Climate change, human-tiger conflict (HTC) and the tiger widows of the Sundarbans: A tale of extreme stigma and discrimination

Dr Saradamoyee Chatterjee  
Bye-Fellow and Director of Studies in Land Economy  
Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge

Abstract: A UNESCO heritage site, the Sundarbans biosphere reserve is the largest mangrove forest in the world, situated on deltaic floodplains across India and Bangladesh. The forest is the habitat of the endangered Royal Bengal Tiger. Incidences of HTC are increasing as deforestation and cyclones damage tigers’ habitat, and declining returns from agriculture and fishing turn villagers to forest resources (honey, wax, and firewood). This study explores the intersection of the climate crisis, HTC and the unique challenges encountered by ‘tiger widows’ (the widows of men killed by tigers), who face extreme poverty, neglect, abuse, social isolation, and destitution because of the stigma attached to tiger attacks.

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• In-person: Weston Seminar Room (2.49) in the David Attenborough Building  
• Online: Zoom. Please REGISTER to receive Zoom link on the day of the seminar