

# Amit Basole

Associate Professor  
School of Liberal Studies  
Azim Premji University  
Bangalore, India

Phone: +91-9619649958  
Email: [amit.basole@apu.edu.in](mailto:amit.basole@apu.edu.in)  
Website: <http://blogs.umb.edu/amitbasole/>

## Education

PhD, Economics, University of Massachusetts- Amherst, 2011  
*Knowledge, Gender and Production Relations in India's Informal Economy*. Advisors: James K. Boyce and J. Mohan Rao.

PhD, Neurobiology, Duke University, 2005  
*Spatiotemporal Frequency Perspective on the Columnar Organization of Population Activity in Visual Cortex*.  
Advisor: David Fitzpatrick

MSc, Molecular Biology, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay University, 1999.

BSc, Microbiology, Bombay University, 1996.

## Employment

2016: Associate Professor, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India

2012 - 2016: Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

2011-2012: Visiting Assistant Professor, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

2006-2011: Teaching Assistant and Associate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

## Fields

Poverty and Inequality, Informality and Structural Change, Political Economy of Knowledge

## Research

### *Publications*

#### **Edited Book**

Basole A, ed. (2015) *Lokavidya Perspectives: A Philosophy of Political Imagination for the Knowledge Age*, Aakar Books, New Delhi.

#### **Journal Articles**

Basole A (2016) Informality and Flexible Specialization: Apprenticeships and Knowledge Spillovers in an Indian Silk Weaving Cluster, *Development and Change*, Vol 47, No. 1, pp. 157-187.

Basole A and Basu D (2015) Non-Food Expenditures and Consumption Inequality in India, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 50:36, pp. 43-53.

Basole A (2015) Authenticity, Innovation and the Geographical Indication in an Artisanal Industry: The Case of the Banarasi Sari, *Journal of World Intellectual Property*, 18:3/4, pp. 127-149.

- Basole A, Basu D, and Bhattacharya R (2015) Determinants and Impacts of Subcontracting: Evidence from India's Unorganized Manufacturing Sector, *International Review of Applied Economics*, 29:3, pp.374-402.
- Basole A and Basu D (2015) Fueling Calorie Intake Decline: Household Level Evidence from Rural India (with Deepankar Basu), *World Development*, 68:82-95.
- Basole A (2014) Dynamics of Income Inequality in India: Insights from World Top Incomes Database, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 49:40, pp.14-17. (Editor-reviewed research note.)
- Basole, A (2014) Whose Knowledge Counts? Reinterpreting Gandhi for the Information Age, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 18:3, pp.1-44.
- Basole A (2013) Class-biased Technical Change and Socialism, *Rethinking Marxism: A Journal of Economics, Culture, and Society*, 25: 4, pp. 592-601.
- Basole A and Basu D (2011) Relations of Production and Modes of Surplus Extraction in India: Part Two- Informal Industry *Economic and Political Weekly*, 46: 15, pp. 63-79.
- Basole A and Basu D (2011) Relations of Production and Modes of Surplus Extraction in India: Part One- Agriculture *Economic and Political Weekly*, 46:14, pp. 41-58.
- Basole A, Kreft-Kerekes V, White LE and Fitzpatrick D (2006) Cortical Cartography Revisited: A Frequency Perspective on the Functional Architecture of Visual Cortex. *Progress in Brain Research*, 154:121-34.
- Sanyal S, Consoulos C, Kuromi H, Basole A, Mukai L, Kidokoro Y, Krishnan KS and Ramaswami M (2005) Analysis of conditional paralytic mutants in Drosophila SERCA reveals novel mechanisms for regulating membrane excitability. *Genetics*, 169(2):737-50.
- Basole A, White LE and Fitzpatrick D (2003) Mapping multiple features in the population response of visual cortex. *Nature*, 423:986-990.
- Sanyal S, Basole A and Krishnan KS (1999) Phenotypic interaction between temperature sensitive paralytic mutants comatose and paralytic suggests a role for N- ethylmaleimide sensitive fusion factor in synaptic vesicle cycling in Drosophila. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 19:RC47 (1-5).
- Sanyal S and Basole A (1999) Neural complexity underlying simple behavior. *Journal of Bioscience*, 24:255-257.

