

# CURRICULUM VITAE

[Current to 15 July 2021]

## Chandra Shekhar Balachandran

Geographer

Founder & Director:

**The Institute of Geographical Studies, Bengaluru**

Founder & President:

**Dharani USA, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA**

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### CURRENT AREAS OF WORK

- **Promoting innovative academic engagement for youth** via convening annual International Geography Youth Summits.
- **Writing** a geography blog at <http://tigs.in/blog>
- **Support for geography education** in all curricula and syllabi for all schools, with particular emphasis on resource-challenged schools.
- **Capacity-building** for students, teachers, parents, and others.

### EDUCATION

|              |      |                            |  |
|--------------|------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Ph.D.</b> | 1993 | Geography                  | Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, USA |
| <b>M. S.</b> | 1985 | Environmental Studies      | Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA    |
| <b>B.Sc.</b> | 1979 | Chemistry, Botany, Zoology | Bangalore University, India            |

### PROFESSIONAL DETAILS

- 2018**
  - **Presenter, Developing the Geographer's Eye** – A course for Montessori teachers in Bengaluru and Chennai
- 2014 – current**
  - **Convenor**, annual *International Geography Youth Summit* – Bengaluru.
- 2015 – current**
  - **Teaching an interactive online geography course called G.O.D. (Geography Over Distance)**. Student ages have ranged from 10-16. (<http://TIGS.in/our-courses>)
- 2013-2014**
  - **Editor and author**, selected chapters of class 9 and class 10 geography textbooks, Andhra Pradesh State Centre for Educational Research and Training (APSCERT), the body that frames the curriculum, syllabus, and textbooks for the state of Andhra Pradesh (pre-partition).
- 2012 – 2012**
  - **Regional contact person**, International Geographical Union (IGU).
  - **Co-host**, with Association of American Geographers, Center for Global Geography Education workshop: "Perspectives from India."

- **Consultant**, Sarva Shikshana Abhiyana – Karnataka (Universal Education Commission – Karnataka). Re-creating geography kits for classroom use by teachers to conform to the new geography syllabus.
- 2011 – 2012**
  - **Geography resource person**, M.E.G. School, Cox Town. School for under-privileged children. Classes conducted mainly in English with Tamil as necessary, because children are predominantly Tamil-speaking. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades.
- 2010 – 2011**
  - **Geography Teacher**, Bangalore International School, Bangalore
- 2005 – 2007**
  - **Geography teacher**, Bangalore International School
- 1999 –**
  - **Founder & Director: The Institute of Geographical Studies**
  - **Founder & President: Dharani USA, Inc.**
- 1998 - 2000**
  - **Assistant Professor**, Geography, Bridgewater State College (now Bridgewater State University), Bridgewater, MA, USA.
- 1997 - 98**
  - **Senior Research Fellow**, American Institute of Indian Studies.
- 1996 - 97**
  - **Member**, Virtual Geography Department, University of Texas, Austin.
- 1993 - 97**
  - **Assistant Professor, Geography**, North Dakota State University (NDSU).
- 1995**
  - **Organizer and Leader:** Annual Course on use of Computer-based GIS to teach Geography in K-12 Curricula: June, NDSU.
- 1994**
  - **Organizer and Leader:** First Annual Short Course on use of Computers to teach Science and Geography in K-12 Curricula: June 20-22, 1994, NDSU.
- 1991-93**
  - **Instructor, Geography:** Department of Geosciences, NDSU
- 1991**
  - **Research Intern:** International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC; knowledge engineering.
- 1989–91**
  - **Instructor:** Geography, Kent State University.
  - **Consultant:** IFPRI. Field work in India: gathering knowledge pertaining to land degradation problems in a selected area of Chidambaranar District, Tamil Nadu, India.
  - **Consultant:** IFPRI. Food Production Policy Program. — knowledge engineer for developing expert system to classify irrigation systems.
- 1988–89**
  - **Co-Investigator:** “The Application of Expert Systems Technology to Selected Environmental Problems in Rural Development in India.” Charles A. Lindbergh Fund — knowledge engineer for developing an expert system to advise on land degradation control.
- 1987**
  - **Senior Editor:** “An Ethanol Production Project to Aid Socio– economic Development in a Northern Honduran Village.” Research Report, Institute of Environmental Studies, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
- 1986–89**
  - **Teaching Fellow:** Department of Geography, Kent State University.
- 1984**
  - **Field work** in a village in northern Honduras (6 months) —household surveys to gather socio–economic data for M.S. thesis.
- 1982–85**
  - **Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant:** Institute of Environmental Studies, Baylor University.

### GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS (INDIA)

- Diverse interactive workshops for school teachers (content and pedagogy) and students (content) on geography topics in English and Kannada languages, employing innovative teaching methods.
- To date, over 4.5K students, over 600 teachers, and over 100 others reached.
- Workshops have covered both curricular and extra-curricular geography topics.
- Venues have included schools, the GeoVidya Geography Centres in Bangalore and Chennai; and numerous schools and pre-university colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Telengana.

### HONORS (selected)

- 2013**
- Rotary Club (Bangalore South) & Karnataka Civil Defence Corps Award of recognition of work in the cause of education.
- 1990–91**
- James R. Beck **Award for Graduate Research**. Kent State University.
- 1989–90**
- **Doctoral Research Fellowship**, Kent State University.
  - James R. Beck **Award for Graduate Research**. Kent State University.
  - David B. Smith **Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Student**, Kent State University.
- 1988–89**
- Kent State University: **Graduate Student Teaching Award** for excellence in teaching.

### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

**Fluent:** English, Kannada, Tamil

**Rudimentary:** Spanish, French, Telugu

### PUBLICATIONS (books)

1. Balachandran, Chandra Shekhar (2021, forthcoming). "India Climographs" (working title). *A workbook of climographs for 111 climate stations in India*. Bengaluru: The Institute of Geographical Studies.
2. Balachandran, Chandra Shekhar (2019). "Geography, Everywhere!" *Collection of essays for school children, exploring connections among geography and various phenomena*. Bengaluru: The Institute of Geographical Studies.

### PUBLICATIONS (selected papers)

1. Solem, Michael and Balachandran, Chandra Shekhar. 2014. "Internationalizing geography education: a focus on India." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 38 (1), p. 7-16.
2. Chandra S. Balachandran, Surinder M. Bhardwaj. 2001. "Geography as Melody in Muttusvami Dikshita's Indian Musical Works." *The Geographical Review*, 91 (4), p. 690-701.
3. Chandra S. Balachandran. 1995. "LACONEX: a Rule-Based Implementation to Advise on Plot-Level Land Conservation in Vilathikulam, Southeastern India." *Land Degradation & Rehabilitation*, 6 (4), p. 265-283.
4. Chandra S. Balachandran, David L. Watt. 1994. "The Geographic Information Revolution for the College Curriculum." *Small College Computing Symposium*, MN, p. 70-75.

5. Chandra S. Balachandran, Peter F. Fisher. 1990. **“DESERT: A Prototype Expert System to Advise on Land Degradation Control.”** *Land Degradation and Rehabilitation*, v. 2 (1), pp. 27–41.
6. Chandra S. Balachandran, Peter F. Fisher, and Michael A. Stanley. 1989. **“An Expert System Approach to Rural Development: A Prototype (TIHSO).”** *The Journal of Developing Areas*, v. 23, pp. 259–270.
7. Peter F. Fisher, and Chandra S. Balachandran. 1989. **“STAX: A Turbo Prolog Rule-based System for Soil Taxonomy.”** *Computers and Geosciences*, v. 15, no. 3, pp. 295–324.
8. Chandra S. Balachandran, and Eugene L. Tettey-Fio. 1988. **“Expert Systems for Decision Support in Environmental Management in Less-Industrialized Regions: Needs, Constraints, and Prospects.”** In: John W. Frazier, et al. (eds.) *Papers and Proceedings of Applied Geography Conferences*, Vol. 11, pp. 80–84. Binghamton, NY: SUNY- Binghamton.

