eco-spirituality, neo-paganism and the Hindu Right, University of Winnipeg, Canada, June 7, 2004

"STS in the Making of Vedic Science." Connecting S&TS: The Academy, the Polity and the World. Cornell University, September 25-28, 2003.*

"The Unholy Alliance of Postmodernism and Hindu Nationalism: Sources of Reactionary Modernism in India." Center for European Studies, New York University, March 28, 2003.*

"Postmodernism in the Age of Hindutva: Resuming the Indian Enlightenment." History Department, UCLA. Feb. 24, 2003.*

"Vedic Sciences and Hindu Nationalism: Arguments Against a Premature Synthesis of Religion and Science." International Conference on "Religion and Science in the Post-colonial World," a Templeton Foundation conference at the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Jan. 2-5, 2003.*

"Science and the Struggle for Secularism in India," paper presented at the panel "When Science Teaching is seen as a Subversive Activity," at the American Association for Advancement of Science, San Francisco, Feb. 19, 2001.

"Modern Science as the Standpoint of the Oppressed," Marxism-2000, conference organized by Rethinking Marxism. Amherst, MA Sept. 22, 2000.

"Dharma and the Bomb: Postmodernism and the Rise of Reactionary Modernism in India." American Sociological Association, Washington DC, Aug. 2000.

"Hindu Science: The Real Beneficiary of Epistemic Charity of Social Constructivist Theories of Science." American Philosophical Association, special session on "Truth, Postmodernism and Scientism: The Case of India." Dec. 30, 1999.*

"Do the Marginalized Valorize the Margins? Testing the Limits of Local Knowledge." CUNY-Graduate School conference "Which Way for Women and Development? Strategies and Directions for the 21st Century," Oct 15-17, 1998.*

"Incommensurable Cultures and their 'Ethnoscience': Postcolonial Science Critics Read Kuhn." Boston Colloquium on Philosophy of Science, Center for Philosophy and History of Science, Boston University, Nov. 20, 1997.*

"Feminist Critiques of Science, Third World Ecofeminism and Women's Lives." 1997 Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, San Diego. Nov. 8, 1997.

"'Western' is Not its Middle Name: Reclaiming Modern Science for the Third World Progressive Science Movements" Socialist Scholars Conference, panel on "Flight from Science and Reason." March 29-31. 1997 (Co-panelists included Alan Sokal and Stephen Jay Gould).*

"In Search of an Epistemology for Third World People's Science Movements: Against the Indifferent "Difference" of Social Constructivist Theories of Science," conference on "Politics and Language of Contemporary Marxism," organized by Rethinking Marxism. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dec. 5-8, 1996.

"Against the Postmodern Deconstruction of Reason: Realist Perspectives on Scientific Practice." American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York City, Dec. 28, 1995.

"The Science Question in Postcolonial Feminism." Paper read *in absentia* at the VII National Conference of Women's Studies, Indian Association of Women's Studies, Jaipur, India, Dec. 27-30, 1995.*

"Trans-nationalization of Indian Science and the Changing Patterns of Brain Drain," Roundtable on Science, Knowledge and Technology, 1995 Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association, Washington DC, Aug. 19-23, 1995.

"History is What Hurts: Historicizing Postcolonial Feminist Critiques of Science In Development, Conference on " Women, Gender and Science Question," Minneapolis, May 12-14, 1995.

"Historicizing Post-al Critiques of Science in Development," Keynote address to Graduate Group in Marxist Studies, 10th Annual Conference in Marxist Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, April 1, 1995.

"New Technologies, New Challenges: Re-imagining the Geography of Production," Keynote Address, Women In the Global Economy: Making Connections, Institute of Research on Women, SUNY-Albany, April 22-24, 1994.*

PUBLIC LECTURES

"Dharma and the Bomb: Can Traditional Cultures Live with Modern Science?" Tufts University, April 24, 2000.

"Scientific World View and Human Rights." Comparative Studies Dept., Duke University, April 9, 1997.

"Women's Rights as Human Rights -- South Asia," the Second Annual Conference of Center for Exploration of International Issues, Russell Sage College, Nov. 4, 1996.

"Women's place in an Increasingly Interdependent World: Democracy, Development and Technology", Faculty Development Seminar on Gender in International Perspective: Cross Cultural Approaches to Research and Teaching. SUNY-Albany, June 10, 1996.

"Review of Paul Gross and Norman Levitt, *Higher Superstition*," The Skeptics Society of Upper New York, May 1995.

"What the Beijing Conference Means for Third World Women," Center for Exploration of International Issues, Russell Sage College, Troy, Nov. 9, 1995.

"A Defense of Modernity in Third World," Women Studies Dept. SUNY-Albany, March, 1994.

PUBLICATIONS IN THE MASS MEDIA

Regular contributor to The Hindu, The Frontline, Himal Southasian and Tehelka.

Numerous editorials (over 400) and columns (over 50) for The Daily Gazette, Schenectady, NY on local, US and international issues.

Essays, news analyses and book reviews for Multinational Monitor, In These Times and Guardian.

Over 50 opinion-page articles and news reports published in the Indian Express on a variety of issues including Indian science and technology policies, the Green Revolution, the disaster in Bhopal and the Third World debt.