### Book Chapters

- Basole A and Jayadev A (forthcoming) Employment Guarantee in the Age of Precarity: The Case of India's NREGA, in Joseph Stiglitz and Kalle Moene (eds.), *Welfare and Inequality*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Basole A and Basu D (forthcoming) Consumption, Nutrition and Inequality in Maharashtra, 1987 - 2011, in Veena Shatrugna and Abhay Shukla eds., *Nutritional Crisis in Maharashtra*, Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- Basole A (2016) The Agrarian Question in India, in Ravi Kumar, ed. *Contemporary Readings in Marxism: A Critical Introduction*, Aakar Books, New Delhi.
- Basole A and Ramnarain S (2016) Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods in Economics, in Frederic S. Lee and Bruce Cronin eds. *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Heterodox Economics*, Edward Elgar, Northampton.
- Basole A (2016) Spare Change for Spare Time? Homeworking Women in Banaras, in Saraswati Raju and Santosh Jatrana eds. *Women Workers in Urban India*, New Delhi: Cambridge University Press.

Basole A (2015) Knowledge, Work, and Education, in A. Basole ed. *Lokavidya Perspectives: A Philosophy of Political Imagination for the Knowledge Age*, Aakar Books, New Delhi.

Basole A (2015) Lokavidya Goes Virtual: Indigenous Knowledge in the Gatesian Age, in A. Basole, ed. *Lokavidya Perspectives: A Philosophy of Political Imagination for the Knowledge Age*, Aakar Books, New Delhi.

Sahasrabudhey S and Basole A (2015) Reinventing the Indian University: Arguing from a *lokavidya* standpoint, in A. Basole, ed. *Lokavidya Perspectives: A Philosophy of Political Imagination for the Knowledge Age*, Aakar Books, New Delhi.

Basole A (2013) Gandhian Economics in a Knowledge Society, in Tara Sethia and Anjana Narayan eds. *The Living Gandhi: Lessons for Our Times*. Penguin India.

Basole A and Bhattacharya R (2009) The Phantom of Liberty: Mo(der)nism and Postcolonial Imaginations in India, in Rajani Kanth ed., *The Challenge of Eurocentrism: Global Perspectives, Policy, and Prospects*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Basole A (2009) Eurocentrism, the University and Multiplicity of Knowledge Production Sites, in Edu-Factory Collective ed., *Toward a Global Autonomous University: Cognitive Labor, The Production of Knowledge and Exodus from the Education Factory* NY: Autonomedia.

### Invited Articles

Basole A (2014) The Informal Sector from a Knowledge Perspective, *Yojana: A Development Monthly*, October 2014.

Basole A (2010) The Technology Question in Lohia. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45: 44, pp. 106-111.

### Book Reviews

Review of "Reading Marx's Capital in the Information Age" by Christian Fucks, *Rethinking Marxism*, forthcoming.

Review of "India's New Economic Policy: A Critical Analysis" by Waquar Ahmed, Amitabh Kundu, and Richard Peet, *Rethinking Marxism*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08935696.2016.1160614>.

Review of "Economics for Everyone: A Short Guide to the Economics of Capitalism" by Jim Stanford, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, 43:4, 584 (Winter 2011).

Review of "Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age" by Christian Fuchs, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, 42:4, 557-560 (Fall 2010).

Review of "Eastern Origins of Western Civilization" by John Hobson, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, 39:609-612 (Fall 2007).

### Research Reports

Birla S and Basole A (2013) Negotiating (with) English in Mumbai's Informal Economy, Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Max Planck Institute Urban Aspirations Project.

### Work In Progress

A Gender Penalty for Firm Performance in India's Informal Manufacturing Sector

Understanding Delayed Structural Change in India (with Deepankar Basu).

