

Dr. Sonia Akter

Assistant Professor
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore
E-mail: sonia.akter@nus.edu.sg
Phone: +6566013972

Education

PhD (Environmental Management and Development), Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University, Australia, 2010.

MA (Economics), York University, Canada, 2003.

MSS (Economics), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1997.

BSS (Economics), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1996.

Expertise

1. Agricultural economics
2. Environmental and resource economics
3. Economics of climate change mitigation and adaptation
4. Economics of natural hazards
5. Stated preference valuation
6. Integrated ecological-economic modelling

Employment History

Since 05/2015	Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore National University, Singapore.
01/2014–04/2015	Scientist II (Leader of the IRRI Gender Research Team and Coordinator of Gender Research of the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) Program), Social Sciences Division, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Baños, the Philippines.
04/2011–12/2013	Senior Researcher, Department of Economics, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany.
08/2010–03/2011	Research Fellow, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

Scholarly & Professional Activities

Since 07/2015	Faculty Associate, Institute of Water Policy, National University of Singapore.
Since 04/2016	Associate Editor, <i>Food Security</i>
07/2016–12/2017	Advisor of a research project titled ‘Economic Evaluation of ABC Waters Design Features Implemented by the Private Sector and Public Agencies’, managed by the Institute of Water Policy, National University of Singapore.
05/2016–04/2017	Consultant, Ministry of Environment and Water Resource, Government of Singapore, Singapore.

12/2015–06/2016	Gender Advisor, International Rice Research Institute, (IRRI), Los Baños, the Philippines.
03/2013–12/2013	Visiting Fellow, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.
08/2011–11/2011	Visiting Fellow, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.
Since 01/2008	Journal Referee: (1) Nature Climate Change, (2) Global Environmental Change, (3) Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, (4) Ecological Economics, (5) Environmental and Resource Economics, (6) Food Policy, (7) International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, (8) Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, (9) Journal of Environmental Management, (10) Environment and Development Economics, (11) Applied Economics, (12) Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research, (13) Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, (14) Journal of Environmental Policy and Management, (15) Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, (16) Environmental Hazards, (17) Empirical Economics, (18) Climatic Change, (19) Ecosystem Services, (20) SAGE Open, (21) Food Security.

Current Research Grants/Projects

1. **Akter, S.** (2016–2019) Understanding the impacts of agricultural intervention programs on poverty, food security and gender equity in South and Southeast Asia. S\$179, 000–funded by the Startup Research Grant Scheme, National University of Singapore.
2. **Akter, S.** (2015–2016) Climate change risk perception, vulnerability and adaptation in highly natural hazard prone areas. S\$15,000–funded by the Staff Research Support Scheme (SRSS), LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.
3. **Akter, S.** (2015–2016) Gender mainstreaming in agricultural intervention programs and its impacts on women empowerment: The case of *Seeds of Life* (SoL) in Timor-Leste. US\$21,000–funded by the Timor Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Previous Research Grants/Projects

1. **Akter, S.**, Rossi, F., Krupnik, T. and Chantarat, S. (2013–2014) Designing weather index-based, micro-saving insurance products for maize farmers in southern Bangladesh: US\$15,000–funded by Yale Savings and Payments Research Fund, the USA.
2. Grafton, R. Q., **Akter, S.**, Fu, B., Merritt, W., Dyer, F. (2013–2015) An integrated hydro-ecological and socio-economic model of environmental flow delivery to wetlands: A case study of Macquarie Marshes in Australia: AU\$234,000– funded by the Collaboration Research Network Grants, University of Canberra, Australia.
3. Nelson, H., Nikolakis, W., **Akter, S.** (2012–2013) Payment for ecosystem services for First Nations in coastal British Columbia: CDN\$70,000–funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada.
4. **Akter, S.** and Bennett, J. (2008–2010) Household preferences for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in Australia: US\$30,000–funded by the Commonwealth Environmental Research Facility, Environmental Economics Research Hub, Australia.

