

Rajiv R. Thakur Ph.D.

Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

Department of Natural and Applied Sciences

U.S. Citizen | Active Secret Clearance

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CURRENTLY

Professor of Geography, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrated expertise in articulating critical issues from the perspective of U.S. national security and at the intersection of international development, science and technology, and innovation (STI) ecosystem.
- Critical understanding of issues from a political economy perspective at the intersection of resource management, sustainable development, and governance, showcased through research, publications, as well as strategic engagement with entities in the USA (the State Department, USAID, National Geographic Society, and Universities) and India (like the Federal Government, Non-Profits, and Multilateral and Bilateral donors).
- A subject matter expert at the intersection of multilateral diplomacy, innovation ecosystems, STEM ecosystems, integrity in research, and higher education strategic planning across diverse stakeholders and scales emerging from experience in both the USA and India.
- Proficient in solving complex problems independently, negotiating funding, and training staff emerging from demonstrated experience in USA and India.
- Demonstrated ability for synthesizing and communicating complex information for scientific and general audiences, fostering collaboration, and proposing evidence-based solutions both in the USA and India.
- Strong interpersonal skills developed through a 25+ year career spanning the USA and India across government, universities, non-profits, and other sectors.

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D.	Economic Geography	Indiana State University	Terre Haute, IN
2005	M.A.	Geography	The University of Akron	Akron, OH
1994	M.A.	Political Science	University of Delhi	Delhi, India
1991	B.A. (Hons)	Political Science	University of Delhi	Delhi, India

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2023-24 ***Advisor** (Fellow), **Department of State** | Office of Science and Technology Adviser to Secretary | Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment | Washington DC

- Monitor and predict the impact of new technologies on U.S. national and economic security interests globally. Coordinate with relevant stakeholders on emerging science, technology, and innovation (STI) topics. Collaborate with State department bureaus and outside partners on innovation and technology initiatives. Elevating the role of STI and advance the use and understanding of STI to meet foreign policy objectives.
- Assisted the STAS in improving Federal Scientific Integrity (SI) policy and practice as it applies to the Department by articulating federal goals, assessing, and revising existing and new policies and practice as needed, articulating the framework for Scientific Integrity for the Department of State articulating the agency's SI official and contributing to an interagency assessment led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House.
- Lead the Department's participation in the collaborative effort of drafting and releasing the Federal STEM Third Strategic Plan led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Federal Coordination on STEM Subcommittee.
- Advised STAS in understanding the domestic innovation ecosystem. Where applicable, articulate strategic engagement with US and international STI communities around the world – facilitating STAS operate at the intersection of science and foreign policy in an anticipatory fashion.
- Assisted and advised the Department of State on multilateral engagements at the intersection of cross-cutting multiregional and STI policies related to UN and international organizations/fora such as harnessing STI for multilateral environmental governance and sustainable

development. Specifically, (a) Reassess State Department's engagement with UNCSTD and (b) identify and advance shared multilateral priorities with merging partners (such as opportunities that come with digital connectivity to build thriving economies and societies and works to counter challenges to this vision).

- Advised **Virtual Students Federal Service (VSFS)** Internships (Graduate and Undergraduate students)
 - **Global Emerging Technology Trends**
 1. Understanding Research and Development Infrastructure (UK & Germany)
 2. A review of European Innovation Council (EIC)
 3. Understanding the Global Academic Innovation Ecosystem
 4. The Stanford Emerging Technology Review – 2023
 5. An Emerging Technology Resource Compendium for Policymakers: Artificial Intelligence
 6. Compendium on Biotechnology
 7. Mapping Foreign Direct Investment and Critical Emerging Technologies
 - **Sub National S&T Diplomacy** (St. Louis, San Diego, Austin, and Hoboken)
- Advised graduate students projects - **Diplomacy Lab**, US Department of State
 1. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI: **Understanding the Dynamics of Driving International Fintech Innovation Hubs**
 2. Arizona State University, Tempe AZ: **ASU-DOS STAS Science Diaspora Network Project**
 3. Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA: **Technology Clusters in the context of Atlanta region**
 4. Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH: **Innovation Hubs in Northeast Ohio**
 5. Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA: **The Impact of Innovation: Understanding the dynamics driving Regional Innovation Hubs**
- Lead coordinator for US-Philippines-UNCTAD sponsored **Harnessing STI for Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop** in Manila, Philippines (Feb 29-March 1, 2024) in conceptualizing and planning along with interagency colleagues, and colleagues in UNCTAD and USAID.
- Lead coordinator for STAS engagement on behalf of US government at 27th Session of Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Geneva, April 15-19, 2024.
- Lead coordinator for US delegation at 9th Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), May 9-10, 2024, USUN/ New York.
- Lead coordinator for STAS engagement at 35th Anniversary High Level Event of the Human Frontier Science Program at National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC June 18, 2024.

