

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

INSEE LECTURE SERIES

The Metabolism of Islands Risk and Resilience in a Climate Challenged World

Prof. Simron Singh
University of Waterloo, Canada

Chaired By
Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay
Goa University
Past President, INSEE

The talk will introduce the concept of “social metabolism”, and by extension socio-metabolic research (or SMR). SMR allows for a systematic analysis of the biophysical stocks and flows of material and energy associated with societal production and consumption. Conducting SMR in space and time offers compelling insights relevant for ecological economics, and lends empirical rigour to concepts such as limits to growth, environmental justice, distributional conflicts, and ecological unequal exchange. Prof. Simron will illustrate the power of SMR using islands as cases to understand system vulnerability, risk, and collapse. There is also the aspect of urgency; impact of global environmental change on small islands is disproportionate that has gripped them in a spiral of increasing metabolic risk. He will argue that restructuring resource-use patterns will allow island governments to build system resilience and adapt to the challenges of climate change.

About the Speaker



Dr. Simron Singh is Professor at the University of Waterloo, Canada. He is one of the pioneers of socio-metabolic research on small islands, and has published extensively. His research seeks to inform science and policy on ways small islands can achieve resource security, meet social and economic goals while building system resilience against the impacts of climate change. He is founder and lead of the research program “[Metabolism of Islands](#)”, Chairs the inaugural board of “[Island Industrial Ecology](#)”, and is Lead of the working group “[Metabolic Risk on Islands](#)” for Risk-KAN, a joint initiative of Future Earth, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). In 2012, he led the [first material flow account for India from 1961 – 2008](#) published in the journal *Ecological Economics*, and is lead editor of the [first collection of articles on island metabolism](#).

Important information

Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)