### CONFERENCE PAPERS (selected)

1. Chandra Shekhar Balachandran. 2017. (Forthcoming) **“ICT and interactive Geography.”** “ET -17”- National Conference on ‘ICT in Education -Perspectives, Practices and Possibilities’, University of Mysore, 11–12 May 2017.
2. Chandra Shekhar Balachandran. 2015. **“Non-formal interventions in Geography Education in India.”** Association of American Geographers, 21-25 April 2015, Chicago.
3. Chandra S. Balachandran. 2008. **“Geography? What is it good for?? – Using IT-Enabled Geography Education to Ignite Young Minds.”** Invited presentation. 2<sup>nd</sup> International Indian Geography Congress, National Association of Geographers, India. 29 February – 2 March 2008, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.
4. Chandra S. Balachandran. 2007. **“Geography of Hindu pilgrimage: Using geography to promote cross-cultural understanding.”** The Association of International Schools of India (TAISI), Teachers and Middle Management Conference, Bangalore, India. 30 March – 1 April 2007.
5. Chandra S. Balachandran, L. Ramakrishnan. 2005. **“We don’t do data, we only do direct action.” Why NGOs need data and how we can help them with it.** APQ Sexualities, Genders, and Rights in Asia conference, Bangkok, Thailand. July, 2005.
6. Chandra S. Balachandran. 1997. **“Unsettling the ‘here’ in Favor of the ‘Hereafter’: the Favored Peregrinations of Sri Purandaradasa.”** Association of American Geographers, Ft. Worth. April 1997.
7. Chandra S. Balachandran. 1995. **“So far, yet, so near” -- Computer technologies for K-12 Geography Education in North Dakota.”** Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division of the Association of American Geographers; Rapid City, SD; 5 – 7 October 1995.
8. Chandra S. Balachandran. 1994. **“Integrating Informed Opinion and Formal Knowledge about Land Degradation: a Case Study from Vilathikulam Taluk, Tamil Nadu, India.”** 8th Annual Conference, International Soil Conservation Organization, New Delhi, India, 4 – 8 December.
9. Chandra S. Balachandran. 1994. **“Computer-based Technology in K-12 Geography Teaching in North Dakota: Needs and Prospects.”** North Dakota Academy of Sciences.
10. Chandra S. Balachandran, David L. Watt. 1994. **“The Geographic Information Revolution for the College Curriculum.”** Small College Computing Symposium, MN.
11. Chandra S. Balachandran, Surinder M. Bhardwaj. 1991. **“Cultural Geography of a Religious Movement Centered around a Non-mythological Personality: Sri Satya Sai Baba.”** 20th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, 1 – 3 November.
12. Peter F. Fisher, Chandra S. Balachandran, and Eugene L. Tettey–Fio. 1988. **“Expert Systems in**

**Geography.”** Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (East Lakes Division), October 28 – 29, Akron, OH.

### **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS (Selected)**

1. **2014. “Out-of-the-textbook thinking.”** *Teacher Plus Magazine*, May-June 2014, p. 22-26.
2. **2013 – current.** Weekly geography column in the **Student Edition** of **Deccan Herald** newspaper, providing interesting connections between geography and life. These articles are published as blog posts at <http://tiigs.org/blog/>
3. **2010. “Geography education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”** *The Learning Curve*, Issue XV, August 2010, p. 68-71.
4. **2008 – 2013:** Frequent geography columns for children in *Young World*, weekly supplement to **The Hindu**, a national newspaper, providing interesting connections between geography and life.

### **MISCELLANEOUS PRESENTATIONS (Selected)**

1. **2017. “Holy geography!”** Interactive lecture to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Standard students, Mallya Aditi International School, Bengaluru. The presentation looked at the nature of syncretic sacred places and the potential role they could play in promoting inter-faith dialogue and peace.
2. **2000 – current.** Various interactive talks to teachers, students, and parents on the nature of geography, asking geography questions, conducting geography research, making geography presentations, and on effective geography teaching.

### **Ph.D. DISSERTATION**

The Application of Expert Systems Technology to Combat Land Degradation.

### **M.S. THESIS**

Potential Impacts of an Ethanol Project on Domestic Energy Use and Socioeconomic Conditions in a Honduran Village.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Lectures, consultations, etc. at various educational organizations and schools.
- Talks on All India Radio, Bangalore.
  - **Who is a hero?** (talk in Tamil)
  - **Why study geography?** (interview in English)