2022-23 **International Research Advisor** (Input Systems) | Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) | [USAID](#) | Washington DC

- As International Research Advisor assisted in the design, procurement, management, and evaluation of international food security research programming. Communicated research results and priorities to diverse audiences. Contributed to knowledge management processes to synthesize and adjudicate knowledge emerging from Feed the Future programs. Provided technical expertise to USAID Bureaus and overseas Missions to guide international development programming. Engaged across a wide range of policy areas, spanning international agricultural, food security, economic development, and innovation.
- Served as Activity Manager, for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Processing and Post-Harvest Handling. This involved, among other things, preparing for close-out tasks associated with the activity coming to an end in May 2023.
- Supported the Soybean Value Chain Innovation Lab Agreement Officers' Representative (AOR; party responsible for oversight of the activity) as needed.
- Attended the Soybean Value Chain Innovation Lab research retreat at St. Louis, MO in early December 2022. Supported RFS and CA in data collection and network mapping to understand and facilitate technology transfer.
- Served as the Co-Chair of the AAAS-STPF – Agriculture and Nutrition Affinity Group focusing on domestic and international agricultural issues including nutrition equity, food diplomacy and security, nutrition and food safety, climate impacts, agriculture practices and policy, land use, forestry, and development.
- Facilitated and contributed to emerging needs, particularly, as related to the pending merger of the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS) and the Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation (DDI) into the Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security (REFS).

2013-20 **Chair**, Department of Geosciences, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

- As Department Chair provided leadership in teaching and research of Geosciences program which included Geography, Geology and Geospatial sciences. Specific functions included department governance and office management; curriculum and program development; faculty matters; student matters; communication with external publics; financial and facilities management; data management; and institutional support.

2016-22 **Member**, Common Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)

- As Member of CCAC – MDHE (charged by Senate Bill 997 – the Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act) contributed in the development (a) a recommended lower division core curriculum of 42 semester credit hours, including a statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum, (b) a common course numbering equivalency matrix for the 42 credit hour block at

all institutions of higher education in the state to facilitate the transfer of those courses among institutions of higher education by promoting consistency in course designation and course identification, and (c) criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each public institution of higher education in this state and evaluate the transfer practices of each institution based on this criteria.

Chair, Working Group Geosciences Discipline – Common Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)

- As Chair of WG – Geosciences Disciplines for the CCAC, my task was to collaborate with colleagues from the Geosciences discipline in resolving issues ensuring that Geoscience disciplines adhered to the new matrix.

2016-17 Chair, Association of American Geographers – West Lakes Division (UP in MI, MN, WI, IA, IN, IL, MO)

- As Chair, it was my responsibility to provide executive leadership to the division leading to the hosting of the annual meeting which was a gathering of spatial scientists, faculty, and students from the region at Missouri State University, West Plains.

Chair, Faculty Senate, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

- As Chair of Faculty Senate of the campus wide governance body, I collaborated with faculty colleagues and provided faculty governance to the University administration on matters academic, administrative, and financial that affected the campus. As Chair, I had a key role in formulating and revising policies that appear in the Faculty Handbook, including faculty rights and responsibilities, rank and tenure policy, the grievance code and faculty responsibilities.

2011-12 Chair, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers

- As Chair, it was my responsibility to encourage and promote research, teaching, service, and communication among members of the group, to publish and distribute newsletters twice a year, featuring upcoming activities, and other items of interest, as well as organize special sessions or events at the annual and regional meetings of the AAG.

Academia

2023 – contd Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

- As Professor, I am currently conducting research and writing on (a) Environment, Development and Culture in South and East Asia, (b) Local Economy and Sustainable Development, and (c) Infrastructure development and geotechnologies while on sabbatical from the university in Washington DC on AAAS S&T Policy Fellowship.