Political Economy of Indian Populism (with Rajesh Bhattacharya)

Artisanal Knowledge and Technical Change: The Case of Banaras Powerlooms

## Presentations

### Invited Talks

"Lokavidya Perspectives: A Philosophy of Political Imagination for the Knowledge Age," *Centre for the Study of Science Policy*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, November, 2016.

"Informality and Flexible Specialization: Informal Knowledge, Technical Change, and Wages in Banaras," *Delhi School of Economics*, University of Delhi, November, 2016.

"Informality and Flexible Specialization: Informal Knowledge, Technical Change, and Wages in Banaras," *Humanities and Social Sciences*, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, November, 2016.

"The Future of Capitalism in India," Panel Discussion, *South Asia Institute*, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, April, 2015.

"Consumption, Nutrition and Inequality in Maharashtra, 1987 - 2011," Workshop on *Nutritional Crisis in Maharashtra*, Narottam Sekhsaria Foundation, Mumbai, India, January, 2015.

Workshop on "Informal Workers, Enterprises, and Cities: Addressing Informality in South Asia," *South Asia Institute: Annual Symposium*, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, April 2014.

"Knowledge Satyagraha: Towards a Peoples' Knowledge Movement," *Critical Point of View Wikipedia Conference*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, March 2010.

### Conference Presentations

"Populist Policies and the Agrarian Question in India," *2nd International Conference on Public Policy and Management*, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, January, 2016 (with Rajesh Bhattacharya).

"MGNREGA and Social Protection," *The Welfare State and the Fight Against Inequality* The Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University (IPD), New York, November, 2015 (with Arjun Jayadev).

"Spare Change for Spare Time: Homeworking Women in Banaras," *40th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association*, Boston, March, 2014.

"Political Economy of Flexible Specialization: Knowledge Flows, Modernization, and Wages in an Artisanal Cluster," *42nd Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI, October 2013

"Sub-contracting out of poverty? Empirical evidence from Indian unorganized manufacturing sector" (with D. Basu and R. Bhattacharya), *39th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association*, New York, May, 2013.

"The Calorie Consumption Puzzle in India" (with D. Basu), *39th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association*, New York, May, 2013.

"The Calorie Consumption Puzzle in India: An Empirical Investigation" (with D. Basu), *10th Midwest Economic Development Conference*, Madison, WI, April 2013

## Teaching

### Courses

<b>Azim Premji University</b>	
Econ 102: Introduction to Macroeconomics	Spring 2016
<b>UMass-Boston</b>	
Econ 610: Political Economy (MA)	Fall 2013, 2015
Econ 102: Introduction to Macroeconomics	Fall 2013; Spring 2013, 2014, 2015; Fall 2015
Econ 101: Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2012
Econ 336: Economic Development	Fall 2012; Spring 2013, 2014, 2015
<b>Bucknell University</b>	
Econ 101: Economic Principles and Problems	Fall 2011; Spring 2012
Econ 333: Gender and Economic Development	Spring 2012
Econ 222: Political Economy of Development	Fall 2012
<b>UMass-Amherst</b>	
Econ 305: Marxian Economics	Spring 2009
Econ 204: Intermediate Macroeconomics	Winter 2009
Econ 105: Introduction to Political Economy	Fall 2008

### Theses

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Samantha Trenholm, *Role of the State in Industrial Development: Historical Evidence and Neoliberal Ideology*, 2013-2014.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Santi Dewa Ayu, *Factors Impacting K-5 Students? Perception of Homework Difficulty During Out-of-School-Time Tutoring Sessions*, 2014-2015.

### Invited Lectures

"Role of the State in Development," Lecturer, *Masters in Management of Development*, International Training Center, International Labor Organization, Turin, Italy, March 2016.

"The Agrarian Question in India," *Summer School on Marxism*, South Asian University and Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, New Delhi, India, July 2015.

"Role of the State in Development," Lecturer, *Masters in Management of Development*, International Training Center, International Labor Organization, Turin, Italy, March 2015.

