

THOMAS B. SINGH

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Citizenship: Guyanese

Date of Birth: May 27, 1963

EDUCATION:

2010 **Ph.D., Department of Economics, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK**
Dissertation Title: **To Trust or Not to Trust Others: Norms, Interactions and Institutions**

1991 **M.A. in Economics, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**
Specialization: Public Finance

1986 **BSocSc. in Economics (Distinction)**
University of Guyana

EXPERIENCE:

University of Guyana

09/11 – date **Lecturer II, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences**

09/09-08/11 **Coordinator, Institute of Development Studies**

Lecturer II

Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences

Research: My specialized research interests include: Interpersonal trust, social interactions, institutional economics, and the economics of norms and conventions. Methodologically, my focus has been on the econometrics of social interactions, and adaptive learning processes and equilibrium selection in recurrent coordination games.

My other area of active research has been on Guyana's macroeconomic adjustment programme, with a particular emphasis on public finance in an open economy. Unique to my research is that I associate Guyana's macroeconomic programme to the country's socio-economic and political processes and outcomes, including poverty, conflict, electoral systems, informal institutions and so forth. To support this research programme I have developed an extensive database of interlocking national, monetary and balance of payments accounts for Guyana.

Teaching: I now teach in both the Department of Economics and the Department of Geology.

Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences

Environmental Economics, Intermediate Economics, Principles of Economics.

Department of Geology, Faculty of Technology

I teach a course on mineral economics, titled *Mineral Resources Utilisation*, to geology majors.

Projects:

- I was Project Manager for a large survey for the USAID Governance Enhancement Project, entitled “Elections and Political Processes Evaluation,” which determined the extent to which young voters in Guyana would use social media to get information about the 2011 General Elections.
- I developed the project “Governance, Social Order and Voluntary Cooperation in Guyana,” for which funding is being sought. An important component of this project would examine “The Role of Institutions and Culture in Economic Behaviour,” in collaboration with Edward Cartwright, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, Univ. of Kent.
- I executed a small UNDP project to prepare the Work Plan, Framework and Management Model for its “Replicable Poverty Linkages Project.”

01/07-07/09 **Cambridge Arts and Sciences (CATS), Canterbury, Kent, UK**

Department of Business Studies/Pre-Masters Programme

Pre-Masters Lecturer, Business Studies

9/06 – 9/09 **University of Guyana**

Lecturer II

Department of Economics (on Leave from September 2006 to September 2009)

2/00 – 9/06 **Researcher II**

Institute of Development Studies

Coordination and Adjustment in Small Poor & Open Transition (SPOT) Economies; Public Economics for SPOT Economies; Constitutional Design, Social Capital and Economic Efficiency; Compensation systems for Teachers (in Guyana).

I was the principal project writer for the project proposal, “Issues in Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction,” CIDA Project No. A-021061-003-PR2. During the execution of the latter project I served as a Member and Resource Person, Guyana Coalition of Service Providers (providing support in Trade Policy Negotiation and Formulation) and a Member of the team that prepared Guyana’s response to Offers in WTO negotiations.

Department of Economics

I had designed, developed and taught the course, *Public Economics for Small, Poor, Open, Transition (SPOT) Economies*. This was a standard Public Finance course tailored for a country like Guyana, and covered such themes as market failures, project evaluation, taxation, public expenditure principles (public goods, uncertainty, externalities, etc.), & fiscal federalism and decentralization.

School of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

I used to be the Lecturer for the course “Public Finance Issues,” Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies.

8/98 - 7/99 **Guyana Forestry Commission, Georgetown, Guyana**

Head, Policy and Planning Division (PPD)

In charge of the Economics Unit, the Management Information Systems Unit and the Library of the Commission. Responsible for policy and planning for the forest sector; reviewed draft forest legislation and regulations and the development of a national forest plan under the DFID funded Guyana Forestry Commission Support Project. Initiated and supervised the design and implementation of Price Surveys and the compilation of Quarterly and *Annual Market Reports* for the forest sector.