2018-23 Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO

- As Associate Professor I taught undergraduate courses on World Regional Geography and Introduction to Physical Geography while conducting research leading to publications on (a) Research Design and Proposal Writing in Spatial Sciences, (b) Resource Management, Sustainable Development and Governance, (c) Urban and Regional Planning and Development.

2013-18 Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences, Missouri State University, West Plains (*with tenure*) since August 2016

- As Assistant Professor, I taught undergraduate courses on Principles of Sustainability, Economic Geography, World Regional Geography, and Introduction to Physical Geography. Also, conducted research leading to publication of two volumes titled 'Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development'. During this time, I had additional responsibilities of Department Chair, Faculty Senate Chair, and Chair of the Westlake's Division of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

2011-13 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

- As Visiting Assistant Professor, I taught undergraduate course on World Regional Geography and a graduate seminar on Regional Economic Development. During 2011-12, I led the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers and was also working on the two-volume edited book project 'Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development'.

2009-11 Assistant Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

2008-09 Instructor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

- As a junior faculty, I taught several undergraduate courses Introduction to Human Geography, World Regional Geography, Economic Geography, Urban Geography, Geography of Asia, Introduction to GIS, and GIS Applications to Social Sciences. Also contributed to advising students, leading student field trips to Conferences and advising the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on International Education.

2006-08 National Science Foundation Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography, Geology, and Anthropology (*now Department of Earth and Environmental Systems*), Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN

- As graduate doctoral student I did course work focused on Economic Geography, conducted research, and provided administrative assistance to the PI on the NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

2003-05 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Geography and Planning (now Department of Geosciences), The University of Akron, Akron

- As graduate student I did course work in Geography and Planning, conducted research, and taught undergraduate courses such as World Regional Geography, Introduction to Geography, and Geography of Cultural Diversity.

2002-03 **Graduate Teaching Associate**, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

- As graduate student I did course work in Geography, conducted research, and taught a undergraduate course in World Regional Geography.

International Non-Profit

2004 **Geography Intern, National Geographic Society**, Washington DC (May-Aug)

- Attached with the Children's Education Program engaged in program management.

Government of India

2000-02 **Assistant Manager**, Educational Consultants India Limited, **Government of India**, Noida (U.P.) India

1998-2000 **Consultant**, Educational Consultants India Limited, Noida (U.P.) India

- Provided technical support to Chairman and Managing Director in identifying business in human resource development and higher education strategic planning and management from multilateral and bilateral donor agencies such as World Bank, ADB, AfDB, UN agencies, GTZ, Government of India, non-profit as well as the private sector. Coordinated and managed Consultants and subcontractors for discrete technical activities.

Non-Profit

1997-98 **Project Manager**, Center for Research Planning and Action, New Delhi, India

- Provided technical support to the Director in conducting social science research on critical issues from Donor funded perspective such as Urban Development, Science and Technology, Sustainable Development, Education, Energy and Environment.

1991-97 **Development Associate**, Sanket, Delhi, India

- Provided technical support in project planning and management of donor (multilateral and bilateral institutions and Government of India) funded projects in the areas of human development, poverty alleviation and environment.

RESEARCH & PROGRAM INTERESTS

- Climate Change, Food Security, Innovation Ecosystem, and International Development
- Urban and Regional Development and Planning
- Higher Education Strategic Planning and Management
- STEM Ecosystem
- Integrity in Research

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

World Regional Geography | Introduction to Human Geography | Geography of Cultural Diversity | Introduction to Physical Geography | Principles of Sustainability | Economic Geography | Urban Geography | Introduction to GIS | GIS Applications to Social Science | Regional Economic Development (Graduate Seminar)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2025-26 Missouri State University, West Plains – Professional Development Support for International Travel [\$ 2250]
- 2022-23 Missouri State University, Springfield, - **International Travel Award** – Office of International Services [\$ 2500]
- 2022-23 **American Association for Advancement of Science - Science and Technology Policy Fellowship** [\$ 240,000]
- 2019 Annual Fund Award, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1600]
- 2018 **Citation - Missouri Department of Higher Education**, Coordinating Board for Higher Education Resolution (for contributions to Core Curriculum Advisory Committee)
- 2017 Springer, Netherlands support for hosting AAG West Lakes Annual Meeting at MSU, West Plains Oct 19-21 [\$ 750]
- 2016 Annual Fund Award, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1670]
- Professional Development Fund, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1500]
- 2015 Annual Fund Award, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1250]
- Professional Development Fund, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1100]
- 2014 Annual Fund Award, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1368]

