

# MONICA DAS GUPTA

---

Email: [mdasgupta@gmail.com](mailto:mdasgupta@gmail.com)

---

**EMPLOYMENT:**      **University of Maryland**, College Park, MD., Dept of Sociology and Maryland Population Research Center, Research Professor (2012- )

**Population Reference Bureau**, Washington, DC, Visiting Scholar (2012-13)

**The World Bank**, Washington, DC, Development Research Group Senior Demographer (1998- 2012)

**Harvard University**, Center for Population and Development Studies and Department of Population and International Health: Senior Fellow (1992-98); Visiting Lecturer (1988-89)

**National Council of Applied Economic Research**, New Delhi (1982-1992): Associate Director (1991-92); Senior Demographer (1983-91); Consultant (1982)

**United Nations Population Fund**, New York, USA: Consultant (1981)

**EDUCATION:**      **University of Sussex, U.K.**, Institute of Development Studies  
Ph.D. 1982, Social Anthropology and Demography

**London School of Economics, U.K.**  
M.Sc. (Econ.) 1974, Demography

**London School of Economics, U.K.**  
B.Sc.(Econ.) 1973, Social Anthropology

## **ELECTED POSITIONS ON PROFESSIONAL BODIES:**

- Board of Directors, Population Association of America (elected for two terms, 2000-04).
- Governing Council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (elected for two terms, 1989-97)
- Academic Council, International Institute for Population Sciences, Bombay, India (1990-92)

**COUNTRY EXPERIENCE:** India, China, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Nigeria.

**EXPERTISE:** (1) gender & health; (2) population & development; and (3) public health systems & environmental sanitation.

## PUBLICATIONS

## JOURNAL ARTICLES:

1. "What hypotheses can research on son preference in Asia offer for European historical demographic research?", *The History of the Family* 27(4): 791-800, 2022
2. "Not a Bowl of Rice, but Tender Loving Care: from aborting girls to preferring daughters in South Korea, *Asian Population Studies* 18(2):169-189, 2021 (with Heeran Chun)
3. "Flies Without Borders: Lessons from Chennai on improving India's municipal public health services", *Journal of Development Studies* 56(5):907-928, 2020 (with Rajib Dasgupta, P. Kugananthan, Vijayendra Rao, T.V.Somanathan, and K.N. Tewari)
4. "Return of the Missing Daughters" pp 84-89 in *Scientific American* Special Collectors' Edition on "Women: Why their equality, health, wealth and safety matter to everyone", Winter 2020.
5. "Is banning sex-selection the best approach for reducing prenatal discrimination?", *Asian Population Studies* 15(3):391-336, 2019.
6. "'Missing Girls' in China and India: Trends and Policy Challenges", *Asian Population Studies* 12(2): 135-155, 2016 (with Guo Zhen and Li Shuzhuo).
7. "Universal Health Coverage" *Economic and Political Weekly* 49(35):29-32, 2014 (with V.R. Muraleedharan)
8. "Population, Poverty, and Climate Change", *World Bank Research Observer* 29(1):83-108, 2014. Also published as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6631, 2013.
9. "Armed Conflict, Gender and Schooling", *The World Bank Economic Review* 28(2): 311-319, 2014 (with Mayra Buvinic and Olga Shemyakina)
10. "China's Marriage Market and Upcoming Challenges for Elderly Men", *Population Studies* 67 (1):39-59, 2013 (with Ethan Sharygin-Jennings and Avraham Ebenstein). Also published as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5351.
11. "Violent Conflict and Gender Inequality: An Overview", *World Bank Research Observer* 28(1), 2013. (with Mayra Buvinic, Ursula Casabonne and Philip Verwimp). Also published as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6371
12. "Factors influencing 'missing girls' in South Korea", *Applied Economics* 2010 (October) (with Woojin Chung)
13. "Implementing Public Health Regulations in Developing Countries: Lessons from the OECD Countries" (with Emily Mok, Lawrence Gostin, and Max Levin), *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* 38(3): 508- 519, Fall 2010.
14. "Family Systems, Political Systems, and Asia's 'Missing Girls': The Construction of Son Preference and Its Unraveling", *Asian Population Studies* 6(2):123-152, July 2010. Also published as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5148.
15. "The Political Economy of Village Sanitation in South India: Capture or Poor Information?" (with Radu Ban and Vijayendra Rao), *Journal of Development Studies* 46(4): 685-700. (April 2010). Also published as World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4802, Dec 2008.

