

## Ashwani Saith

Ashwani Saith studied Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his PhD in Economics. He has held research and teaching positions at the Delhi School of Economics; Agricultural Economics Research Centre, Delhi University; Faculty of Economics, Cambridge; Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. He was the first holder of the Chair of Development Studies (1996-2007) and Director of the Development Studies Institute (1996-2002) at the London School of Economics, UK. Between 1981 and 2012 he was Professor of Rural Economics at the International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, where he also served earlier as Dean, and Deputy Rector. From 2012, he holds the position of Professor Emeritus of the Institute, which is part of the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR).

In India, he has held Visiting Professorships at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvanthapuram; Institute for Human Development, New Delhi; and Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. He is a member of WIEGO, and has worked with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad, on strategies of gender empowerment; and with the MV Foundation, Hyderabad, on strategies for the elimination of child labour through the universalisation of school education.

He has served on the editorial boards of several academic journals, including: *Journal of Development Studies*; *Journal of Peasant Studies*; *Journal of Agrarian Change*; *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*; *Indian Journal of Human Development*, *Journal of Health Management*, and *Millennial Asia*. Since 1983 he has been an editor of *Development and Change*, and serves as Chair of its Board of Editors.

He has researched extensively in the fields of peasant differentiation, agrarian change, the rural non-farm economy and rural development, including longitudinal village studies; poverty, inequality and vulnerability; internal and international migration in the Asian region; ICTs and development; colonial economic history; development theory and the history of development ideas.

His recent publications provide: critical interrogations of official methodologies for poverty recognition and measurement, and of the Millennium Development Goals; policy frameworks for the universalisation of socio-economic security; challenges to the neo-liberal obfuscation and legitimation of inequalities; and, drawing on extensive fieldwork in rural China since 1979. a comparative institutional analysis of the differential performance of China and India since 1950, highlighting, amongst other factors, the significance of collective agrarian institutions.