- American Planning Association (APA)** National Planning Conference Registration Scholarship [\$ 535]
Professional Development Fund, Missouri State University, West Plains [\$ 1100]
- 2013-14 Missouri State University, Springfield, - **International Travel Award** – Office of International Services [\$ 2000]
- 2011-12 University of Tennessee, Knoxville – **Scholarly and Research Incentive Funds (SARIFS)** [\$ 2550]
- 2011 University of South Alabama - Special Faculty Development Fund [\$ 1200]
- 2010 **The Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference** – Conference Travel Support [\$ 350]
University of South Alabama - Special Faculty Development Fund [\$ 1200]
- 2009 University of South Alabama - Special Faculty Development Fund [\$ 1200]
- 2007-08 Indiana State University, Graduate Student Research Fund [\$ 500]
- 2006-08 Indiana State University, **National Science Foundation** - Robert Noyce Program Graduate Assistantship [\$ 10,000 annually]
- 2005 **A. K. Chakravarti Award for Best Graduate Student Paper** by the Regional Development and Planning and Asian Geography Specialty Group (AAG) [\$ 200]
- 2004 **National Geographic Society**, Geography Internship
- 2003-05 University of Akron, Graduate Assistantship, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Akron, Akron
- 2002-03 Ohio State University, Graduate Teaching Associate
- 1996-99 **TV Anchor, Countrywide Classroom Program, Consortium for Educational Communication**, (An Autonomous Institution of University Grants Commission, Government of India)
- 1989-90 University of Delhi, 'College Cardigan' for my contribution to Debates at **Kirori Mal College**, University of Delhi, Delhi.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Edited (Guest Editor)

- 2024 Thakur, R (ed) **Emerging Themes and Perspectives in the Social Sciences**, Midwest Social Sciences Journal, 75th Special Commemorative Issue, Vol 26 (2).

Books Authored

- 2020 Gatrell J. D., Bierly G. D., Jensen R. R. and **Thakur R.** *Research Design and Proposal Writing in Spatial Sciences*, Netherlands: Springer Nature

Books Edited

- 2021 Thakur B., **Thakur R.**, Chattopadhyay S., and Abhay R.K. (eds) *Resource Management, Sustainable Development, and Governance: Indian and International Perspectives*, Netherlands: Springer Nature
- 2020 **Thakur, R.**, Dutt, A. K., Thakur, S. and Pomeroy, G.(eds) *Urban and Regional Planning and Development:20th Century Forms and 21st Century Transformations*, Netherlands: Springer
- 2016 Dutt, A K., Noble, A. G., Costa, F. J., **Thakur, R.**, and Thakur, S. (eds) *Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development (Urban Development – Volume II)*, Netherlands: Springer
- Dutt, Ashok K., Noble, A. G., Costa, F. J., Thakur, S., **Thakur, R.**, and Sharma, H.S. (eds) *Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development (Regional Resources – Volume I)*, Netherlands: Springer

Forthcoming

- 2023-24 **Thakur, R.**, Brunn, S., Thakur, B., Dhussa, R. and Thakur S.K. (eds) *Environment, Development and Culture in South and Southeast Asia: Local, Regional and International Perspectives*, Netherlands: Springer Nature (Manuscript in final stages of submission)
- 2023-24 Thakur, B., **Thakur, R.** and Abhay, R. (eds) *Local Economy and Sustainable Development: Praxis and Prospect*, Netherlands: Springer Nature (Manuscript in final stages of preparation)
- 2024-25 **Thakur, R.** (ed) *Readings in Urban Systems*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications (Work in progress)
- 2024-25 **Thakur, R.** Garayua JR, and Butler KR (eds) *Infrastructure Development and Geotechnologies*, Netherlands: Springer Nature (Contract under discussion)

