



## CENTRE FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRIEND IN NEED INDIA TRUST



### Skilling for academic markets!

**An educational program for doctoral students/early career academics in economics – working on sustainable development**

*Offered by Prof. Dr. Shyama V. Ramani, Founder-Director of Friend In Need India Trust to raise funds for building toilets, public waste bins etc.*

- *An online educational program that is NOT a MOOC but intensely interactive!*
- *Fees will entirely go to Friend In Need India Trust or FIN – towards supporting women and men building toilets and working on waste management and community projects – like school toilets, hand washing facilities, painting of public bus-stops, public waste bins and COVID-19 recovery of poor households.*



### 1. Why the course? For multiple value creation! For research – and the poor!

The objective of this course is to help doctoral students and early career researchers in economics who want to write articles of international publishable quality, while using program fees to support FIN's development projects. This is our application of the theoretical notion – 'multiple value creation' – to practice. In this manner, FIN Trust can help build research capabilities and also build toilets, public waste bins, and help poor households improve their lives.

The world is full of inequalities. Some are luckier than others. **But, all can benefit from personalised mentoring!** This course is thus for those who are hungry to learn and eager to produce good research, and who want a good mentor and a good peer group. In turn, FIN Trust would be contributing to train future academics to be excellent teachers, empathetic, value based and accountable and nudge the academic world to be more engaged in local development!

### 2. How will doctoral students/researchers in economics benefit?

The course will involve interactive lectures in question-answer format, extensive participant presentations, extensive peer-interaction-and feedback and skills building workshops.

Participants will produce:

- (i) A systematic literature review on one aspect of their central research query; students are expected to build their own corpus – I will teach how.
- (ii) A conceptual framework derived from literature survey outlining: the system of focus, the stakeholders involved with a game theoretic representation of their relations and strategies.
- (iii) A policy brief on a policy they evoke in their doctoral dissertation or research paper;
- (iv) A Ted-style presentation of the essence of the above in 8 minutes in a FIN webinar.

The expected learning outcomes are enhancement of capabilities such as:

- a. *Logical argumentation*
- b. *Translation of literature findings into conceptual framework*
- c. *System representation of reality*
- d. *Stakeholder relations within system*
- e. *Policy analysis*
- f. *Effective oral presentation*
- g. *Giving constructive critical feedback*
- h. *Supporting fellow students to develop instead of competing with them*
- i. *Leadership*

**\*\*Note that this is not a course that will focus on mathematical or econometrics or qualitative research methods per se, but on effective scientific argumentation of result findings, whatever the methodology implemented and on coherence between research questions, research design, methodology and claimed results.**

### **3. Course Summary and Details for Application**

- *Course will involve 2 hours every week for five months.*
- *Only 5 candidates will be taken. Our focus is always on quality – not quantity.*
- *Will start as soon as 5 students have paid the registration – expected date of start is October 15, 2020.*
- *Candidates must be registered in a Ph.D. program or be an academic in a university recognized by the Government of India in the economics discipline*
- *Student dissertation/academic's research must be related to one or more of the global development agenda namely the Sustainable Development Goals – focussing on India preferably.*
- *Those interested are requested to write the following short essay and send to [fintrust.india@gmail.com](mailto:fintrust.india@gmail.com) by September 20, 2020.*

*One page, 12 font size, Times Roman font, single line - on the following: (i) yourself, university, year of doctoral programme, progress on thesis; (ii) your research question; (ii) motivation for research question; (iii) which sustainability development goal or goals it is linked to; (iv) methodology envisaged.*

- *Submissions not conforming to the above instructions will be automatically disqualified. Also, please pay attention to logic, spelling and grammar!*
- *The fees are INR 8000 per month*



- Selected participants have to pay Rs 20,000 as initial deposit and Rs 20,000 after 2 months.
- All participants will be given full details on the use of their fees for projects in Kameswaram village and adjacent villages! And meet the village team by zoom!
- Last date for submission September 20, 2020. Selected participants will be informed by October 1, 2020. Classes expected to start by October 15, 2020. FOR ANY QUERIES DROP A LINE TO [fintrust.india@gmail.com](mailto:fintrust.india@gmail.com)

#### 4. About Prof. Shyama V. Ramani and Friend In Need India Trust



Hi, I recently completed my sojourn as a full time academic at the United Nations University, [UNU-MERIT](#), in the Netherlands. I am currently a Professor (part time) at a joint initiative of Maastricht University and UNU-MERIT called the School of Governance, where I coordinate a Masters Level Track on [Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policy](#). My research focuses on the relationships between technology, innovation and their governance for inclusive development. My publications and full details can be found [here](#). I am also a serial academic social entrepreneur! One of the big passions of my life is the NGO I founded and coordinate called '[Friend in Need India Trust](#)' (FIN).

FIN was founded in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami of 2004, with a two-fold mission. First, to rehabilitate an isolated coastal village in India named Kameswaram and make it as clean as any in the world, focussing on sanitation and waste management. Second, generate knowledge for scientific and practitioner communities on this transformation process, using the village as a living lab. As FIN is a unique NGO that applies 'academic theories' and mobilises students in its projects, over the years, due to demand from well-wishers, it has developed a third mission. This is to teach and train diverse stakeholder groups (communities, school children, college students, policy makers) on issues related to sanitation, waste management and hygiene behaviour, and undertake action-research. For this purpose, in 2018, an online teaching and research community was created and housed under: The [Centre for Circular Economy](#).

Below is a summary of my work.

**Research:** 45 peer-reviewed articles in international journals; 21 book chapters; 2 Book Volumes.

**Science Communication:** 22 articles, blogs and briefs for academic as well as non-academic audiences.

**Public Speaking:** Over 30 years of teaching experience and presenting papers or moderating in conferences, [Tedx talk](#), [Pecha-kucha](#) etc.

**Directing/Coordinating Teams:** Team working on [Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability Transitions](#) in UNU-MERIT, FIN and SITE4Society teams; Have led 10 international research projects.

**Academic Social Entrepreneurial Start-ups:** Created 4 and active in 2 of them.

**Awards:** 'Women of the Earth' trophy, in 2008, by the Institut de France and the Yves Rocher Foundation, recognized as one of the 100 women achievers of India by the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development and FIN was one of the three winners of the 'Tamil Nadu Environment Awards' for NGOs in 2017.

