

Brief Bio-sketch

Kaushik Basu

Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and the C. Marks Professor of International Studies at the Department of Economics, Cornell University, and the Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development at Cornell. He has held visiting positions at CORE (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), and the London School of Economics, where he was Distinguished Visitor in 1993. He has been Visiting Professor at Harvard University (Economics Department)-2004, Princeton University (Economics Department)-1989-91, and M.I.T. (Economics Department)-2001-02. In 1992 he founded the Centre for Development Economics in Delhi and was its first Executive Director. He is also a founding member of the Madras School of Economics. He is Editor of **Social Choice and Welfare**, and served on the Editorial Boards of the **Journal of Economic Perspectives**, **Journal of Development Economics**, **World Bank Economic Review** and other journals. A Fellow of the Econometric Society and a recipient of the Mahalanobis Memorial Award for contributions to economics, Kaushik Basu has published widely in the areas of Development Economics, Industrial Organization, Game Theory and Welfare Economics. His books include **Analytical Development Economics** (1997, MIT Press), **Prelude to Political Economy: A Study of the Social and Political Foundations of Economics** (2000, Oxford University Press) and **Of People, Of Places: Sketches from an Economist's Notebook** (1994, Oxford University Press). Professor Basu has also contributed popular articles to magazines and newspapers, such as **The New York Times**, **Scientific American**, **India Today** and **Business Standard**. From January 2004 he has become a once-a-month columnist for BBC Online.

His current research spans, essentially, three broad fields: 1. International labor standards, including the problem of child labor. This is an area that is of interest to academic economists and more so to policy makers in national governments and international organizations, such as the ILO and the World Bank. 2. The problem of evaluating inter-generational streams of returns. This work is abstract and theoretical and, as such of no *immediate* policy implications. Nevertheless, our environmental policies are greatly dependent on our implicit welfare judgments on returns that accrue to future generations and the work could be of practical significance in the long run. 3. Decision-making and rationality on the part of individuals and in the household. This leads to interesting questions of gender and agency with implications for the design of anti-poverty programs and also interesting conceptual questions concerning strategic decision-making.