Book Chapters

- 2020 **Thakur, R.**, Dutt, A.K., Thakur, S., and Pomeroy, G. *Urban and Regional Planning and Development: Introduction and Overview*, in R. Thakur, A. K. Dutt, S. Thakur and G. Pomeroy (eds) *Urban and Regional Planning and Development:20th Century Forms and 21st Century Transformations*, Netherlands: Springer
- 2020 **Thakur, R.**, Dutt, A.K., Thakur, S. and Pomeroy, G. *Frank J. Costa: Professional Career and Contributions*, in R.Thakur, A. K. Dutt, S. Thakur and G. Pomeroy (eds) *Urban and Regional Planning and Development:20th Century Forms and 21st Century Transformations*, Netherlands: Springer
- 2020 Ashok K. Dutt, Debnath Mookherjee, Brian Sommers, Jack Benhart and **Thakur, R.** *Regional Development, and Planning: An Overview*, in R. Thakur, A. K. Dutt, S. Thakur and G. Pomeroy (eds) *Urban and Regional Planning and Development:20th Century Forms and 21st Century Transformations*, Netherlands: Springer
- 2019 Misra K and **Thakur R.** *Malappuram: A Million City in Making*, in RP Misra (ed) *Million Cities of India: Growth Dynamics, Internal Structure, Quality of Life and Planning Perspectives*, Volume-2, New Delhi, Concept Publishing Company, 175-84.
- 2017 **Thakur, R.** *Cluster-Based Economic Development Strategies: Challenges and Opportunities in Peripheral Regions*, in B. Thakur, H. S. Sharma, S. Mishra, S. K. Chattopadhyay, and S. Singh (eds.) *Regional Development: Theory and Practice*, Vol-4: Development Policies, 37-58, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company
- 2016 **Thakur, R.**, Dutt, A. K., Noble, A. G., Costa, F. J., Thakur, S. *Introduction: Urban Development* in Ashok K. Dutt, Allen G. Noble, Frank J. Costa, Rajiv Thakur, and Sudhir Thakur (eds.) *Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development* (Vol-2, Urban Development), Netherlands: Springer
- Thakur, R.**, Dutt, A. K., Noble, A. G., Costa, F. J., Thakur, S. *Introduction: Regional Resources* in Ashok K. Dutt, Allen G. Noble, Frank J. Costa, Rajiv Thakur, and Sudhir Thakur (eds.) *Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development* (Vol-1, Regional Resources), Netherlands: Springer

- Thakur, S., Dutt, A. K., Noble, A. G., Costa, F. J., **Thakur, R** and Sharma, H. S. **Baleshwar Thakur: Professional Career and Contributions**, in Ashok K. Dutt, Allen G. Noble, Frank J. Costa, Rajiv Thakur, and Sudhir Thakur (eds.) *Spatial Diversity and Dynamics in Resources and Urban Development* (Vol-1 & II), Netherlands: Springer
- 2010 **Thakur, R. Geographies of Research and Development** in Barney Warf (eds) *Encyclopedia of Geography*, Thousand Oaks: Sage
- 2009 **Thakur, R.** and Sharma, M. **GIS and Challenges to Planning and Development Applications in Peripheral Regions**, in Jay Gatrell and Ryan Jensen (eds) *Geotechnologies and the Environment: Planning and Socio-economic Applications*, 125-137, Netherlands: Springer
- 2007 **Thakur, R. Global Warming: Differential Impact and Emerging Dilemmas**, in B. Thakur (et al) (eds.) *City, Society and Planning: Festschrift in Honor of Professor Ashok K. Dutt Volume (3) – Planning: 3-15*, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company
- 2006 Dutt, A K., A. Parai and **R. Thakur. The City Unites with the World** in Steinbacher, R. and Benson, V. (3rd Eds.) *Introduction to Urban Studies*, Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2017 **Thakur, R. Special Editor's Introduction: Regional Development.** *Polymath: An Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Journal* December, 7(2): 1-4
- 2010 Gatrell, J., **R. Thakur**, N. Reid, and B. Smith. **Clusters and listening: Local economic development in place.** *Journal of Applied Research in Economic Development* 7 (1):14-25

Non-Refereed Publications

- 1998 **Thakur, R. UNDP Program Provides Fillip to Jute Industry**, in *The Pioneer Newspaper*, New Delhi, June 15, pp.14