- 7/97 - 7/98 **Bank of Guyana**, Georgetown, Guyana
Senior Economist, Policy and Regulatory Issuances Unit, Bank Supervision Department
 Responsible for the establishment of the Policy and Regulatory Issuances Unit of the Bank Supervision Department. Revised the *Reserve Requirement* and the *Liquid Asset Requirement*.
- 10/95 - 7/97 **Senior Economist, Research Department**
 Compiled, and computerised the compilation of, the balance of payments (BOP) according to the IMF's *Balance of Payments Manual*, 5th ed., employing a systematic survey/enterprise-reporting methodology.
- 3/95 - 9/95 **Privatisation Unit**, Georgetown, Guyana
Financial Analyst
 Performed financial analyses of State Owned Entities using company financial statements and other information such as production and management reports, market studies and industry analyses.
- 7/92 - 1/94 **JACA Corporation**, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania
Economist and Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Projects:
 - "Aerospace Coatings: Economic Impact Analysis"
 - "Economic Analysis of Ferroalloys Industry Emission Standards"
 Analysed the economic impact of air pollution regulation on industries and firms, especially small businesses. Impacts included effects on output, employment, industry size, facility closure and profitability. Entailed the following: financial analysis; industry studies; economic and econometric modelling; forecasting; regression analysis.
- 5/94-10/94 **Philadelphia College of Textiles and Sciences**
Lecturer
 Macroeconomics, Public Finance
- 1991 **Penn State University**
Lecturer
 Microeconomics
- 9/86-8/87 **University of Guyana**
Institute of Development Studies, Research Assistant
 Black Markets in Foreign Exchange; Wage Determination in Guyana: An Example of Bilateral Monopoly

PRESENTATIONS:

- 12/2009 "Social Norms and Interpersonal Trust," The Santa Chiara Graduate School and Pro.M Chair in Bioeconomics, University of Siena, Darwin Bicentenary Conference on Evolution: Intersecting Natural and Social Sciences.
- 04/2009 "Interpersonal Trust as Individual Choice with Social Interactions," Scottish Economic Society 2009 Annual Conference (Ramada Inn, Perth, Scotland).
- 04/2009 "Interpersonal Trust as Individual Choice with Social Interactions," Royal Economic Society 2009 Annual Conference (University of Surrey).
- 11/2008 "Interpersonal Trust as Individual Choice with Social Interactions," Centre for Experimental Economics, Dept. of Economics, University of Copenhagen, 3rd Nordic Conference on Experimental and Behavioral Economics.
- 02/2008 "Trust in the World as Individual Choice with Social Interactions," Department of Economics, University of Kent, Research (Upgrade) Seminar.
- 05/2006 "The Economics of Sugar Reform in Guyana," Department of Economics, University of Guyana, 40th Independence Conference on "Sugar in the Caribbean: Challenges and Prospects," May 25, Education Lecture Theatre, U.G.

- 03/2006 “Imagination and Development,” Dublin City University and the Development Cooperation Ireland, 2006 Development Education Conference, Dublin City University.
- 08/2005 “Imagination and Development: Brief Notes,” University of Guyana and Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI, Walter Rodney 25th Anniversary Commemoration Conference, August 11 – 12, Education Lecture Theatre, U.G.
- 01/2005 “Local Public Goods Insecurity, Conflict and Remittances: There is a (Decentralised) Balm in Gilead for Poor, Troubled Societies!” Global Development Network, 6th Annual Development Conference on “Developed and Developing Worlds: Mutual Impact,” Le Meridien, Dakar, Senegal. Finalist, *Conflict, Human Security and Migration* Category of Research Medals Competition.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

02/2004: *Presentation Title*: “Poverty, Economics and Conflict Management,” Clark Atlanta University and the University of Guyana, Conference on ‘Governance, Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution,’ Le Meridien, Pegasus, Georgetown, Guyana; 11/2003: *Presentation Title*: “Development Assistance, Rudimentary Financial Markets and Relatively Rapid Goods Market Adjustment,” and “Constitutions, Markets and Democracy in SPOT Economies,” Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, XXXV Annual Monetary Studies Conference, St. Kitts; 11/2002: *Presentation Title*: “Monetary Policy, Rudimentary Financial Markets and Relatively Rapid Goods Market Adjustment,” Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, XXXIV Annual Monetary Studies Conference, Georgetown, Guyana; *Presentation Title*: “Constitutional Design and Social Morality for Market Efficiency and Political Democracy in SPOT Economies,” Anton De Kom, University of Suriname, Roundtable on ‘The Changing Relationship Between Political Democracy, Social Democracy and the Market,’ F. H. R. Lim A Po Institute for Social Studies, Paramaribo, Suriname; 10/2002: *Presentation Title*: “Voting, For Backwardness or Development In SPOT Economies;” Inter-Guianas University Partnership, 5th International Inter-Guianas Conferences, Georgetown, Guyana; 11/2000: *Presentation Title*: “Bank Liquidity Management, Prudential Regulation and Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy: A Reappraisal of the Liquid Asset Requirement,” Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, XXXII Annual Monetary Studies Conference, Kingston, Jamaica; 3/95: “Pricing Strategy for the Rice Milling Industry,” Consultative Assoc. of Guyanese Industry/Ruimzeight Rice Mills Ltd; 10/95: “Pricing Strategy for the Media Industry – Radio,” Consultative Assoc. of Guyanese Industry.

PUBLICATIONS/PAPERS:

“A Social Interactions Perspective on Trust and its Determinants,” Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Trust Research*. Downloadable at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1826002

“Getting and Staying Out of a Low Trust Trap: The Relative Roles of Tipping and Institutional Reform,” with Edward Cartwright (University of Kent). Submitted to the *Royal Economic Society 2012 Conference*.

