

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Professor Jeremy MacClancy** is the Director of the Transdisciplinary Anthropological Centre for Conservation, the Environment and Development (ACCEND) at Oxford Brookes University. He has done major research and fieldwork in Vanuatu and the Basque Country. He is the co-editor of two interdisciplinary books on anthropology of food: *Researching Food Habits* and *Consuming the Inedible: Neglected Dimensions of Food Choice*. Professor MacClancy's paper on the creation and politicization of the concept of Basque cuisine (published as a chapter within his book *Expressing Identities in the Basque Arena*), has received the 'First Award' Sophie Coe Essay Prize in Food Studies.

*Professor Jeremy MacClancy*  
Oxford Brookes University



**Maria Teresa Armijos** is a DPhil candidate at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University (IDS). Before joining IDS she worked with women's groups and rural development in Northern Argentina. She has done research on indigenous rights, social movements, natural resources and corporate social responsibility in Ecuador, Peru and Guyana. Her current work examines how the dynamic interplay of legal reform and local contestation over natural resources shapes communal water systems in the Ecuadorian Andes. By incorporating social, political and environmental processes into the study of water management practices, this research will try to contribute to a growing body of literature on the culture and politics of water.

*Maria Teresa Armijos*  
Institute of Development Studies



**Nicola Gibb** was a career hydrogeologist working in the fields of rural and urban water supply and waste disposal overseas and in the UK. She is a volunteer speaker for Water Aid, an organisation which works with local partners to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.

*Nicola Gibb*, Hydrogeologist and Water Aid Volunteer



*Denise Galvin*  
Universidad de Alicante

Denise Galvin (B.A. Hons) manages International Projects -OGPI and is Assoc. Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics and Business Sciences, Universidad de Alicante, Alicante, Spain. Her previous professional background was as consultant to some of the largest privately funded public infrastructure projects constructed during the mid 1990s in Australia. Her areas of responsibility for these projects were public affairs and environmental issues. As an academic she co-ordinates several international projects with an environmental focus that are funded by the European Union. She has worked in many different cultural and geographical contexts.

Denise's doctoral research focuses on the challenges related to the use of over-arching dialogues and management paradigms for water resource management. The research addresses problems related with the use of generic institutional models and policy dialogues both in the Namoi Valley, NSW, Australia and the Vinalopó River Basins, Alicante, Spain. She has published both in English and Spanish.



*Dr. Sarah Bell*  
UCL Environment Institute

**Dr Sarah Bell** is a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Engineering and co-director of the UCL Environment Institute, with responsibility for a network of water researchers at UCL. She is director of the MSc Environmental Systems Engineering. She began her career as an engineer in the aluminium smelting industry before completing her PhD in sustainability and technology policy. She taught sustainable agriculture and land management at the University of Sydney before returning to engineering through her appointment at UCL. In 2008 she received a Royal Academy of Engineering Exxon Mobil Excellence in Teaching award. She is principal investigator on two major EPSRC research grants, including a Bridging the Gaps award to enhance collaboration across departments at UCL on the topic of Sustainable Urban Spaces. Her research investigates the relationships between technology and society as they influence the sustainability of urban water systems. She has worked in collaboration with a number of organisations such as Thames Water, Arup, AECOM, WWF, Waterwise, the London Sustainability Exchange, and the London Borough of Camden, and on projects in several countries including Mexico, Pakistan, Australia and the UK.



*Joshka Wessels*

Geographer, Film-maker

**Joshka Wessels** is a well-travelled Dutch geographer, media & communication specialist and filmmaker who produces human interest and environmental TV programmes. Joshka is associate consultant/trainer in media for development for the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), University of Wolverhampton (UK), the MUNDO Centre for Development at the University of Maastricht and associate consultant for the IRC-International Water and Sanitation Centre in Delft, The Netherlands. In May 2008, she finished her PhD in Development Studies for the University of Amsterdam/SOAS and defended her thesis. Innovatively using video technology in a participatory approach, she investigated how to restore and renovate traditional water tunnels called qanats in Syria working together with local people and communities. Next to that, she has been educated in Hilversum as a broadcast trainee with the Veronica Broadcasting Company and at Leiden University (Netherlands) where she obtained her Masters of Arts in Visual Anthropology in 1996. She also attended the UK Film Council and Script Factory Digital Shorts Training Scheme at the National Film and Television School (NFTS), London.