Book Reviews

- 2018 **Thakur R.** Review of Roger D. Simon's **Philadelphia: A Brief History.** *Economic Development Quarterly* DOI: 10.1177/0891242418804323
- 2017 **Thakur R.** Review of Jonathan Peyton's **Unbuilt Environments: Tracing Postwar Development in Northwest British Columbia.** *Polymath: An Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Journal*, December 7(2): 149-150
- 2012 **Thakur R.** Review of Rick Pruetz's **Lasting Value: Open Space Planning and Preservation Successes.** *Polymath: An Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Journal* 2(3) Summer.
- 2011 **Thakur R.** Review of Yda Schreuder's **The Corporate Greenhouse: Climate Change Policy in a Globalizing World.** *The Geographical Review* 101(4): 614-16.
- 2010 **Thakur R.** Review of Roberta Capello and Peter Nijkamp (eds.) **Handbook of Regional Growth and Development Theories.** *Regional Studies* 44(1):132-35
- Thakur R.** Review of N. Salvadori et al (eds) **Geography, Structural Change and Economic Development: Theory and Empirics.** *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie* 101(2): 240-42
- 2009 **Thakur, R.** Review of Adam Tickell et al (eds) **Politics and Practice in Economic Geography.** *The Professional Geographer* 61(3): 411-413.
- 2008 **Thakur, R.** Review of Bernard Fingleton's (eds) **New Directions in Economic Geography.** *Regional Science Policy and Practice.* 1(1): 125-127

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lecture

- 2025 **Sustainable Urbanization: Building Urban Kerala's Growth Engines** (Invited Speaker), in Policy Session-7: Growth Drivers for Urban Kerala, Kerala Urban Conclave 2025, Grand Hyatt, Kochi, Kerala, India, September 12-13, 2025
- 2024 **Water Sustainability and Rural Development** (Keynote Address), International Conference on Water Sustainability and Rural Development, Center for Sustainable Development, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, India, July 18-19, 2024.
- 2024 **Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM): Review, Update & Roadmap**, Office of Science and Technology Adviser to Secretary (STAS), US Department of State, Jan 26.
- 2023 **Resilience, Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of 'Feed the Future': Evidence-Based Strategy for Good Practices**, 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals Interventions, Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, India, February 26-27
- 2023 **Food Crisis, Inclusive Innovation and Resilience: Why Geography Matters?** (Keynote Address) XVII Deccan Geographical Society of India, International Geography Conference, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, February 25-27
- 2021 **Understanding Climate Change: Implications for Environment, Population, and Sustainable Development** (Special Lecture) – XVI Deccan Geographical Society of India – International Geography Online Conference, organized by Center for Geographical Studies, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna, Bihar, India, September 9.
- 2021 **Knowledge Economy, Labor Market and Spatial Science: Challenges and Opportunities in Bihar**, Center for Geographical Studies, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna, Bihar, India, July 24.
- 2021 **Integrating Ecosystem, Knowledge Economy, and Livelihood in Mithila Region: Issues, Responses, and Strategies**, (Keynote Lecture) at International Webinar – 'Geographical Perspectives on Global Pandemic: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities', Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga, Bihar, India, August 3.
- 2021 **Geography or Spatial Science: Demystifying Research**, (Invited Lecture) Department of Geography, Patna University, Patna, India, July 15.
- 2021 **Environmental Policy and Decision Making: A Twenty First Century Issue.** *Earth Day Lecture*-Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, April 22.
- 2018 **Rural America in a Globalized World: Context, Challenges and Opportunities.** Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, Delhi. January 11.
- 2017 **Rural America in a Globalized World.** *Public Lecture* organized and hosted by Friends of the Garnett Library, West Plains, Missouri. October 13.
- 2016 **Structural and Compositional Change in Science and Technology Planning in India: 1951-2017.** Annual Meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association, Mysuru, India. January 3-8. [Invited foreign delegate]
- 2015 **Globalization: Understanding the Big Shifts.** A *Public Lecture* under the aegis of Geography Awareness Week, Missouri State University, West Plains. November 19.
- 2012 **Science and Technology Indicators in India: Policy Geography.** Annual Meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association, Bhubaneswar, India. January 2-7. [Invited foreign delegate]
- 2010 **Science and Technology Indicators in EPSCoR States: Policy Geography.** Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