16. "How Might India's Public Health Systems Be Strengthened?: lessons from Tamil Nadu" (with B.R. Desikachari, Rajendra Shukla, T.V. Somanathan, P. Padmanaban, and K.K. Datta), *Economic and Political Weekly* 45(10): 46-60, March 6, 2010. (Consolidated version of World Bank Policy Research Working Papers # 5073, October 2009 and # 5140, November 2009)
17. "Gender, Poverty, and Demography: an overview" (with Mayra Buvinic and Ursula Casabonne), *World Bank Economic Review* 23(3):347-369, 2009.
18. "Evidence for an Incipient Decline in Numbers of Missing Girls in China and India" (with Woojin Chung and Li Shuzhuo), *Population and Development Review* 35(2): 401-416, June 2009. Also published as Policy Research Working Paper 4846
19. "Building Global Public Goods in Health: The Roles of Donors and International Agencies" (with Lawrence Gostin), *The Lancet* 373: 1395-7, April 18, 2009. Also published as Policy Research Working Paper 4907
20. "Gender discrimination in sex selective abortions and its transition in South Korea" (with Heeran Chun), *Women's Studies International Forum* 32: 89-97, March/April 2009
21. "Can Biological Factors like Hepatitis B explain the bulk of gender imbalance in China?: a review of the evidence", *World Bank Research Observer* 23(2):201-217, 2008. (Also published as a Research Brief in April 2007 <http://go.worldbank.org/S7C5GN2BI0>)
22. "The Decline of Son Preference in South Korea: the roles of development and public policy" (with Woojin Chung), *Population and Development Review* 33(4): 757-783, 2007.
23. "P.N.Mari Bhat: an intellectual tribute" (with Samuel H Preston, Vijayendra Rao, and T.V.Sekher), *Economic and Political Weekly* 42(36): 3611-3615, 2007
24. "How well does India's federal government perform its essential public health functions?" (with Manju Rani), World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3447, November 2004
25. "Cultural versus Biological Factors in explaining Asia's 'Missing Women': response to Oster", *Population and Development Review* 32(2):328-332, June 2006.
26. "ICDS and Persistent Undernutrition: Strategies to Enhance the Impact" (with Michele Gragnolati, Caryn Bredenkamp, Yi-Kyoung Lee, and Meera Shekar), *Economic and Political Weekly* 25 March 2006: 1193-1201.
27. "Explaining Asia's 'Missing Women': a new look at the data", *Population and Development Review*, 31(3): 529-535, 2005.
28. "Public Health in India: dangerous neglect", *Economic and Political Weekly* 40(49): 5159-65, Dec 3, 2005.
29. "Improving child nutrition?: the Integrated Child Development Services in India" (with Michael Lokshin, Michele Gragnolati, and Oleksiy Ivaschenko), *Development and Change*, 36(4): 613-640, 2005.
30. "Public Management and the Essential Public Health Functions" (with Peyvand Khaleghian), *World Development* 33 (7): 1083-1099, 2005.
31. "State-community synergies in community-driven development" (with Helene Grandvoinet and Mattia Romani), *Journal of Development Studies* 40 (3): 27-58, 2004.

32. "Why is son preference so persistent in East and South Asia?: a cross-country study of China, India and the Republic of Korea" (with Jiang Zhenghua, Xie Zhenming, Li Bohua, Woojin Chung, and Bae Hwa-Ok), *Journal of Development Studies*, 40(2): 153-187, 2003.
33. "Dimensions of Women's Autonomy and the Influence on Maternal Health Care Utilization in a North Indian City" (with Shelah Bloom and David Wypij), *Demography*, 38(1): 67-78, 2001.
34. "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite: exploring the role of modern governance in fertility decline", *Journal of Development Studies* 35(5):1-25, 1999.
35. "Lifeboat versus corporate ethic: social and demographic implications of stem and joint families", *Social Science and Medicine* 49(2):173-184, 1999.
36. "Gender bias in China, South Korea and India 1920 1990: the effects of war, famine and fertility decline" (with Li Shuzhuo), *Development and Change* 30(3):619-652, 1999.
37. "Household resource constraint, gender bias and girls' survival: a comparative study of China, South Korea and India", *Population and Economics*(3), 1999. (with Li Shuzhuo, in Chinese).  
\*\*\* Reprinted in Baokan Fuyin Ziliao: Renkou yu Jihua Shengyu 1999(4): 91-98.
38. "Fertility and Son Preference in Korea" (with Ulla Larsen and Woojin Chung), *Population Studies* 52(3):317-325, 1998.
39. "Gender bias and marriage squeeze: A comparative study of China, South Korea and India", *Chinese Journal of Population Sciences* (2): 22-30, 1998. (with Li Shuzhuo, in Chinese).  
\*\*\* Reprinted in Baokan Fuyin Ziliao: Shehui 1999(2):177-185.
40. "Bangladesh's fertility decline from a regional perspective" (with D.Narayana), *Genus* LIII (3-4): 101-128, 1997.
41. "Fertility Decline and Increased Manifestation of Sex Bias in India" (with P.N.Mari Bhat), *Population Studies* 51(3): 307-315, 1997.
42. "Socio economic Status and Clustering of Child Deaths in Rural Punjab", *Population Studies* 51(2): 191-202, 1997.
43. "Life Course Perspectives on Women's Autonomy and Health Outcomes", *American Anthropologist* 97(3):481 491, 1995.  
\*\*\* Reprinted in *Health Transition Review* supplement 1996.
44. "Fertility decline in Punjab, India: parallels with historical Europe", *Population Studies* 49(3): 481 500, 1995.
45. "Death clustering, mother's education, and the determinants of child mortality in rural Punjab, India", *Population Studies* 44 (3), 1990.
46. "Informal security mechanisms and population retention in rural India", *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 36(1):101 120, 1987.
47. "Selective discrimination against female children in rural Punjab, India", *Population and Development Review* 13: 77 100, 1987.
48. "Production relations and population: Rampur", *Journal of Development Studies* 14: 177 185, 1978.