“Getting and Staying Out of a Low Trust Trap: The Roles of Tipping and Institutional Reform,” Downloadable at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1756084

“Interpersonal Trust as Individual Choice with Social Interactions,” Downloadable at http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1260758

“Social Norms and Interpersonal Trust,” Downloadable at <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=1427089>

“Balance of Payments Adjustment in Guyana: Is There A Role for Informal Institutions?” in *Small Economies and Global Economics*, edited by J. Ram Pillariseti, , Roger Lawrey, Teo Siew Yean, Shamim A. Siddiqui, and Azman Ahmad (University of Brunei), Nova Science Publishers, 2008.

“Poverty, Economics and Conflict Management,” in *Governance, Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution*, edited by Cedric Grant and Mark Kirton, Ian Randle Publishers, 2007.

“Imagination and Development: The Salience of Public Values, Entrepreneurship and Cooperation,” Unpublished.

“On Interdependent Economic and Political Domains and Smart Constitutions,” Mimeo, IDS, UG.
“Local Public Goods Insecurity, Conflict and the State: A Paradoxical Proposal,” *Transition*, Vol. 34, 2005.

“Constitutional Design for Market Efficiency and Political Democracy in Small, Poor and Open Transition (SPOT) Economies,” in *Political Democracy, Social Democracy and the Market in the Caribbean*, by Jack Menke (ed.), Democracy Unit, Anton de Kom University of Suriname, 2004.

“Development Assistance, Rudimentary Financial Markets and Relatively Rapid Goods Market Adjustment,” *Transition*, Issue 32, October 2003.

“Rudimentary Financial Markets and Relatively Rapid Goods Market Adjustment in a Closed Economy: The Case of Fiscal Policy in Guyana,” *IDS Working Paper, IDSW 00-09*, University of Guyana, August 2002.

“Agency, Teacher Effort, Incentives and Teacher Compensation: A Review and Proposal,” *Transition*, Issue 30, 2001. “Bank Liquidity Management, Prudential Regulation and Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy: A Reappraisal of the Liquid Asset Requirement,” *Money Affairs*, Vol. XII, No. 2, Jul.-Dec. 1999.

POLICY REVIEWS/EVIDENTIAL SUBMISSIONS/REPORTS:

“Review of ‘Creating Incentives to Avoid Deforestation (The McKinsey Report),’ Office of the President, Republic of Guyana, 2008,” Unpublished, January 2009.

“Comments on Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry Document ‘Enhancing Competitiveness,’ Prepared (with Prof. Clive Thomas) for the Guyana Coalition of Service Providers, September 2005.

“Comments on Guyana’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Progress Report, 2005,” Prepared for the University of Guyana Submission, July 2005.

“Memorandum on The VAT and Excise Tax Bills,” the Institute of Development Studies’ Submission to the *Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Finance*, May 2005.

“A Financial (And Institutional) Review of the Guyana Presbyterian Church,” Report to the Properties and Finance Committee, *Guyana Presbyterian Church*, Jan. 2002.

“Selective Review of the Draft Forests Act, 1998 (And the Associated Draft Forest Regulations),” *Policy and Planning Division, Guyana Forestry Commission*, April 1999.

“Principles of Rate of Return Regulation of Public Utilities: Why the Temporary Rate Increases Approved for Guyana Telephone & Telegraph Co. Warrant Review.” Evidence submitted to the *Public Utilities Commission* Public Hearing, February 1998.

“The Licensing of Additional Financial Institutions in Guyana - Efficiency and Growth Considerations,” *Research Department, Bank of Guyana*, May 1996.

“Aerospace Coatings: Economic Impact Analysis” (approved), *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, Dec. 1993.

Industry Profile for “Economic Analysis of Ferroalloys Industry Emission Standards” (approved), *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, Oct. 1993.

AWARDS:

- 2007-2009 2 Year Ph.D. Scholarship Award from the *Fondation pour l'aide au protestantisme réformé*, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2007-2008 University of Kent Overseas Scholarship
- 2006-2009 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Kent
- 01/2005 Finalist, Global Research Medal Competition for Outstanding Research on Development, *Global Development Network*, in the Conflict, Human Security and Migration Category
- 1/89-5/92 Teaching Assistantship (Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.)
- 9/87-12/88 Research Assistantship (Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.)

OTHER:

Member, *Royal Economic Society*
Member, *Scottish Economic Society*
Member, *Global Development Network*

Past Member, Guyana Coalition of Service Providers
Past Convenor, Education Sub-Committee, School Board, St. Stanislaus College
Past Convenor, Committee for the writing of the Constitution, Guyana Presbyterian Church
Past President, St. Stanislaus' College Association
Past Chairman, Guyana Volunteer Consultancy

REFERENCES:

Available upon request.