5. **Akter, S.** and Brouwer, R. (2006–2007) Development and testing of an effective insurance market to alleviate flood risk vulnerability and poverty in Bangladesh: €40,000–funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands.
6. Haque, A. K. E., Brander, L., Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.** and Mahmud, S. (2004–2005) Sustainable development in the flood basins: Understanding the impacts of pro-poor development strategies on the environment: €110,000–funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands.

Publications

Book

1. **Akter, S.** and Bennett, J. (2012) *Valuing Climate Change Mitigation: Applying Stated Preferences in the Presence of Uncertainty*, London: Edward Elgar.

Journal Publications

1. Nikolakis, W., **Akter, S.** and Nelson, H., (In Press) ‘The effect of communication on individual preferences for common property resources: A case study of two Canadian First Nations’ *Land Use Policy*, (2015 Impact Factor: 2.768).
2. **Akter, S.**, Krupnik, T., Rossi, F., Khanam, F. (2016). ‘The influence of gender and product design on farmers’ preferences for weather-indexed crop insurance’, *Global Environmental Change*, 38: 217–229. (2015 Impact Factor: 5.679)
3. **Akter, S.**, Kompas, T., Ward, M. B. (2015) ‘Application of portfolio theory to asset-based biosecurity decision analysis’, *Ecological Economics*, 117: 73-85. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.227)
4. **Akter, S.**, Basher, S. (2014). ‘The impacts of food price and income shocks on household food security and economic well-being: Evidence from rural Bangladesh’, *Global Environmental Change*, 25: 150–162. (2015 Impact Factor: 5.679)
5. **Akter, S.**, Grafton, R. Q., Merritt, W. (2014). ‘Integrated hydro-ecological and economic modeling of environmental flows: Macquarie Marshes, Australia’, *Agricultural Water Management*, 145: 98–109. (2015 Impact Factor: 2.603)
6. **Akter, S.**, Mallick, B. (2013). ‘The poverty-vulnerability-resilience nexus: Evidence from Bangladesh’, *Ecological Economics*, 96: 114–124. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.227)
7. **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J. (2013) ‘Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation: facts and artefacts’, *Applied Economics*, 45(15): 2107–2115. (2015 Impact Factor: 0.586)
8. **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J., Ward, M. (2012) ‘Climate change scepticism and public support for mitigation: evidence from an Australian choice experiment’, *Global Environmental Change*, 22(3): 736–745. (2015 Impact Factor: 5.679)
9. **Akter, S.** (2012) ‘The role of microinsurance as a safety net against environmental risks in Bangladesh’, *Journal of Environment and Development*, 21(2): 263–280. (2015 Impact Factor: 1.371)
10. **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J. (2011) ‘Household perceptions of climate change and preferences for mitigation action: the case of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in Australia’, *Climatic Change*, 109(3-4): 417–436. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.344)
11. Grafton, Q., **Akter, S.**, Kompas, T. (2011) ‘A policy-enabling framework for the ex-ante evaluation of marine protected areas’, *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 54(6): 478–487. (2015 Impact Factor: 1.696)

12. **Akter, S.**, Brouwer, R., Beukering, van P., Silver, E., Frech, L., Choudhury, S., Aziz, S. (2011) 'Exploring the feasibility of private micro flood-insurance provision in Bangladesh', *Disasters*, 35(2): 287–307. (2015 Impact Factor: 1.08)
13. **Akter, S.**, Grafton, R. Q. (2010). 'Confronting uncertainty and missing values in species conservation investment with environmental value transfer,' *Conservation Biology*, 24(5): 1407–1417. (2015 Impact Factor: 4.267)
14. Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.** (2010) 'Informing micro insurance contract design to mitigate climate change catastrophe risks using choice experiment', *Environmental Hazards*, 9(1): 74–88. (2014 Impact Factor: 0.868)
15. **Akter, S.**, Brouwer, R., Choudhury, S., Aziz, S. (2009) 'Is there a commercially viable market for crop insurance in rural Bangladesh?' *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 14(3): 215–229. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.085)
16. Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.**, Brander, L., Haque, E. (2009), 'Economic valuation of flood risk exposure and flood control in a severely flood prone developing country.' *Environment and Development Economics*, 14: 397–417. (2015 Impact Factor: 1.027)
17. **Akter, S.**, Brouwer, R., Brander, L., Beukering, van P. (2009), 'Respondent uncertainty in a contingent market for carbon offsets', *Ecological Economics*, 68(6): 1858–1863. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.227)
18. **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J., Akhter, S. (2008) 'Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation' *Ecological Economics*, 67(3): 345–351. (2015 Impact Factor: 3.227)
19. Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.**, Brander, L., Haque, E., (2007) 'Socio-economic vulnerability and adaptation to environmental risk: A case study of climate change and flooding in Bangladesh.' *Risk Analysis*, 27(2): 313–326. (2015 Impact Factor: 2.225)