Conference Presentation

- 2024 **Thakur, R. Contemporary Thoughts on Cities, Urbanization, and Planning in South and Southeast Asia: Emerging Policy Perspectives**, Annual Meeting of the AAG, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 16-20.
- 2021 **Chandrasekar, B., R. Thakur, D. Setyorini TVET and Skill Training Systems In India: Review, Analysis Of Institutional Issues, Learner Engagement Model and Cases of Green Sector Skills**, Maastricht School of Management – Academic Conference-Private Sector Development in Emerging Economies, Contributing to a Climate Smart and Inclusive Society, Maastricht, The Netherlands, Dec 1.
- 2016 **Thakur, R. Growth, Inequality of Indian Cities: 1991-2011**, The 13th International Asian Urbanization Conference, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, January 6-8.
- 2011 **Thakur, R. and Gatrell, J. The Spatial Dynamics of US Shipbuilding Industry: A County-Level Analysis of Growth Share, 1998-2007**. Annual Meeting of the AAG, Seattle, WA, April 12-16.
- 2010 **Thakur, R. Cluster-based Economic Development Strategies: Retrospect and Prospects**. Annual Meeting of the AAG, Washington DC, April 14-18.
- Thakur, R. Explaining Racial-Ethnic Change in Alabama**. Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference – V, Binghamton, NY October 6-8, 2010
- Thakur, R. and Gatrell, J. The Spatial Dynamics of the Gulf Coast Shipbuilding Industry: A County-Level Analysis of Growth Share, 1998-2007** 33rd Applied Geography Conference, Fort Worth, TX October 20-23.
- 2009 **Thakur, R. Urbanization and Urban Structural Change in Mobile MSA**. 32nd Applied Geography Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Oct 28-30,
- Thakur, R. Science and Technology Indicators in Alabama: Policy Geography**. Annual Meeting of the AAG, Las Vegas, NV. March 27.
- 2008 **Thakur, R. Spatial Attributes of Science and Technology Indicators in EPSCoR States**. Annual Meeting of the AAG, Boston, MA. April 18.
- 2007 **Thakur, R. and Gatrell, J. R&D Performance of Land Grant Universities in EPSCoR States, 1993-2003**. 30th Applied Geography Conference, Indianapolis, IN October 17-18.
- Thakur, R. and Gatrell, J. Science and Technology Indicators: A Policy Geography (Poster)**. Annual Meeting of the AAG San Francisco, CA. April.
- 2006 **Thakur, R. and Gatrell, J. Scalar Discourses on Development in South Asia: Unpackaging the Debate**. Annual Meeting of the AAG in Chicago
- 2005 **Thakur, R. Five Decades of Shifts in Slum Upgrading Policy of India**. Annual Meeting of AAG at Denver, CO.
- 2004 **Thakur, R. Post-Modernism and Planning in India: Some Preliminary Thoughts**. East Lakes Division Meeting of the AAG, Athens, OH.
- Thakur, R. and Dutt, A. K. Ideology-based Paradigm Shift of India's Five-Year Plans** Annual Meeting of AAG, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2003 **Thakur, R. Consequence of Kyoto Protocol and Policy Options**. East Lakes and West Lakes Division Meeting of the AAG, Kalamazoo, MI.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2003+	American Association of Geographers (AAG)	2003+	National Association of Geographers, India (Life Member)
2005+	Asian Urban Research Association (AURA)	2010+	American Planning Association (APA)
2012+	Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA)	2018+	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
Applied Geography Conference (2007, 2009, 2010, 2014)		2020+	Sierra Club

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (2022-24)