**EDITED JOURNAL SYMPOSIA:**

1. *Armed Conflict, Gender and Schooling*, Special Issue of *World Bank Economic Review*, Special Issue 28(2), 2014 (co-edited with Mayra Buvinic)
2. *Gender, Poverty, and Demography*, Special Issue of *The World Bank Economic Review* 23(3), 2009. (co-edited with Mayra Buvinic)

**BOOK CHAPTERS / OTHER PAPERS:**

1. India's Public Health: The Way Forward, in Amita Batra and Ashok K Bhattacharya *A world in flux: India's geopolitical options and economic priorities* Delhi: Rupa Publications (forthcoming 2025)
2. "Son Preference, Sex Ratios, and 'Missing Girls' in Asia" (with Doo-Sub Kim, Li Shuzhuo and Rohini Pande), chapter 9 in Zhongwei Zhao and Adrian Hayes (eds) *Handbook of Asian Demography*, Abingdon and New York: Routledge Press (2018), pp 151-167.
3. "Die Rückkehr der Mädchen", *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* December 2017. <http://www.spektrum.de/news/in-asien-werden-wieder-mehr-maedchen-geboren/1527523>
4. "Return of the Missing Daughters", *Scientific American* September 2017, pages 82-85.
5. "China's Marriage Market and Upcoming Challenges for Elderly Men", in Ravinder Kaur (ed) *Too Many Men, Too Few Women: Social Consequences of the Gender Imbalance in India and China*, Orient BlackSwan, 2016. (with Avraham Ebenstein and Ethan Jennings Sharygin).
6. "Women's Empowerment and Fertility: Policy Lessons", New York: United Nations Population Division, Expert Paper No. 2013/2, 2013 (paper prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Fertility, Changing Population Trends and Development, New York 21-22 October 2013) [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/expert/2013-2\\_DasGupta\\_Expert-Paper.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/expert/2013-2_DasGupta_Expert-Paper.pdf)
7. "Overcoming women's constraints to accessing health services in Pakistan: the potential of media and field outreach programs" (with Ghazala Mansuri, Nistha Sinha, and Tara Vishwanath, forthcoming in Sonalde Desai and Simeen Mahmud (eds.) *Gender and Access in South Asia*.
8. "Public Health in India", in Kaushik Basu (ed.) *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp 435-440, 2007.
9. "Strategies for managing household resources in rural North India", in Theo Engelen and Arthur Wolf (eds.) *Marriage and Family in EurAsia: perspectives on the Hajnal hypothesis*, Amsterdam: Aksant Academic Publishers, 2005, pages 195-212.
10. "State Policies and Women's Agency in China, the Republic of Korea and India 1950-2000: lessons from contrasting experiences" (with Sunhwa Lee, Patricia Uberoi, Danning Wang, Lihong Wang, and Xiaodan Zhang), in Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton (eds.) *Culture and Public Action: A Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue on Development Policy*, Stanford-California: Stanford University Press, 2004.
11. "Making State Institutions More Responsive to Poor People", Ch 6 in *World Development Report 2000/1: Attacking Poverty*, New York: Oxford University Press (with Alice Sindzingre and Helene Grandvoininnet).

