



上海大学文学院

College Of Liberal Arts, Shanghai University

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Future Earth Coasts

A Global Research Network of Future Earth

September 28, 2023

Dear Sir / Madame:

**Reference for the Application for Future Earth Coasts Fellow – Dr Devendraraj Madhanagopal**

I got to know Dr Madhanagopal when he invited me to contribute a chapter to his edited book in 2021, *Climate Change and Risk in South and Southeast Asia: Socio-political Perspectives*, (Routledge, UK, 2023). At that time, I was Associate Professor of Community Wellbeing at University of York, UK. Since I have become Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Research Centre for Health and Wellbeing at Shanghai University, China, Dr Madhanagopal, and I continue to collaborate in various research projects. One of the major research projects is to critically examine the concepts of health and wellbeing, including planetary health within ancient South Asian philosophies, which is also a book project with Springer. Through this collaboration, I have learned his capacity, strengths, and abilities as an academic as well as intellectual.

Dr Madhanagopal comes to you with a PhD in Sociology and about three years of experience as a capable teacher covering subjects from environment and society, poverty and food security, and human development and social inclusion. He is deeply concern about the future of this planet and his research work is pointing towards finding solutions to present challenges. Dr Madhanagopal has been successfully publishing since 2018, including successful four edited books. Further, he has presented his work in India and abroad.

Over the years, Dr Madhanagopal has proved that he is highly capable of conducting independent, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary research and producing outputs to a global standard. He is competent in a range of qualitative techniques with the ability to apply multi-methods. Dr Madhanagopal's research work is strongly based on the sociology of nature with a strong understanding of anthropology, human geography, environmental science, politics, and economics. Much of this work centres on understanding the social, cultural, economic, political, and environmental context of people, their relationship with nature, livelihoods, and entitlements in market and non-market situations. He is doing this with a mind to analyse the current challenges, and secondly, he is taking lessons to explore wider policy and practical implications.



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As we continue to collaborate on various research projects, I have learned that Dr Madhanagopal is a compassionate individual, who is willing to listen and understand people from their perspectives. This is a rare quality in a divided world. Combining this, Dr Madhanagopal has a never-ending intellectual curiosity, which makes him an all-rounded academic of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century global community.

As a young scholar from the Global South, Dr Madhanagopal has been looking for opportunities to receive mentorship, network with like-minded academics and researchers from different parts of the world, and research collaborations. As a Future Earth Coasts Fellow, Dr Madhanagopal will be able to achieve his academic goals.

I fully support Dr Madhanagopal's application to become a Future Earth Coasts Fellow. He will certainly benefit from this Fellowship, but I can vouch that he will also effectively contribute to the Global Research Network of Future Earth. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to email me anytime.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janaka Jayawickrama', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Janaka Jayawickrama, PhD  
Professor of Social Anthropology  
Director – Research Centre for Health and Wellbeing

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