- 2022 **Feed the Future Innovations Labs Annual Meeting: Harnessing the Power of Agricultural Research to Transform Food Systems**, National Press Club, Washington DC, September 21 (USAID)/ In-Person
- 2022 **Research Rack Up (RRU) Training Webinar**, October 19, 2022 (USAID)/ Virtually **Co-Presented**
- 2022 **Fellowship Impact Plan Workshop**, October 2022 (AAAS)/ In-Person
- 2022 **Science and Democracy: A Transatlantic Perspective**, November 14, Embassy of France, Washington DC (Embassy of France)/ In-Person
- 2022 **Harnessing Your Fellowship & Emerging as a Science Policy Leader**, November (AAAS)/ In-Person
- 2022 **Understanding USAID Budget 101**, November 29, 2022 (USAID)/ Virtually
- 2022 **Soybean Innovation Lab: Annual Researchers Retreat**, December 6-9, St. Louis, MO (USAID, Feed the Future, and University of Illinois) In-Person
- 2022 **Program Evaluation for Scientist & Engineers**, December (AAAS)/ Virtual
- 2022 **Understanding Collaborating, Learning and Adapting** at USAID, December (USAID)/ Virtual
- 2023 **Leadership in Policy Negotiations**, January AAAS/ Virtual
- 2023 **S&T Policy Fellows Career Summit**, February AAAS/ In-Person
- 2023 **Counterintelligence and Insider Threat Awareness Training**, February (USAID)/ Virtual
- 2023 **Political Dynamics in the 118th Congress**, March (AAAS)/ Virtual
- 2023 **The CHIPS & Science Act: Examining Industry's Role in S&T Policy**, March (AAAS)/ In-Person
- 2023 **Washington Tradecraft**, Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State, Arlington, VA, November/In-person
- 2024 **Multilateral Diplomacy**, Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State, Arlington, VA, February/In-person

SERVICE

Higher Education

- 2019-24 **Fulbright Scholar Liaison**, Fulbright Scholar Program, Institute of International Education, New York, USA
- 2016-22 **Member**, Common Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)
- 2017-22 **Member**, Working Group Natural and Mathematical Sciences – Common Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)
- Chair**, Working Group Geosciences Discipline – Common Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC), Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE)

- 2015-20 **National Selection Panelist**, Gilman International Scholarship Program, The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Department of State, April.
- 2019-22 **National Selection Panelist**, Boren Awards, National Security Education Program, US Department of State, March
- 2014-15 **Member**, President's Task Force on 'Globalization', Missouri State University
- 1996 **Co-organizer**, Workshop on Preparation of 'State Level Human Development Reports' sponsored jointly by UNDP and Government of Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal, India, Nov 30 & Dec 1, 1996

Geography

- 2023 + **Member**, Editorial Team, **The Journal Space and Culture, India**
- 2023-24 **Guest Editor**, **Midwest Social Science Journal**, 75th Commemorative issue – *Emerging Themes and Perspectives in the Social Sciences*, Indiana Academy of Social Sciences
- 2021 **Chair**, Panel Session (Virtual) – **Working Abroad: International Career Opportunities (and Challenges) in a post-COVID World**, Sponsored by Careers and Professional Development, American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting, April 9.
- 2018-21 **Member**, Editorial Board, **Asian Geographer**, Hong Kong Geographical Association
- 2015-22 **Member**, Faculty Advisory Board, **Logos: A Journal of Undergraduate Research**, Missouri State University
- 2015 **Director**, **Study Away Program – India** (July)
- 2014+ **Member**, International Board of Directors, **Asian Urban Research Association (AURA)**
Member, Advisory Committee – Missouri Geographic Alliance's GIS Education Committee (2014 onwards)
- 2012 **Chair & Organizer**, Panel session on India's New Economic Policy: A Critical Engagement. Sponsored by the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, AAG New York, February 24.
- 2011-12 **Chair**, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, AAG.
 Member, Southeast Division-AAG Program Committee.
- 2011 **Organizer**, Paper Session on 'Cluster-based Regional Development and Planning: Empirical Evidence's. Sponsored by the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, AAG Seattle, WA. April 12-16.
- 2010-11 **Vice-Chair**, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, AAG.
- 2009-10 **Member-at-large**, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, AAG
- 2005 **Co-organizer**, Panel session on 'India Rising' sponsored by Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group and Asian Geography Specialty Group at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Denver, CO

Manuscript Reviewer (Since 2008)

Peer Reviewed Journals: *Midwest Social Sciences Journal (Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences)*, *Asian Geographer (Taylor & Francis)*, *Human Geography (SAGE)*, *Polymath (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville)*, *Growth and Change (Wiley)*, *Regional Science Policy and Practice (Wiley)*, *Journal of Applied Geography (Elsevier)*