12. "Removing Social Barriers and Building Social Institutions", Ch 7 in *World Development Report 2000/1: Attacking Poverty*, New York: Oxford University Press (with Michael Woolcock, Helene Grandvoinet, Alice Sindzingre).
13. "Family Systems and the Preferred Sex of Children", in Jan Hoem (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Elsevier Science, 2001 (with Ananya Basu).
14. "Synthesizing Diverse Interpretations of Reproductive Change in India", in James F. Phillips and Zeba Ayesa Sathar (eds.) *Fertility Transition in South Asia*, Clarendon Press 2001, pages 203-20.
15. "Demographic Trends in Ludhiana District, Punjab, 1881-1981: an exploration of vital registration data in colonial India" (with Tim Dyson), in T'sui jung Liu et al.(eds.) *Asian Historical Demography*, Oxford University Press, 2001.
16. "Social Exclusion and Poverty", in Gudrun Kochendorfer-Lucius and Boris Pleskovic (eds.) *Inclusion, Justice and Poverty Reduction*, Berlin: German Foundation for International Development, Villa Borsig Workshop Series, 1999, pages 81-86.
17. "Reproductive change in India and Brazil: implications for understanding fertility decline" (with George Martine and Lincoln C.Chen), in G.Martine et al. (eds.) *Reproductive Change in India and Brazil*, Oxford University Press 1999, pages 1-34.
18. "Women and Mortality Trends" (with Jacob Adetunji), in N.Stromquist (ed.) *Women in the Third World: an encyclopedia of contemporary issues*, Garland Publishing Inc., 1998, pp.148-156.
19. "Fertility decline in Punjab, India: parallels with historical Europe", in G.Martine et al.(eds.) *Reproductive Change in India and Brazil*, Oxford University Press, 1998. (reprint)
20. "Shaping the value of individuals: the role of patterns of inheritance and residence", for Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux and Emiko Ochiai (eds.) *House and the Stem Family in Eurasian Perspective*, Proceedings of the Twelfth International Economic History Congress, 1998.
21. "Fertility Decline and Increased Manifestation of Sex Bias in India", in R.Sudarshan et al. (eds.) *Gender Perspectives in Population, Health and Development in India*, Oxford University Press 1998. (reprint)
22. "The status of girls in China" (with Jiang Zhenghua, Xie Zhenming and Li Bohua), *Proceedings of the Symposium on Chinese Scholars on the Demography of China*, organized by the China Population Association and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Beijing, October 1997.
23. "Kinship Systems and Demographic Regimes", in D.I.Kertzner and T.E.Fricke (eds.) *Anthropological Demography: Towards a New Synthesis*, University of Chicago Press, 1997.
24. "The Khanna restudy: methodology and major findings on child survival", in M.Das Gupta et al. (eds.), *Prospective Community Studies in Developing Countries*, Clarendon Press, 1997.
25. "Introduction" (with Peter Aaby, Michel Garenne and Giles Pison), in M. Das Gupta et al. (eds.) *Prospective Community Studies in Developing Countries*, Clarendon Press, 1997.
26. "Son Preference and Excess Female Mortality in India's Demographic Transition" (with Leela Visaria), in Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs and United Nations Population Fund, *Sex Preference for Children in the Rapidly Changing Demographic Dynamics in Asia*, Seoul: Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs 1996.
27. "Introduction" (with T.N.Krishnan and Lincoln C.Chen), in M.Das Gupta et al.(eds.) *Health, Poverty and Development in India*, Oxford University Press, 1996.

28. "Population and Development Policies and Programmes in India", in S.P.Gupta, N.Stern and A.Hussain (eds.) *Development Patterns and Institutional Structures: China and India*, Allied Publishers, 1995.
29. "Overview" (with Lincoln C.Chen), in M.Das Gupta et al.(eds.) *Women's Health in India: Risk and Vulnerability*, Oxford University Press, 1995.
30. "What motivates fertility decline?: a case study from Punjab, India", in B.Egero and M.Hammarskjold (eds.) *Understanding Reproductive Change*, Lund University Press, 1994.
31. "The Prospects for Population Control in India", in Charlotte Hohn (ed.) *Which Population Issues Do Matter in Cairo?*, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany, 1994.
32. "Death clustering: a quantitative exploration of the distribution of child deaths among mothers" (with J.E. Potter and G. Wyshak), in D.O.Sawyer and S.D.McCracken (eds.) *The Young and the Elderly: Issues on Morbidity and Mortality*, Belo Horizonte, Brazil: CEDEPLAR/UFMG (1993).
33. "Death clustering, mother's education, and the determinants of child mortality in rural Punjab, India", in J.C.Caldwell et al.(eds.) *Health Transition: The Cultural, Social and Behavioural Determinants of Health*, Canberra, Australia: The Australian National University (1990), 441 461.
34. "The effects of discrimination on health and mortality", *Proceedings of the International Population Conference*, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, New Delhi (1989).
35. "The use of genealogies for reconstructing social history and analyzing fertility behaviour in a North Indian village", in J.C. Caldwell, A.G.Hill and V.J.Hull (eds.), *Micro approaches to Demographic Research*, London: Kegan Paul International (1988).
36. "Micro perspectives on the slow rate of urbanization in India", *Proceedings of the International Population Conference*, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Florence, Italy (1985).
37. "Production relations and population: Rampur", in G.Hawthorn (ed.), *Population and Development*, London: Frank Cass, 1978.
38. "From a closed to an open system: fertility behaviour in a changing Indian village", in T.S.Epstein and D.Jackson (eds.), *The Feasibility of Fertility Planning*, Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1977.

