

## Short Bio-Sketch of Kumar Ravi Priya

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

- Dr. Kumar Ravi Priya has been serving as a professor of psychology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur since November, 2018. He joined IIT Kanpur as a faculty in 2006.
- He is a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Fellowship (Flex Scheme) Awardee, 2017-18 at Connecticut College, New London, CT, USA. He has conducted his research at the College in collaboration with Professor Sunil Bhatia in two phases of the fellowship period; from September 1 to November 30, 2017 in Phase I, and from May 10 to July 9, 2018 in Phase II.

### RESEARCH INTEREST:

(Areas: Qualitative Research; Disaster Mental Health; Alternative Paradigms of Psychology; Cultural Psychology)

The interdisciplinary approaches to research on disaster mental health and my own research endeavors using ethnographic and other qualitative methodologies have enhanced my motivation to provide space to often unexpressed, unarticulated experiences and life stories of survivors of communal/political violence as well as natural disasters.

I also strive to learn how spaces for narrativizing personal stories (often silenced by prevailing social, cultural and political counter-narratives) may facilitate developing a new enabling meaning in life through cultural symbols of hope and wellbeing and the community actions for rebuilding social harmony. How such healing processes are based on renegotiating the meanings of self and identity within cultural and socio-political context remains an important part of my research interests.

In my 16 years of ethnographic research on disaster mental health, I have studied several natural disasters (earthquake, cyclone and floods) as well as man-made disasters (communal and political violence) in India. In my current research focus, my endeavour is to learn about developing relative stability in the inter-community harmony in the post-violence period. Utilizing ethnographic method through the fieldwork in the villages affected by Post-Godhra communal riots in Gujarat, India, this study aims to explore among the survivors and other stakeholders (local leaders, administration and social activists) their perceptions about the importance of and the ways of inducing inter-community harmony in the violence-affected societies.

### PUBLICATION:

- Co-edited book titled, *“Qualitative Research on Illness, Wellbeing and Self-Growth: Contemporary Indian Perspective”* published in 2015 by **Routledge (Taylor & Francis)**.
- Articles in international journals (from **APA, Sage, Springer, and Taylor & Francis**):

- *The Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology (APA)*
- *Theory and Psychology (Sage)*
- *The Journal of Anthropological Survey of India (Sage)*
- *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry (Springer)*
- *Economic and Political Weekly*
- *Qualitative Research (Sage)*
- *Qualitative Health Research (Sage)*
- *Qualitative Research in Psychology (Taylor & Francis)*
- *Journal of Health Management (Sage)*
- *Psychology and Developing Societies (Sage)*
- *Psychological Studies (Springer)*
- Chapters in the edited volumes (from **Sage, Palgrave Macmillan, Wiley-Blackwell, and Oxford**):
  - The Sage Handbook of Grounded Theory (2019)
  - Asian Indigenous Psychology in Globalizing Era (accepted; *Palgrave Macmillan*)
  - Encyclopedia of Cross-Cultural Psychology (*Wiley-Blackwell*)
  - Handbook of Psychology in India (*Oxford*)

#### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:**

- Awardee, Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Fellowship, 2017-18
- Awardee, Taos Institute Associate Grant, 2017
- Awardee, The Class of 1970 Young Faculty Research Fellowship, IIT Kanpur, 2013-16
- Associate Editor, *Psychological Studies (Springer)*, 2017-19
- Associate, Taos Institute (USA), 2015 onwards
- Treasurer, National Academy of Psychology (NAoP), India 2015-2017
- Invited by the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) in 2012 and 2103 to join a Capacity Building Program on Disaster Mental Health in Beijing, China.
- Invited to serve on an expert panel set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC), India to redesign the syllabi of Bachelors and Masters courses in Psychology in India, 2017.