

Bionote - Dr. Priyanca Mathur Velath



“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Priyanca Mathur is a political scientist by training and professor and researcher by profession. Born to a North Indian father and a West Indian Gujrati mother, she grew up in a multi-cultural and multilingual home in the East Indian city of Kolkata (then Calcutta), where she gained her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Jadavpur University. The yearning for higher education made her leave home and go and live in the vibrant campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, in the North Indian capital city of New Delhi where she gained her Master's, M.Phil and Ph.D degrees at the Centre for Political Studies and the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance there. A Commonwealth Scholarship also enabled her to spend a year at the University of Oxford, U.K. gathering a second Master's degree.

On her return to India she worked in various non-governmental and research organisations like MARG (Multiple Action Research Group), CDHR (Centre for Development and Human Rights) and IHD (Institute for Human Development) in New Delhi. Then life took her to the capital city of the South Indian State of Karnataka namely Bangalore where she has taught as Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and also been its P.G. Coordinator. Currently she is Associate Professor at Jain University in Bangalore and also Gender Advisor and International Trainer with the Forum of Federations for its work in Myanmar.

Dr. Priyanca has worked in projects with the World Bank and UNHCR and also in training workshops in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. She has been awarded the MCRG Fellowship to do research at Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI) in Finland and also recently the Schomburg Fellowship to visit and teach at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey, U.S.A. She is member of Editorial Board of Refugee Law Reader, Hungary, has served as office –bearer and member of the Member of the International Association for the Study of

Forced Migration (IASFM) and has also been Founding Member of the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN).

Her academic and research work has been published in various national and international journals and as book chapters. She has also written many editorial articles for the South Indian newspaper *Deccan Herald*. Her most recent book chapter was titled, "Religion and Politics: Re-Reading Secularism in India Today" in *Engaged and Enmeshed: Religions in Society in India (2017)* edited by Vincent Sekhar, SJ published by IDCR, Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions, Chennai, India. Her research interests are Public Policy, Global Governance, Political Thought and Theory and the courses that she has taught are Public Administration: Theories and Processes, Development Administration in India, Core Concepts in Political Theory; Contemporary Issues and Debates in Political Theory, Modern Political Thinkers, Political Analysis, Research Methods among others.