

Dr Sonia Akter

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Education

2010	PhD (Environmental Management and Development), Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University, Australia
2003	MA (Economics), York University, Canada
1997	MSS (Economics), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
1996	BSS (Economics), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Research Fields

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1. Vulnerability and resilience to natural hazards
 2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
 3. Gender equity and women's empowerment
 4. Agricultural and food policy
 5. Stated preference valuation

Employment

05/2015–	Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore, Singapore
07/2018–	Assistant Dean (Academic Affairs), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore, Singapore
04/2017–04/2018	Assistant Dean (Research), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore, Singapore
01/2014–04/2015	Scientist II, 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 Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Publications

Book

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

ISI Journal Publications

- 2019 **Akter, S.,** Chindarkar, N. (forthcoming) An empirical examination of sustainability of women's empowerment using panel data from India, *Journal of Development Studies*.
- 2019 **Akter, S.,** Cindarkar, N. (2019). 'Mothers' Vulnerability to Intimate Partner Violence and Children's Human Capital in India', *Social Science Research*, 78, 187–202. (2017 Impact Factor: 1.766)
- 2017 **Akter, S.,** Krupnik, T. J., Khanam, F. (2017). 'Climate change skepticism and index versus standard crop insurance demand in coastal Bangladesh', *Regional Environmental Change*, 17(8), 2455–2466. (2017 Impact Factor: 2.872)
- Akter, S.,** Rutsaert, P., Luis, J., Htwe, N. M., San, S. S., Raharjo, B., Pustaka, A. (2017). 'Women's empowerment and gender equity in agriculture: A different perspective from Southeast Asia', *Food Policy*, 69, 270–279. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.111)
- 2016 Nikolakis, W., **Akter, S.,** Nelson, H. (2016). 'The effect of communication on individual preferences for common property resources: A case study of two Canadian First Nations', *Land Use Policy*, 58, 70–82. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.194)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 6.371)
- 2015 **Akter, S.,** Kompas, T., Ward, M. B. (2015) 'Application of portfolio theory to asset-based biosecurity decision analysis', *Ecological Economics*, 117: 73–85. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.895)
- 2014 **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. (2017 Impact Factor: 6.371)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.182)
- 2013 **Akter, S.,** Mallick, B. (2013). 'The poverty-vulnerability-resilience nexus: Evidence from Bangladesh', *Ecological Economics*, 96: 114–124. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.895)
- Akter, S.,** Bennett, J (2013) 'Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation: facts and artefacts', *Applied Economics*, 45(15): 2107–2115. (2017 Impact Factor: 0.750)

- 2012 **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. (2017 Impact Factor: 6.371)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 2.313)
- 2011 **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. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.537)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 2.276)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 1.255)
- 2010 **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. (2017 Impact Factor: 5.890)
- 2009 **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. (2017 Impact Factor: 2.585)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 1.264)
- 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.895)
- 2008 **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J., Akhter, S. (2008) ‘Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation’ *Ecological Economics*, 67(3): 345–351. (2017 Impact Factor: 3.895)
- 2007 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. (2017 Impact Factor: 2.898)

Manuscripts under Review

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1. Cindarkar, N., **Akter, S.** ‘An Empirical Examination of Sustainability of Women’s Empowerment Using Panel Data from India’ **R&R** in *Journal of Development Studies*.
 2. **Akter, S.** ‘Social cohesion and willingness to pay for climate change adaptation in coastal Bangladesh’ under review in *Environmental Science and Policy*.

3. **Akter, S.**, Cindarkar, N., William, E., Spyckerelle, L., Branco, L. V., Agostinho, O. F., Imron, J. ‘Impact of Improved Maize Variety Adoption on Farmers’ Market Participation in Timor-Leste’ under review in *Journal of International Development*.

Book Chapters

1. Mathew, L. M., **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.**, 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., Spyckerelle, 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., 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

Current Research Grants/Projects

1. **Akter, S.** (2016–2019) Understanding the impacts of development 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.

Previous Research Grants/Projects

1. **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.
2. **Akter, S.** (2015–2016) Gender mainstreaming in agricultural intervention programs and its impacts on women’s empowerment: The case of Seeds of Life (SoL) in Timor-Leste. US\$21,000–funded by the Timor Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
3. **Akter, S.**, Rossi, F., Krupnik, T., 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **Akter, S.**, Bennett, J. (2008–2010) Household preferences for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in Australia. AU\$30,000–funded by the Commonwealth Environmental Research Facility, Environmental Economics Research Hub, Australia.
7. **Akter, S.**, 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.
8. Haque, A. K. E., Brander, L., Brouwer, R., **Akter, S.**, 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

Teaching

PhD Supervision

1. Dr Aditi Raina (Graduated in July 2017)
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore
Role: Principal Supervisor

Thesis title: Equity in Urban Water Service Delivery and the Role of Informal Water Vendors

2. Stuti Rawat (Expected date of submission March 2019)
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore
Role: Principal Supervisor
Thesis title: Three Essays on Agricultural Policy
3. Leong Chi Hoong (Expected date of submission June 2019)
Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University
Role: External Supervisor
Thesis title: Valuation and Regulation of Noise Pollution in Singapore

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

1. Research Designs in Public Policy (PhD level)
2. Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Research (PhD level)
3. Economic Foundations for Public Policy (Master's level)
4. Economics and Governance of Climate Change (Master's level)
5. Policy Analysis Exercise (Master's level)

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

Awards

1. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Research Excellence Award (Honorary Mention), 2017.
2. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Research Excellence Award (Second Prize), 2016.
3. The Australian Leadership Award, Commonwealth of Australia, 2007–2011.
4. Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Economics, York University, 2002.

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>
Since 09/2017	Associate Editor, Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies
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 Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
Since 01/2010	Journal Referee: Nature Climate Change; Global Environmental Change; Journal of Environmental Economics and Management; Ecological Economics; Environmental and Resource Economics; Food Policy; International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction; Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Journal of Environmental Management; Environment and Development Economics; Applied Economics; Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research; Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics; Journal of Environmental Policy and Management; Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics; Environmental Hazards; Empirical Economics; Climatic Change; Ecosystem Services; Food Security; Water Resources and Economics; Food Security; Ambio; Climate and Development; Sustainability

Software Packages

SPSS, STATA, NLOGIT and NGENE