Book Chapters

1. Mathew, L. M. and **Akter, S.** (2015) Loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, in: W.-Y. Chen, J. Seiner, T. Suzuki and M. Lackner (Eds.), *Handbook of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation* (1st edn.), Springer, New York.
2. Haque, A. K. E., Brander, L., Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.** and Mahmud, S. (2013) The environmental and social impacts of flood defences in rural Bangladesh in P. J. H. van Beukering, E. Papyrakis, J. Bouma and R. Brouwer (Eds.), *Nature's Wealth: The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Poverty*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp: 298–316.

Conference Proceeding

1. Akter, S., Erskine, W., Branco, L.V., Agostinho, O.F., Imron, J. and Spycykerelle, L. (2016) 'Gender in crop production in Timor-Leste. In Food security in Timor-Leste through crop production'. Proceedings of TimorAg2016, an international conference held in Dili, Timor-Leste, 13–15 April 2016. Nesbitt, N., Erskine, W., da Cruz, C.J. and Moorhead, A. (Eds.) ACIAR Proceedings No. 146. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research: Canberra. 187 pp.

Policy Briefs

1. Akter, S., Krupnik, T., Rossi, F., Khanam, F., (2015) ‘Mind the Gender Gap in Farmers’ Preferences for Weather-Index Insurance’ CSISA Research Note 7, Dhaka, Bangladesh. URL: <http://csisa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/CSISA-Research-Note-7.pdf>
2. Akter, S., Krupnik, T., Rossi, F., Khanam, F., (2015) ‘Gender Gap in Agricultural Insurance Demand’ Institute of Water Policy Research Policy Brief No. 3, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore. URL: http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/iwp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/10/Policy-brief_Gender-gap-in-agricultural-demand.pdf
3. Akter, S., Brouwer, R. and Brander, L., (2007) ‘Crop insurance in Bangladesh: protecting poor farmers against natural disasters?’ Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM) Policy Brief no 18, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. URL: www.prem-online.org/archive/16/doc/18%20Bangladesh.pdf
4. Akter, S., Brander, L., Brouwer, R. and Haque, E., (2006) ‘Socio-economic vulnerability to flood risks in Bangladesh: How do poor people cope?’ Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM), Policy Brief no 12, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. URL: www.prem-online.org/archive/16/doc/12%20Bangladesh.pdf

Media Release and Blogs

1. Do women farmers really bring more to the table and rice farm? Oryza: Rice Price and Latest News, October 8, 2014.
2. Women introduce mechanized farming in Bihar, Sonia’s Gender Blog, August 20, 2014.
3. Carbon scheme a high price to pay: Survey, ANU Media release, February 27, 2009.
4. Farmers need insurance coverage for flood damage, The Daily Star, July 4, 2007.
5. Akter, S. (2015) Avoiding the risk of the unknown, EnGendering Data Blog, Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM), February 2015, Washington DC, USA. [URL: <http://pim.cgiar.org/2015/02/26/avoiding-the-risk-of-the-unknown/>]
6. Akter, S. (2014) Women at the heart of technology delivery in the remote tribal villages of Odisha, Sonia’s Gender Blog, November 27, 2014, Los Banos, Philippines. [URL: <http://irri.org/blogs/gender/women-at-the-heart-of-technology-delivery-in-the-remote-tribal-villages-of-odisha>]
7. Akter, S. (2014). Women introduce mechanized farming in Bihar, Sonia’s Gender Blog, August 20, 2014, Los Banos, Philippines. [URL: <http://irri.org/blogs/gender/women-introduce-mechanized-farming-in-bihar>]

Workshop Presentations

1. ‘Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Research’, RICE Proposal Writing Workshop, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, December 9, 2015.
2. ‘Minimum standards for collecting and reporting sex-disaggregated data’, GRiSP Gender Research Network (GGRN) Workshop, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, June 25–27, 2014.
3. ‘Choice experiment applications in environmental and resource economics’, Experimental Economics Workshop, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, March 17–19, 2014.

4. 'Resilience of choice experiment estimates to natural disasters', Workshop on Discrete Choice Modelling, Technische Universität (TU) Berlin, Berlin, Germany, February 4–5, 2013.
5. 'Applying stated preference techniques to value climate change mitigation', Workshop on Empirical Methods for Measuring Willingness to Pay for Global Climate Protection, Hochschule für Technik, Wirtschaft und Kultur Leipzig, Germany, November 1–2, 2012.
6. 'Designing wind index micro-saving-insurance products for maize farmers in coastal Bangladesh', Brown International Advanced Research Institutes, Brown University, Providence, USA, June 9–23, 2012.
7. 'Integration of risk & uncertainty in choice experiments', Workshop on Choice Modelling, Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand, November 19–20, 2009.

Seminar Presentations

1. 'Flood management in Asia: Overcoming data scarcity challenges', NUSDeltares Research Track Leader Seminar Series, National University of Singapore, June 30, 2016.
2. 'Gender mainstreaming in agricultural research: evidence from a household survey in coastal Bangladesh', Social Sciences Division, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, September 5, 2014.
3. 'The implications of global food and financial crises for poverty and food security in Bangladesh', Department of Economics, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research–UFZ, Leipzig, Germany, January 29, 2013.
4. 'Valuing climate change mitigation in the presence of uncertainty', the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim, Germany, December 13, 2012.
5. 'Caring for the environment in good times and in bad times', Department of Economics, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research–UFZ, Leipzig, Germany, October 9, 2012.
6. 'A choice experiment of uncertain policy outcomes', Centre for the Study of Choice, School of Marketing, University Technology Sydney (UTS), Sydney, Australia, March 2, 2010.
7. 'Estimating non-market values under scenario and policy uncertainty: the case of climate change mitigation in Australia', Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, the USA, September 28, 2009.
8. 'Household preferences for climate change mitigation action: the case of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) in Australia', Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, the USA, September 30, 2009.
9. 'A choice experiment of uncertain environmental outcomes', Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, October 5, 2009.
10. 'Household preferences for climate change mitigation action: the case of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) in Australia', Faculty of Food and Land System, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, October 21, 2009.

Teaching

Courses (Units) Lectured (Post-graduate level courses)

1. Economics and Governance of Climate Change
2. Policy Analysis Exercise
3. Research Designs in Public Policy

Courses (Units) Tutored (Post-graduate level courses)

1. Introduction to Environmental and Resource Economics
2. Methods of Environmental Decision Making

Courses (Units) Lectured (Under-graduate level courses)

1. Introduction to Microeconomics
2. Introduction to Macroeconomics
3. Applied Mathematics for Business and Economics
4. Introduction to Statistics

Guest Lectures

1. Environmental Economics (graduate course), School of Economics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, September 14, 2009.
2. Methods of Environmental Decision Making (graduate course), Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, October 23, 2008.
3. Environment and Society: Geography of Sustainability (undergraduate course), School of Sociology and the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, March 3, 2008.

Awards

1. The Australian Leadership Award, Commonwealth of Australia, 2007-2011.
2. Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Economics, York University, 2002.