"India's Growth: Puzzles, Challenges, Opportunities," *Harvard Project on Asian and International Relations Conference*, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, February 2015.

"The Informal Economy from a Knowledge Perspective," *APU-INET Advanced Graduate Workshop*, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, January 2015.

"A Knowledge Perspective on the Gandhian Model of Development," *APU-INET Graduate Workshop*, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, July 2013.

"Mahatma Gandhi's Thought," *Multicultural Club*, Lesley University, Cambridge, USA, October 2013.

"Indian Democracy 101," *Educators for Teaching India Conference*, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, April, 2013.

## Fellowships and Grants

2012: Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Max Planck Institute (TISS-MPI) Urban Aspirations Fellowship, \$1700.

2011: Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) Dissertation Fellowship, \$6000.

2009-10: American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Dissertation Research Fellowship, \$10000

## Awards and Prizes

2009: Solomon Barkin Award (UMass Amherst Department of Economics) for “research that concerns problems faced by working people and/or trade unions, and that has the potential to contribute to improving the conditions of working people.”

2001: Joanne and Irving Diamond Teaching Award (Duke University, Neurobiology).

## Service

### *Department*

2014-2015

MA in Applied Economics Graduate Admissions Committee

ODE Honors Society Coordinator

Department Personnel Committee (Spring)

2013-2014

Economics Seminar Coordinator

2012-2013

Graduate School Advisor

MA in Applied Economics Graduate Affairs Committee

### *College and University*

2014-2015: Joint Economics-Honors College Hiring Committee

2013-2014: South Asian Studies Major Planning Committee

2013-2014: South Asian Studies Hiring Committee

### *Professional*

#### **Papers and Book Proposals reviewed for**

*Development and Change, Review of Radical Political Economics, World Development, Journal of Economic Policy Reform, Sarvekshana, Review of Development Economics, Journal of Peasant Studies, Rethinking Marxism, Review of Social Economy, African Journal of Economics and Finance, International Journal of Gandhi Studies, International Labor and Working Class History, Routledge*

#### **Guest Editor**

Special issue of the journal *Decision* on “Urban Management in Developing Countries.”

**Conference Co-Organizer**

Race and Intellectual Property Conference, Boston College, April 20-22, 2017.

*Public***Commentary**

Monthly column for The Dialog.

Geographical Indication: Will It Save Traditional Indian Art?, Policy Wonks, Oct 23, 2015.

Income inequality in India: Trends from the World Top Incomes Database, Ideas for India, Aug 31, 2015.

The mystery is solved: why is India's calorie intake falling even though it is getting richer? (with Deepankar Basu), May 5, 2015, Scroll.in

The 2015-2016 Budget: Business As Usual?, Sanhati, March 2015.

What explains declining calorie consumption in India? (with Deepankar Basu), Ideas for India, Jun 16, 2014.

The 2014 Budget in Perspective: Pushing Forward the Anti-People Agenda, Sanhati, June 2014.

Why is Calorie Intake Falling if Incomes are Rising in India? (with Deepankar Basu), Triple Crisis Blog

Alco, Nalco, Balco, Malco, jaa! Review of *Out of this Earth: East India Adivasis and the Aluminium Cartel* by Felix Padel and Samarendra Das, Orient Blackswan. Sanhati, Nov. 2013.

Food Budget Squeeze, Market Penetration, and the Calorie Consumption Puzzle in India (with Deepankar Basu), Sanhati, Dec. 2012

The Politics of Lokavidya (People's Knowledge), *Samayik Varta*, July 2011 (Hindi)

Subverting Our Epics: Mani Ratnam's Retelling of the Ramayan, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 45, No. 29, July 17-23, 2010

The Global University in Crisis: Knowledge Struggles in Europe and USA, Sanhati, May 2010

The Almond Workers of Karawal Nagar: A Report, Sanhati, January 2010

Three Days in the Cauldron: Dantewada on the eve of a Padayatra, Sanhati, December 2009.

The People's Movement Left and Ram Manohar Lohia: An evaluation in a time of crisis, Sanhati, June 2009