

Trimita Chakma

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Indigenous feminist researcher, organiser and facilitator from the Chakma hill tribe of Bangladesh, with over 15 years' experience in social movement organising. Since 2012 she has specialised in Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) to strengthen movements and evidence-based policy advocacy across women's rights, climate and environmental justice, labour rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, land rights and water governance, working with community organisers and activists across Asia, Africa, the Pacific and Latin America. Co-founder of [FPAR Academy](http://fparacademy.com), a digital platform for feminist political education, research and action that has trained 60+ practitioners across many countries. Strong record of academic, policy and practitioner publications, training manuals and toolkits. Native Chakma and Bengali speaker, fluent in English; PhD candidate at Edith Cowan University and holder of an MA in Asian Women's Studies.

SELECTED CONSULTING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Trust, Inclusion & Accountability Collaborative (TAI)	USA
Consultant	2025–2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender-Just Economy Learning Community Lead (<i>maternity cover</i>): Strategic and operational leadership for a funder collaborative (Ford, Hewlett, OSF, Wellspring): learning calls, knowledge products and the 2026 Festival of Ideas.Authored Changing the Rules of the Game: A Funder's Guide to Advancing Women's Substantive Political Participation, with practitioner consultations and a validation forum.	
Global Network for Social Justice & Digital Resilience (DRN) / Derechos Digitales	LatAm & Africa
PAR Methodological Advisor	Apr–Nov 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Methodological guidance and accompaniment to four organisations (Derechos Digitales, Instituto Nupef, SocialTIC, CIPESA) designing participatory action research case studies; authoring a methodological guide.	
International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)	USA
Research Consultant	Oct 2025–Jun 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Global research quantifying funding disparities for Indigenous Peoples and the impact of aid declines, informing advocacy and funder strategy.	
Global Fund for Women (GFW)	USA
Strategy Development and Review	Aug 2025–Mar 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led evaluation of the FY2024–26 strategy and co-facilitated participatory development of the FY2027–30 framework.	
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)	Asia-Pacific
Consultant	Jan–Mar 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed the <i>Women's Human Rights Impact Assessment (WHRIA) Toolkit</i> for grassroots organisations facing large-scale development projects (dams, mining, plantations, land acquisition).	
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Denmark
Lead Evaluator – Indigenous Navigator	Apr–Jun 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led multi-country, rights-based final evaluation across Colombia, Cameroon and Nepal, centring community perspectives.	
Global Fund for Children (GFC)	USA
Learning Partner	Aug 2023–Jun 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accompanied the youth-led Spark Fund (Southeast Asia, climate justice) to generate evidence on participatory grantmaking with young people.	
Women's Fund Asia	Sri Lanka
Facilitator, Leading from the South	2024–2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-led planning, facilitation and documentation across regional and final programme convenings of up to 25 feminist organisations (GBV, SRHR, climate and economic justice).	
Solidarity Center	USA
Labour Climate Alliance Workshop Development	Jan–Mar 2025

- Developed facilitation guide and materials for cross-movement coalition building workshops among union, civil society, and environmental activists in Bangladesh’s garment sector, focusing on intersectional approaches to climate adaptation strategies and labour justice advocacy through stakeholder analysis and power mapping methodologies.
- IWRAW Asia Pacific** Asia-Pacific
Consultant 2021–2025
 - Designed and delivered feminist participatory training on gender equality and macroeconomics; authored the [Gender Equality and Macroeconomics \(GEM\) Training Manual](#) and a women workers’ organising toolkit for SE Asia.
- South Feminist Futures** South Africa
Consultant – South Feminist Manifesto (SFF) Project Manager May 2023–Dec 2024
 - Led the strategic development of the [South Feminist Manifesto](#), including designing the methodology, coordinating the governance group, co-facilitating transnational and multilingual consultations, overseeing the drafting process and co-editing of the manifesto.
- Oxfam International** Global
FPAR Expert & Author 2021–2023
 - Trained partners to integrate FPAR into water governance work; authored the briefing [Grounding Women’s Land Rights: Towards equity and climate justice](#) and led the [Toolkit of Methods for Feminist Participatory Action Research](#).
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)** Asia
Consultant – Intersectionality Guidebook Sep–Dec 2022
 - Developed *An Intersectionality Guidebook for Social Movements Organisations in Asia and the Pacific* in collaboration with Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF) Consortium for integrating intersectional approaches into their advocacy, programming and movement building work.
 - Co-authored [A position paper on Indigenous women’s role in water governance in Asia](#) in the context of the climate crisis, environmental degradation, and harmful development practices based on desk research and sub-regional consultations with AIPP members.
- ActionAid International** Global
Lead Researcher / Consultant 2020–2024
 - Led gender-lens climate and conflict data analysis in DRC, Nigeria and Somaliland and feminist climate research on [Women confronting loss and damage in Africa: Feminist climate justice research from Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia](#); developed a decolonisation framework; supported the Feminist Humanitarian Network’s research with women’s rights organisations responding to crisis; authored a rapid assessment of [the impact of Covid-19 on young women](#)” living in 22 informal settlement areas in India, Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa.
- Plan International Australia** Kiribati
FPAR Training Expert Mar 2021–Jun 2024
 - Developed and facilitated participatory data modules for the [Pacific Girls in a Changing Climate](#) project in Kiribati in partnership with Edith Cowan University and Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN).
- Porticus** Netherlands
Consultant Aug 2023–Jun 2024
 - Co-authored the report [Expanding Our Understanding of Evidence for Meaningful Participation](#), in partnership with Closer Than You Think.
- Korea Foundation for Women** South Korea
Lead Research Consultant Aug–Dec 2023
 - Designed the methodology and led a multi-country landscape study of three women’s funds (KFW, HER Fund, SAWF-IN), guiding local researchers and authoring the synthesis report.
- Girls Not Brides** UK
Evaluation Consultant Jun–Oct 2023
 - Led methodology design and co-authored the [External Evaluation of Girls Not Brides’ Learning Work 2020-2023](#).
- Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)** Global
Consultant – Technical Guidance And Data Mapping Aug 2022–Aug 2023
 - Provided technical guidance and data mapping at the nexus of gender and environment for Gender and Environment Data Alliance.

