

# Notes on Contributors

**Danny Burns** is Team Leader of the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS. He was Professor of Social and Organisational Learning and co-Director of the SOLAR action research centre at the University of the West of England. Prior to that he worked at the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol. Danny has been Director of the Tenant Participation Advisory Service, Scotland, and the Decentralisation Research and Information Centre. He is author of *Systemic Action Research: A Strategy for Whole System Change* (Policy Press 2007).

**Robert Chambers** is a Research Associate in the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS. His field experience has been mainly in East Africa and South Asia. He is the author of *Rural Development: Putting the Last First* (Prentice Hall 1983). His current concerns and interests include professionalism, power, the personal dimension in development, participatory methodologies, participatory teaching and learning with large numbers, seasonality, and Community-Led Total Sanitation.

**Blane Harvey** is a Research Fellow with the IDS Climate Change Team. He holds a PhD in Education and International Development from McGill University. Blane's work critically examines knowledge production, validation and dissemination processes within climate change, and culturally appropriate strategies and technologies for learning and knowledge sharing in the global South with a focus on North–South partnerships and inter-institutional cooperation. He is currently conducting research on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), communications, and social learning in participatory North–South climate change initiatives, and on the potential of African community media to engage in action research and policy influence for climate justice.

**Alfredo Ortiz Aragón** is an Adjunct Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), where he designs and teaches courses and workshops on organisational sustainability,

human resource management, systemic thinking, proposal development and financial management of non-governmental organisations. He has worked for the last 12 years as an organisational development facilitator in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe, focusing on the linkages between organisational capacity and social change in complex environments. Alfredo is currently finishing his doctoral research at IDS, using action research to explore how capacity-building methodologies can support social change in complex and contested development realities.

**Katy Oswald** is a Research Officer in the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS. She is interested in participatory action research as a process to support reflective learning and action. She is currently on leave from IDS, undertaking research in Nicaragua for her PhD.

**Jethro Pettit** is a Research Fellow with the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS. He designs and facilitates transformative learning processes for social activists and development workers, aid organisations and university students. His interests include methodologies of participatory action research; critical, reflective and experiential learning; power analysis and empowerment; and participatory communication and social media – and their roles in social change, political mobilisation and state–society relations. Before joining IDS, Jethro worked for two decades with international non-governmental organisations, primarily in Latin America, and with various social movements in the USA and the UK. He is completing a doctorate on 'facilitating reflective learning' at the Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice, School of Management, University of Bath, UK.

**Frances Seballos** is a Research Officer at IDS specialising in climate change adaptation work. With 14 years of experience working in the field of climate change adaptation, environmental

conservation and community-based decision-making, Fran's interests lie at the interface between human development and natural resource management. Her recent research focuses on the impact of climate and disasters on social and ecological systems, the role of decentralised governance and participatory decision-making, and understanding processes that influence policy change.

**Thomas Tanner** is a Research Fellow at IDS specialising in climate change adaptation and its links to poverty and development. He has been engaged for 15 years with environment and development issues as a researcher, practitioner, policymaker and negotiator on UN climate change and desertification conventions. His work centres on the implications of climate change impacts and response strategies for poverty, vulnerability and social justice. Specific interests include tools for mainstreaming climate change into development cooperation, child-centred

approaches to disaster risk reduction and adaptation, organisational responses to climate change, and the political economy of climate change responses.

**Joanna Wheeler** is a Research Fellow in the Participation, Power and Social Change Team at IDS. She has over 15 years' experience of research on citizenship, power and accountability, and violence, with a strong emphasis on participatory methodologies and communication. Her current research is on the gender dimensions of xenophobic violence in Cape Town, and the relationship between citizens and informal institutions at the local level and the prospects for greater democracy. Her current research interests include agency and citizenship in contexts of violence, accountability and power, participatory research methodologies, communication for social change, and global collaborative research networks.