Shouraseni Sen Roy  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography and Regional Studies  
College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Miami  
Email: ssr@miami.edu  
Office: 305-284-4820
**Abstract:** The main objective of this proposal is to examine the linkages between spatial patterns of gender inequalities/inequities (GI) with reference to long-term trends in climate change across the Indian subcontinent. I will use the funds to do field work and collect data by visiting various stakeholders, NGOs, and policymakers involved in the field of GI and climate change in Delhi, India. This is a new theme of research I am embarking on, and with the help of this grant I will be able to lay the foundation for another long term research project in an area which is relatively less explored.

**Activity Goals:** It has been widely reported that the entire globe has experienced warming, albeit with substantial decadal & inter-annual variability. There is significant evidence about the very likely decrease in the number of cold days & nights, as well as an increase in the number of warm days & nights on the global scale. However, much uncertainty exists concerning regional variation in climate change impacts because of inadequate long term data records as well as coverage. The detrimental impacts of climate change in many cases, especially in developing countries, affect women more than men. A clear majority of the 1.5 billion people living on $1 a day or less are women (UNFPA, 2009), who rely most heavily on those natural resources susceptible to climate change. In many cases women also face greater social, economic, & political challenges than males, which limit their coping capacity. Recently, there is more emphasis on importance of considering gender in climate change dialogues, programs, & projects. In this context, one of the eight principal goals for 2015 chartered by the Millennium Development Goals is to promote gender equality & empower women. More importantly Sultana (2014) highlighted the particularly significant case of South Asia, which is undergoing significant transformations in socio-ecological spheres related to climate change & historical patriarchal societies that are also facing challenges in gendered power structures. It is therefore important to identify gender-sensitive strategies to respond to the environmental & humanitarian crises caused by climate change.

Specifically, gender discrimination is a major problem in different parts of the Indian subcontinent. India’s Human Development Index (HDI), adjusted for gender inequality, is the worst in South Asia after Afghanistan. Indian society is traditionally patriarchal, where in women have lesser voice in decision making processes both at home & in society at large. This negatively impacts women’s health, educational, financial status, & participation in important decision-making processes. Through this grant I propose to examine the linkages between long-term trends in climate change & variability in relation to GI across the Indian subcontinent.

I have extensive research experience examining long term trends in climate change processes across the Indian subcontinent. Therefore, in view of the uneven spatial impacts of climate change & the glaring levels of GI across the Indian subcontinent, I propose to examine the linkages between long-term trends in climate change & variability in relation to GI across the Indian subcontinent. If funded, I will spend at least 2 weeks in New Delhi to conduct interviews, collect pertinent secondary data, as well as lay down the framework for a future longer term research program. I will try to establish contact with three types of agencies or organizations (a) Environmental NGOs including Center for Science and Environment & The Energy Research Institute; (b) NGOs working on women’s issues such as Nandanya led by Dr. Vandana Shiva, who is a prominent women’s right & environment activist; (c) local policy makers & academic experts working on gender issues. The research methodology for this project will include a
combination of analyses of primary & secondary data mapped to reveal spatial disparities in GI associated with climate change at various scales across the subcontinent.

**Personal Goals:** Through this research project I hope to extend my current research expertise in analyzing spatial patterns of climate change across the Indian subcontinent, into a long term research project examining the impacts of climate change on vulnerable population, particularly women. This grant will help me to build partnerships with local agencies & stakeholders for future research.

The incorporation of gender differences in climate change mitigation & adaptation will promote the understanding of how the identities of women & men determine different vulnerabilities & capacities to deal with climate change. By adopting a gender sensitive approach will allow us to design & implement policies, programs & projects that lead to greater equity & equality particularly in countries like India where there are glaring GI. Additionally, it may contribute to building more capacity to adapt & mitigate climate change, by greater gender equality & awareness at the grassroots level. The long-term impacts of the findings of my research will be able to link critical issues related GI & climate change.

I will also be developing an upper level undergraduate course on *Climate Change in the Global South* with specific focus on gender, which will be of interest to students in several departments including Geography & Regional Studies, Women & Gender Studies Department, & International Studies. This will further enhance my teaching portfolio & give me an opportunity teach in my area of expertise as well as involve students in my research.
Budget and budget justification:

Travel
Miami Delhi roundtrip 7/1-7/18 $2100

Lodging
50% of US Department of State Maximum Lodging Rate for 2014 x 15 $2250

Meals
US Department of State per diem rates for 2014 x 15 $750

Total $5100

Matching Funds: I will be applying for matching funds to my Department.