EDUCATION

Edith Cowan University	Perth, Australia
PhD candidate (part-time) , School of Arts and Humanities	2025–2031
<i>Topic: Refusing Sacrifice, Resurging Life: Indigenous Women’s Organising Against the Coloniality of Energy in the Philippines and Bangladesh</i>	
Ewha Womans University	Seoul, South Korea
MA, Asian Women’s Studies (Research track)	2020–2022
Carnegie Mellon University, H. John Heinz III College	Pennsylvania, USA
MSc, Information Technology Management (Distinction)	2008
Constructor University (formerly Jacobs University Bremen)	Bremen, Germany
BSc, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	2002–2005

SELECTED EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD)	Chiang Mai, Thailand
<i>Research, Publications & Communications Associate/Officer</i>	Oct 2014–Feb 2020
Supported 85+ of grassroots organisations across 22 countries through the Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) programme to strengthen feminist movements in the region.	

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Academic literature:

- Chakma, T. (2026). Beyond borders and classrooms: Conceptualizing transnational feminist pedagogical praxis. In D. Chakravarty, S. L. Vandermeade, & S. Banerjee (Eds), [Transnational feminist pedagogies: Meanings, methods, and experiences](#) (pp. 102–116). Routledge.
- Chakma, T., Godden, N. J., Naidu, K., Sinumlag, A., & Paw, N. H. L. (2023). Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) for Transnational Feminism in Asia. In M. Call-Cummings, M. Hauber-Özer, & G. P. Dazzo, *The Routledge International Handbook of Critical Participatory Inquiry in Transnational Research Contexts* (1st ed., pp. 9–27). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003207672-3>
- Godden, N. J., Chakma, T., & Naidu, K. (2023). Feminist Participatory Action Research: A methodology for ecosocial justice. In R. Forbes & K. Smith (Eds.), *Ecosocial work practice* (pp. 123–134). NASW Press. <https://naswpress.org/product/53675/ecosocial-work>
- Godden, N. J., Chakma, T., & Jenkins, A. (2023). Ecofeminist Participatory Action Research for Planetary Health. In P. Liamputtong (Ed.), *Handbook of Social Sciences and Global Public Health* (pp. 1–24). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96778-9_47-1
- Godden, N., MacNish, P., Chakma, T. & Naidu, K. (2020). [Feminist Participatory Action Research as a tool for Climate Justice](#). *Gender & Development*, 28(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2020.1842040>

Grey literature:

- Kiribati Climate Action Network, Godden, N.J., Naidu, K., Chakma, T., Leviston, Z., Nailevu, M., Alofa, P., Merryweather, J., Karoro, R., Hu, J., Scott, P., Wrigley, K. (2024). [Pacific Girls in a Changing Climate](#). Plan International Australia and Edith Cowan University Centre for People, Place and Planet.
- Chakma, T. (2024). [Our Land & Water: Regional Feminist Participatory Action Research \(FPAR\) Report \[Breaking Out of Marginalisation Programme 2018-2020\]](#). Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD).
- Chakma, T., Rigg S., and Ramsay A. (2022). [Women confronting loss and damage in Africa: Feminist climate justice research from Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia](#). ActionAid International.

SKILLS & MEMBERSHIPS

Languages: Native Chakma and Bengali; fluent English; conversant in Hindi and Urdu; elementary Spanish, German and Korean.

Advisory roles: Advisor, Strengthening Feminist Movements Programme, Women's Fund Asia; member of the Data Advisory Group, Gender & Environment Data Alliance (GEDA).

Memberships: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) member, Centre for People, Place & Planet, Edith Cowan University; International Sociological Association (ISA); Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE).