

Dr. Sonia Akter  
Assistant Professor  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore  
E-mail: [sonia.akter@nus.edu.sg](mailto:sonia.akter@nus.edu.sg)  
Phone (Office): +6566013972; (Mobile): +6591757511  
<https://www.soniaakter.net/>

## Education

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- 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. Agricultural and food policy
4. Gender equity and women's empowerment

## Post-PhD Employment

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- 05/2015– Assistant Professor, 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 on Disaster Risk Reduction

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1. **Akter, S.**, Grafton, Q. (*forthcoming*). Do fires discriminate? Socio-economic disadvantage, wildfire hazard exposure and the Australian 2019–20 'Black Summer' fires. *Climatic Change*.
2. **Akter, S.** (2020). The gender gap in COVID-19 mortality in the United States. *Feminist Economics*.
3. **Akter, S.**, Francis-Tan, A. (2020). Partners or rivals? Exploring the relationship between men's and women's empowerment in Bangladesh. *Journal of Development Studies*.

4. **Akter, S.** (2020). The link between a husband's trust in informal institutions and domestic violence against his wife: evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
5. **Akter, S.,** Chindarker, N., Erskine, W., Spyckerelle, L. et al. (forthcoming). Increasing Smallholder Farmers' Market Participation through Technology Adoption in Rural Timor-Leste. *Asia & The Pacific Policy Studies*.
6. Savary, S., **Akter, S.,** Almekinders, C., Harris, J., Korsten, L., Rötter, R., Waddington, S., Watson, D. (2020). Mapping disruption and resilience mechanisms in food systems. *Food Security*, 12(4), 695-717.
7. **Akter, S.** (2020). The impact of COVID-19 related 'stay-at-home' restrictions on food prices in Europe: findings from a preliminary analysis. *Food Security*, 12(4), 719-725.
8. **Akter, S.** (2020). Social cohesion and willingness to pay for cyclone risk reduction: The case for the Coastal Embankment Improvement Project in Bangladesh. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 101579.
9. **Akter, S.,** Erskine, W., Spyckerelle, L., Branco, L. V., Imron, J. (2020). The impact of women's access to agricultural extension on cropping practices in Timor-Leste. *Food Security*, 1-15.
10. **Akter, S.,** Chindarkar, N. (2020). An empirical examination of sustainability of women's empowerment using panel data from India. *Journal of Development Studies*, 1-17.
11. **Akter, S.** (2019). Impact of drinking water salinity on children's education: Empirical evidence from coastal Bangladesh. *Science of The Total Environment*, 690, 1331-1341.
12. **Akter, S.,** Cindarkar, N. (2019). Mothers' vulnerability to intimate partner violence and children's human capital in India. *Social Science Research*, 78, 187-202.
13. **Akter, S.,** Rutsaert, P., Luis, J., Htwe, N. M., San, S. S., Raharjo, B., Pustika, A. (2017). Women's empowerment and gender equity in agriculture: A different perspective from Southeast Asia. *Food Policy*, 69, 270-279.
14. **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.
15. 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.
16. **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.
17. **Akter, S.,** Kompas, T., Ward, M. B. (2015). Application of portfolio theory to asset-based biosecurity decision analysis. *Ecological Economics*, 117: 73-85.
18. **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.
19. **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.

20. Akter, S., Mallick, B. (2013). The poverty-vulnerability-resilience nexus: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Ecological Economics*, 96: 114–124.
21. Akter, S., Bennett, J. (2013). Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation: facts and artefacts. *Applied Economics*, 45(15): 2107–2115.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. Akter, S., Bennett, J., Akhter, S. (2008). Preference uncertainty in contingent valuation. *Ecological Economics*, 67(3): 345–351.
32. 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.

### Work-in-progress

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1. Akter, S. (under review). Does an environmental shock change the gender division of labour? Panel data evidence from Pakistan. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*.

### Book

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

### Book Chapters

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1. **Akter, S.**, Khanal, S. (2020). How perceptions of risks affect responses to climate change, in: *Oxford Encyclopedia of Water, Sanitation, and Global Health*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
2. 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.
3. 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

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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.

### Current Research Grants/Projects

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1. **Akter, S.**, Grafton, Q. (2020–2022) A methodological framework for estimating the economic damage cost of bushfire: The case of Australia. S\$10,000–Ministry of Education, Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1.
2. **Akter, S.** (2019–2021) Impacts of natural disaster and violent conflicts on human capital in Pakistan. S\$40,000–funded by the Lee Kuan Yew school of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.
3. **Akter, S.** (2016–2020) 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

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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

### PhD Students

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1. Dr Aditi Raina (completed on 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. Leong Chi Hoong (completed on November 2019)  
Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University  
Role: External Supervisor  
Thesis title: Valuation and Regulation of Noise Pollution in Singapore
3. Stuti Rawat (completed on March 2020)  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore  
Role: Principal Supervisor  
Thesis title: Three Essays on Agricultural Policy
4. Niharka Rustagi (2nd year)  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the National University of Singapore  
Role: Principle supervisor  
Thesis title: Pathways from women’s group-based programs to empowerment: A study of national rural livelihood mission in Maharashtra, India
5. Ira Martina Drupady (2nd year)  
Department of Geography, the National University of Singapore  
Role: Co-supervisor  
Thesis title: The relations between gender, energy security and climate resilience in selected energy-poor communities in Southeast Asia

### Scholarly & Professional Activities

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|-----------------|---|
| 03/2020–        | Associate Editor, <i>Australian Journal of Agriculture and Resource Economics</i> |
| 10/2019–        | Senior Editor, <i>Food Security</i>   |
| 09/2017–        | Associate Editor, <i>Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies</i>                      |
| 04/2016–09/2019 | Associate Editor, <i>Food Security</i>  |

06/2019–09/2019	Consultant, World Bank
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; Journal of Rural Economics; World Development.

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

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1. Research Designs in Public Policy (PhD–Core Module)
2. Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Research (PhD–Core Module)
3. Economic Foundations for Public Policy (Master of Public Policy–Core Module)
4. Economics and Governance of Climate Change (Elective Module)
5. Policy Analysis Exercise (Master of Public Policy–Core Module)
6. Gender and Development (Elective Module)
7. Global Food Policy and Sustainable Food System (Elective Micro-Modules)

### **Service**

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07/2018–06/2020	Chair, PhD Program, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
07/2018–06/2019	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

### **Awards**

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1. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Honorary Teaching Awards 2019, 2020.

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

### Media Release, Blogs and Policy Brief

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1. Domestic violence impacts children's education in India. Global-is-asian, January 22, 2020. [url: <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/gia/article/domestic-violence-impacts-children%27s-education-in-india>]
2. Salty drinking water may take a toll on education. FUTURITY, January 7, 2020. [url: <https://www.futurity.org/salt-intake-drinking-water-education-2250022/>]
3. Too much salt may negatively impact children's education. NUSnews, December 9, 2019. [url: <https://news.nus.edu.sg/research/too-much-salt-may-negatively-impact-childrens-education>]
4. The gender wage gap problem is more complex than you think. Global-is-asian, February 8, 2019. [url: <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/gia/article/the-gender-wage-gap-problem-is-more-complex-than-you-think>]
5. Including her voice: Measuring women's empowerment in agriculture. USC University of Southern California. [url: <https://exed.annenberg.usc.edu/content/including-her-voice-measuring-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture>]
6. Going in-depth: A qualitative application of Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). People, Peace and Deliberation, The World Bank. April 30, 2018. [url: [https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01603/WEB/GOING\\_DE.HTM](https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01603/WEB/GOING_DE.HTM)]
7. Gender gap in agricultural insurance demand. Institute of Water Policy Research Policy Brief No. 3, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore. October 2015. [url: [http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/iwp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/10/Policy-brief\\_Gender-gap-in-agricultural-demand.pdf](http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/iwp/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/10/Policy-brief_Gender-gap-in-agricultural-demand.pdf)]
8. Mind the gender gap in farmers' preferences for weather-index insurance. CSISA Research Note 7, Dhaka, Bangladesh. September 2015. [url: <http://csisa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/CSISA-Research-Note-7.pdf>]
9. 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/>]
10. 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>]
11. Do women farmers really bring more to the table and rice farm? Oryza: Rice Price and Latest News, October 8, 2014.
12. Women introduce mechanized farming in Bihar, Sonia's Gender Blog, August 20, 2014.
13. 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>]
14. Carbon scheme a high price to pay: Survey, ANU Media release, February 27, 2009.

15. Farmers need insurance coverage for flood damage, The Daily Star, July 4, 2007.
16. 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](http://www.prem-online.org/archive/16/doc/18%20Bangladesh.pdf)]
17. 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](http://www.prem-online.org/archive/16/doc/12%20Bangladesh.pdf)]