**BOOKS / EDITED VOLUMES:**

1. *Reproductive Change in India and Brazil*, edited by George Martine, Monica Das Gupta and Lincoln C.Chen, Oxford University Press, 1999.
2. *Prospective Community Studies in Developing Countries*, edited by Monica Das Gupta, Peter Aaby, Michel Garenne and Gilles Pison, Clarendon Press, 1997.
3. *Health, Poverty and Development in India*, edited by Monica Das Gupta, T.N.Krishnan and Lincoln C.Chen, Oxford University Press, 1996 (paperback edition 1998).
4. *Women's Health in India: Risk and Vulnerability*, edited by Monica Das Gupta, T.N.Krishnan and Lincoln C.Chen, Oxford University Press, 1995 (paperback edition 1998).

**WORKING PAPERS:**

1. “Missing girls’ in the South Caucasus countries: trends, possible causes, and policy options”, Washington, D.C : The World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No 7236, 2015.
2. “Multisectoral preventive health services in Sri Lanka: lessons for developing countries in providing public goods in health” (with KCS Dalpatadu, CK Shanmugarajah, and HMSS Herath), Washington DC: The World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No 6558, 2013.
3. “Population, Poverty, and Sustainable Development: a review of the evidence”, (with John Bongaarts and John Cleland), Washington DC: The World Bank Policy Research Paper 5719, 2010.

**WORLD BANK REPORTS on which I worked as a core team member:**

1. *Environmental Health and Child Survival*, Washington DC: The World Bank (Anjali Acharya, Mikko Paunio, Maria Fernanda Garcia, Monica Das Gupta, Peter Kolsky, Bjorn Larsen, and Giovanna Ruta). 2008. (contributed to the whole report)
2. *Bangladesh Gender Assessment: celebrating the victories, addressing the challenges*, Washington DC: The World Bank (Maitreyi Das, Sajeda Amin, Monica Das Gupta, Kiersten Johnson, Abul Hossain, Faaria Islam, Shirin Jahangeer, Simeen Mahmud, Wafaas Ofosu Amaah, Jennifer Solotaroff, and Yaniv Stopinsky). 2007. (primary responsibility for the chapter on health)
3. *India’s Undernourished Children: A Call for Reforms and Action*, Washington DC: The World Bank, HNP Discussion Paper Series 34638, (Michele Gragnolati, Meera Shekar, Monica Das Gupta, Caryn Bredenkamp, and Yi-Kyoung Lee). 2005. (contributed to the whole report)
4. *Pakistan Country Gender Assessment Bridging the Gender Gap: Opportunities and Challenges*, Washington DC: The World Bank, South Asia Region, Environment and Social Development Sector Unit, 2005 (Tara Vishwanath, Ghazala Mansuri, Nistha Sinha, Jennifer Solotaroff, Jishnu Das, Monica Das Gupta, Inaam Huq, Hanan Jacoby, and Nobuo Yoshida). 2005. (primary responsibility for the chapter on health)
5. *Primary Health Care in Nigeria: Decentralized Delivery of Primary Health Services in Nigeria*, Washington DC: The World Bank, Africa Region Human Development Working Paper Series no 70, (Monica Das Gupta, Varun Gauri and Stuti Khemani). 2004. (contributed to the whole report)
6. *World Development Report 2000/1: Attacking Poverty*, New York: Oxford University Press. Primary responsibility for two chapters on the role of state institutions and social institutions in poverty reduction:
  - Ch 6 “Making State Institutions More Responsive to Poor People”
  - Ch 7 “Removing Social Barriers and Building Social Institutions”
7. Contributed to the *Global Monitoring Report 2007*.