

Dept of Social Science – Job Talk

International Development Studies (IDS)

Omar Faruque

Date:

Tuesday,
April 30

Times:

Research
10:00 am
– 11:30 am

Teaching
2:00 pm
– 3:30 pm

Location:
822 Ross
South

All sessions will be
open to faculty &
students.

Light refreshments
will be provided.

Market Reforms, Resource Extraction, and Social Movement in Bangladesh



Research Presentation Abstract: This paper analyzes social movements against market-oriented energy policy reforms and resource extraction projects in Bangladesh. Scholarship on contested market reforms in the Global South considers these social protests through Polanyi's theory of double movement. This scholarship, although helpful in analyzing anti-corporate social protests in the neoliberal era, offers little about the Bangladeshi case of market reforms and the oppositional mobilizations responding to these reforms. I draw on the scholarship on political economy and institutional causes of development and social movement studies to make nuanced sense of these mobilizations. I argue it is not market reform (i.e., the neoliberal orthodoxy of the Washington Consensus) per se that triggers anti-corporate social movements. Extractive political institutions and the corruption of political and bureaucratic elites are more significant drivers. More specifically, activists' perception that extractive political institutions, a corollary of a specific political settlement, fail to reap the ostensible benefits of market reform for the masses shapes their framing of grievances and their movement agenda.

M. Omar Faruque (PhD) is a course instructor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Previously he was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Dhaka. His main areas of research and teaching interests are political sociology, development sociology, and environmental sociology. His current research is concerned with social movements, environmental politics, resource extraction, and the political economy of neoliberal development. He has published articles in *Social Movement Studies*, *Asian Journal of Political Science*, *The Extractive Industries and Society*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, and *Bangladesh Unnayan Shamikkhaya*.