

## **Sunder Ramaswamy – A Brief Bio**

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Sunder Ramaswamy is Officiating Director and Visiting Distinguished Professor at the Madras School of Economics (Chennai). He is currently on a sabbatical from Middlebury College, where he is a Distinguished College Professor of International Economics. He is also an Associate Fellow of CIRANO (Montreal, Canada).

From January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2015 he served as the President and Frederick C. Dirks Professor of International Economics at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, A Graduate School of Middlebury College. At the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), he oversaw an ambitious academic reorganization, a successful completion of the merger of MIIS with Middlebury College (June 30, 2010), handover of the reaccreditation process from WASC to NEASC (including a successful 10 year combined NEASC reaccreditation in 2011-12), accelerated fund raising, budgets in the black for 8 straight years including healthy surpluses for every year since 2009, and increased Institutional visibility. During his tenure, the Institute successfully launched new graduate degree programs in nonproliferation and terrorism studies (NPTS), international education management (IEM), and international trade and economic diplomacy (ITED), as well as three new research centers (the Center for the Blue Economy, the Center for Conflict Studies, and the Center for Social Impact Learning), a Cyber Security initiative, and a number of other innovative initiatives. The Institute also completed an ambitious facilities' Master Plan to develop the Campus over the next decade.

He currently serves as Vice Chair and a member of the Executive Committee of The Asia Foundation, the largest U.S. based international development non-profit organization focused on Asia; he also serves on the Council of Advisers for the American International School in Chennai. Prior Board service include Co-Chair, Higher Education Research Cluster (Monterey County), Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International School of Monterey (a K-8 Public Charter International Baccalaureate School in Seaside, California), the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non Proliferation, and an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, A Graduate School of Middlebury College (Monterey, California).

In 2011, the Monterey County Business Council awarded him with their 2011 Economic Vitality Award in the "Education" category. In 2014, the Monterey County Weekly, on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, recognized him as "one of the 25 local game changing leaders in Monterey, California". In 2014, he, along with his wife, Varna, was honored by the International School of Monterey (California) on National Philanthropy Day. That same year, an anonymous donor gave a 7-figure gift to endow the "Sunder and Varna Ramaswamy Scholarship Fund" at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

Over the past 25 years he has held visiting positions at the Madras School of Economics (India, including a position as the Director of MSE from 2003-2005), Vanderbilt University (USA), Institute of Financial Management and Research (India), Purdue University (USA), and the World Bank (USA). His principal fields of specialization are Development Economics, International Economics, Issues in Applied Microeconomics, and Quantitative Methods. He has been involved with World Bank projects on various aspects of economic reforms in India. In the past he has also been associated with USAID and INTSORMIL projects on agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. His academic work has been supported by grants from the S.W. Davis Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the Kellogg

Foundation. He has also been a consultant to UNCTAD, UNIDO and United Nations University on specific development economics projects.

His research interests are in the areas of development economics (focus on sustainable development, technological change, and financial sector reforms), international economics (trade liberalization, trade and development issues), and applied microeconomics. He has contributed many chapters in various books and articles either published or forthcoming in journals such as *Agricultural Economics*, *Agricultural Systems*, *Applied Economics*, *Comparative Economic Studies*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economics Letters*, *Environment*, *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, and *Outlook on Agriculture*.

His co-edited books include *Development and Democracy: New Perspectives on an Old Debate*, with Jeffrey Cason (University Press of New England, 2003) and *Social Capital and Economic Development: Well-Being in Developing Countries*, with Jonathan Isham and Thomas Kelly, (Edward Elgar Publishers, 2002). He was also one of the Series editors (with Michael Geisler and Neil Waters) of the *Middlebury College Bicentennial Series on International Studies* published by the University Press of New England (1999-2004). His other co-authored books include *The Economics of Agricultural Technology in Semiarid Sub-Saharan Africa*, with John H. Sanders and Barry I. Shapiro (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, 1997); and *Economics: An Honors Companion*, with Kailash Khandke, Jenifer Gamber and David Colander (MaxiPress, Richard D. Irwin Publishers, 1995). He is currently working on a manuscript on Indian economic reforms.

His teaching interests include Development Economics, International Economics, Economics Literacy and Microeconomic Theory. He has received a number of awards and recognitions for his teaching at both Purdue University and Middlebury College, including the “Marjorie Lamberti Faculty Appreciation Award” in 2003. He has also served as advisor/reader to over 85 undergraduate honors theses in Economics, International Politics & Economics, and International Studies; over 35 Masters’ theses in Economics; and has been associated with over 20 award-winning Honors’ theses.

He has presented at international conferences in Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, and Zimbabwe. He has also given talks in over 100 invited seminars, and conference/workshop settings in India and USA. Articles featuring him and/or his views on various economics topics have appeared in the popular media (International and Indian) such as, *Access Monterey Peninsula (AMP Media)*, *The Addison Independent*, *Asia Times Online*, *The Californian*, *China Central TV*, *The Deccan Chronicle*, *The Diplomatist*, *The Economic Times*, *Education World*, *The Hindu*, *Hindu Business Line*, *India Abroad*, *Indian Express*, *India Today*, *India West*, *Industrial Economist*, *The Monterey Herald*, *The Monterey County Weekly*, *The New Indian Express*, *Rediff.com*, *SIFY.com*, *Time (Asia & Europe editions)*, and *Vermont Public Radio*.

In 2002, he was appointed the Frederick C. Dirks Distinguished Professor of International Economics at Middlebury College. At Middlebury, he also served as the Vice Provost of the Middlebury – Monterey Integration Task Force (2007-2008), Dean for Faculty Development and Research, (2007 – 2008); Acting Dean of the Faculty (2006-07), the Chair of the economics department for three terms from 1996 – 2003.

He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University (USA) in 1991, an M.A. in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics (India), and B.A. (Honors) in Economics from St. Stephen’s College, University of Delhi (India), where he secured record marks and topped the University in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and overall secured the 4<sup>th</sup> position in the B.A (Honours) examinations (1981-1984). He also secured the 5<sup>th</sup> position in the Central Board of Secondary Education (India) National Class 12<sup>th</sup> examinations (Science group).