*Robert Lillywhite*

University of Warwick

**Rob Lillywhite** is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Warwick. He is interested in the impact that agriculture and horticulture has on the environment and uses various environmental accounting methods (life cycle assessment, water, carbon and environmental footprinting) to assess crop production systems. He is currently working on a Defra funded project which is determining the water footprint of selected UK produced and consumed products. For more information visit:  
[www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/whri/about/staff/rlillywhite](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/whri/about/staff/rlillywhite)



*Dr. Rajindra Puri*  
University of Kent

**Dr. Rajindra K. Puri** is a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Anthropology and Managing Director of the Centre for Biocultural Diversity at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. He is also a scientific advisor to the Global Diversity Foundation. His main research site is Indonesian Borneo where he has studied human adaptation to tropical rain forest since 1990, His 2005 monograph *Deadly Dances in the Bornean Rainforest* documents the knowledge and practices used by Penan Benalui hunters. He and his students are conducting research on local knowledge and responses to climate variability, water scarcity, biodiversity change and environmental policy shifts in Southeast Asia and Europe. He teaches environmental anthropology, ethnobotany, development anthropology and research methods in the UK and Austria, and on various short courses organized by GDF.



*Dr. Sam Hurn*  
University of Wales, Lampeter

**Dr. Samantha Hurn** is a lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Her primary research interests lie in the many and varied cross-cultural interactions that occur between humans and nonhuman animals (Anthrozoology), with a regional focus on Southern Africa (Swaziland and South Africa) and Europe (especially rural Andalusia, Spain and Wales, UK). Sam moved to West Wales in 2001 to conduct fieldwork in the local farming community and has regularly had to contend with the region's high levels of rainfall whilst in the field. Sam has worked with many farmers in Wales and is particularly interested in the differences in approach and attitudes between organic and 'traditional' farming practices. One area which has emerged as key is water, especially for one of her informants who has used what other farmers in the region see as frustratingly inclement weather to his advantage, turning his family's organic dairy farm into a successful producer of bottled spring water.



**Dr. Liz Sharp** is a lecturer in Environmental Governance in the Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Bradford. She has been interested in water management since constructing dams in Welsh streams aged 5. Her professional interest in water developed through her training as a geographer and a planner with a specific interest in public involvement (or not) in the processes of making and implementing environmental policy. She has led social science elements within a series of water related research projects sponsored by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, a number of Water Companies, and the EU.

*Dr. Liz Sharp* University of Bradford



**Nafisa Fera** is the Education Officer at the Royal Anthropological Institute. Her role is to work with students, teachers and organisations to raise awareness of anthropology and encourage active engagement in the discipline. Previously, Nafisa was a teacher in Italy, Japan, and Australia, before going on to complete her MA at University of Sussex. For her dissertation, Nafisa conducted research on childhood obesity and youth participation in schools meals. Nafisa is particularly interested in Anthropology of Food & Sport, Environmental Anthropology and Medical Anthropology. She is always keen to collaborate with individuals and institutions that have an interest in bringing about positive change towards a healthier people and planet.

For more information about the RAI's Education Programme visit:

[www.discoveranthropology.org.uk](http://www.discoveranthropology.org.uk)

*Nafisa Fera* Royal Anthropological Institute, *The Meaning of Water* Event Manager



The *Meaning of Water* event was organised by the Royal Anthropological Institute's Education and Film Departments as part of the ESRC 2010 Festival of Social Science.