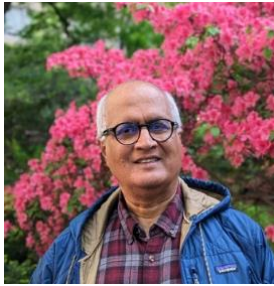


Brief bio-Note of Peter Ronald deSouza



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Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza was the Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla, for two terms (2007- 2013) during which period he set up, at IIAS, the Tagore Centre and the International Centre for Human Development. Prior to that he was a Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the Lokniti Programme of Comparative Democracy, at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi (2003-2007) and before that was Professor and Head, Department of Political Science at Goa University (1996-2003). After serving as Director at IIAS he returned to CSDS as Professor in 2014. From 2020 till 2022 he was the DD Kosambi Visiting Professor Goa University till November 2022. He is currently Senior Research Associate, African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS), University of Johannesburg.

Research Interests:

Prof. deSouza's current research interests include (a) exploring conundrums of democracy particularly those of India and South Asia through the recognition of 'ambivalence' and the acknowledgement of 'inconvenient facts' that produce these conundrums, (b) the 'colonization of the mind', by the knowledge and governmental practices of the West seen both in its colonial history and its after life i.e., engages with issues relating to the epistemologies of the South, and (c) a continuing interest, in the developments of science and technology especially those that raise ethical questions and have significant societal impacts.

Some of his research projects have been: At Lokniti-CSDS he was one of the PIs of a large project on the 'State of Democracy in South Asia' (SDSA) supported by the EU-India Cross Cultural Programme, International IDEA and the Ford Foundation. The report has since been published by OUP, 2007. He was also one of the PIs of a project on 'Youth Attitudes in India' funded by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation which has been published as 'Indian Youth in a Transforming World: Attitudes and Perceptions', Sage, 2009. In 2017 he completed a project for the Bertelsmann Stiftung on 'Minorities in contemporary India'. He is currently part of a British Academy project on 'Time and Just Transitions' 2023.

His continuing engagement has been on issues of 'freedom of expression' particularly the case of the artist MF Husain, on the 'Affirmative Action' policies of India and the US, and on the place of the 'University in the global South'.

Consultancies/ membership of Governing Boards:

Prof. deSouza has served as a consultant to UNESCO, International IDEA, Stockholm, UNDP, The World Bank, Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Ford Foundation and Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York (2001). He has also been a member of several Executive Committees/Governing Boards of organizations such as Institute of European Global studies, University of Basel; Centre for Environment Education, (CEE), Ahmedabad; Indian Social Institute (ISI), New Delhi; Indian Social Sciences Trust (ISST), New Delhi; Goa University, Central University Jammu; etc.

Publications

Prof. deSouza's authored publications are:

- **In the Hall of Mirrors: Reflections on Indian Democracy**, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi (2018),
- **Democratic Accommodations: Minorities in Contemporary India**, (with Hilal Ahmed and Sanjeer Alam), Bloomsbury, New Delhi, 2019,

Edited publications are

- with Mohd Sanjeer Alam and Hilal Ahmed **Companion to Indian Democracy: Resilience Fragility, Ambivalence**, Routledge, New Delhi, 2022.
- with Rukmini Bhaya Nair **Keywords for India: A Conceptual Lexicon for the 21st Century**, Bloomsbury, London, 2020,
- **At Home with Democracy: A Political Theory of India, Essays of D.L.Sheth**, edited and wrote the Introduction, Palgrave Macmillan, New Delhi, 2017,
- with Tridip Suvrud **Speaking of Gandhi's Death**, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2010,
- with Sanjay Kumar and Sandeep Shastri **Indian Youth in a Transforming World: Attitudes and Perceptions**, Sage, New Delhi, 2009.
- with E. Sridharan **India's Political Parties**, Sage, New Delhi (2006) in the Readings in Indian Government and Politics series,
- **Contemporary India: Transitions**, Sage, New Delhi, September 2000.

He has also published several journal articles and book chapters including essays in the **Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)** and **The Indian Forum (TIF)**.

He writes opinion pieces for **The Indian Express, The Hindu, Scroll, Goa Herald** among others.