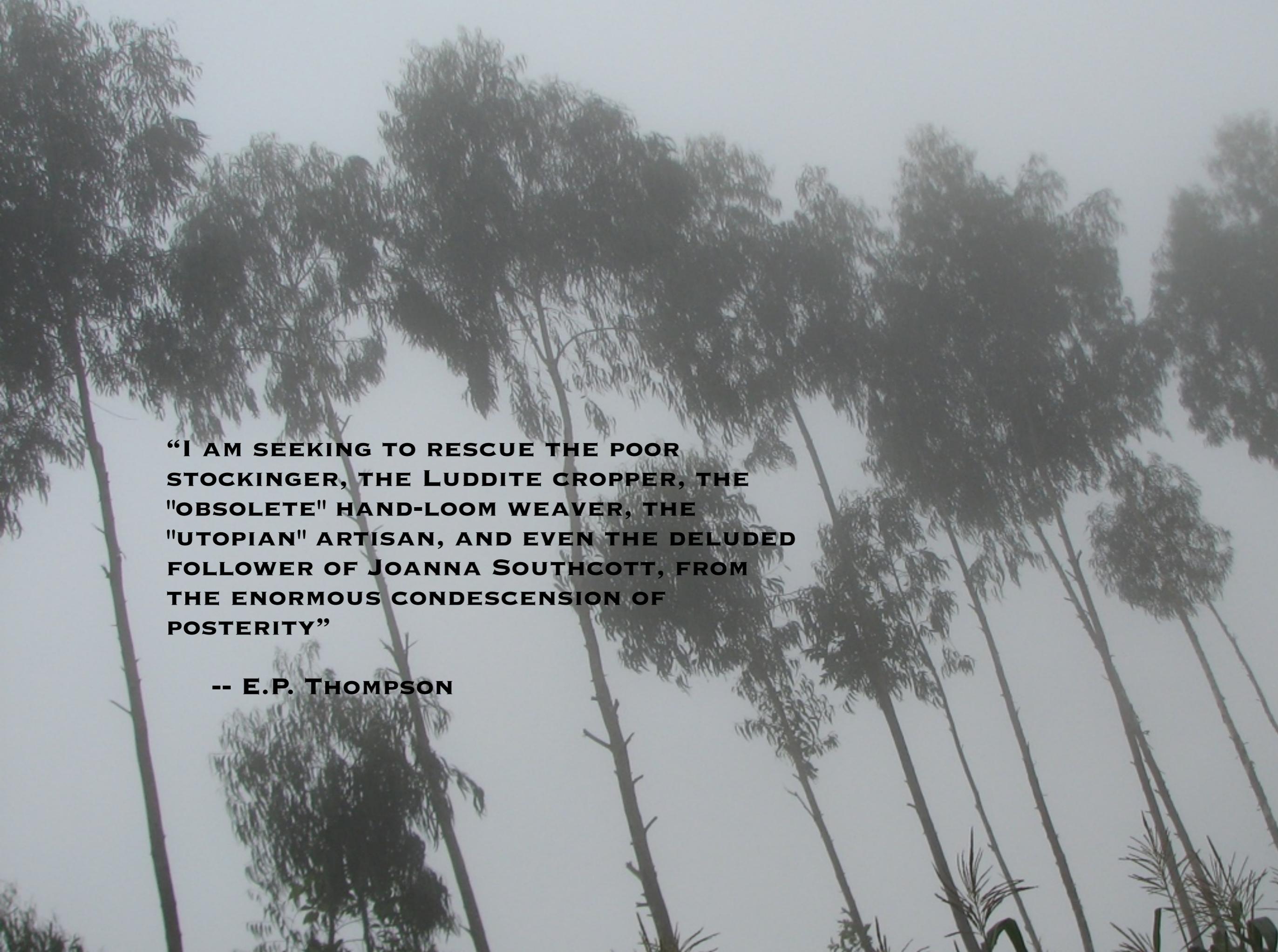


# THE POLITICS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION CASES FROM INDIA AND CHINA



NIDHI SRINIVAS  
DECEMBER 1, 2012

WITH THANKS TO SEVA MANDIR; THE INDIA CHINA INSTITUTE;  
AND MS. YANG SHUO



**“I AM SEEKING TO RESCUE THE POOR  
STOCKINGER, THE LUDDITE CROPPER, THE  
"OBSOLETE" HAND-LOOM WEAVER, THE  
"UTOPIAN" ARTISAN, AND EVEN THE DELUDED  
FOLLOWER OF JOANNA SOUTHCOTT, FROM  
THE ENORMOUS CONDESCENSION OF  
POSTERITY”**

**-- E.P. THOMPSON**

# SOCIAL INNOVATION

- **“NEW IDEAS...**

- **THAT WORK IN MEETING SOCIAL GOALS” GEOFF MULGAN**

- **“NEW CONCEPTS, STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES, PRODUCTS, PROCESSES, OR ORGANIZATIONS**

- **MEET PRESSING SOCIAL NEEDS**

- **PROFOUNDLY CHANGE THE BASIC ROUTINES, RESOURCE AND AUTHORITY FLOWS, OR BELIEFS” BIGGS, WESTLEY, AND CARPENTER**

## **SOUTH-WEST RAJASTHAN**

**I. SEMI-ARID; HILLY TERRAIN, FORESTS; SHARED RANGELANDS;  
CONCENTRATED GROUNDWATER RESERVES;**

**II. DEFORESTATION, ENCROACHMENT, DEPLETING/DEGRADED WATER**

**III. RESPONSES:**

- **VILLAGE COLLECTIVES; SUBSIDIZED PUMPS; CLEANING DEGRADED WATER**

**IV. CO-MANAGEMENT**

- **NGOS SUCH AS SEVA MANDIR WORK WITH VILLAGE GROUPS**





**WEST YUNNAN, GAOLIGONG SHAN**

**I. SEMI-HUMID; MOUNTAINOUS;**

**THICKLY FORESTED; HIGH BIODIVERSITY**

**II. DEFORESTATION, ENCROACHMENT**

**III. RESPONSES:**

**COMMUNITY MONITORING;**

**ALTERNATE INCOME SOURCES**

**IV. CO-MANAGEMENT BY**

**GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, VILLAGES, DUTCH FUNDING**

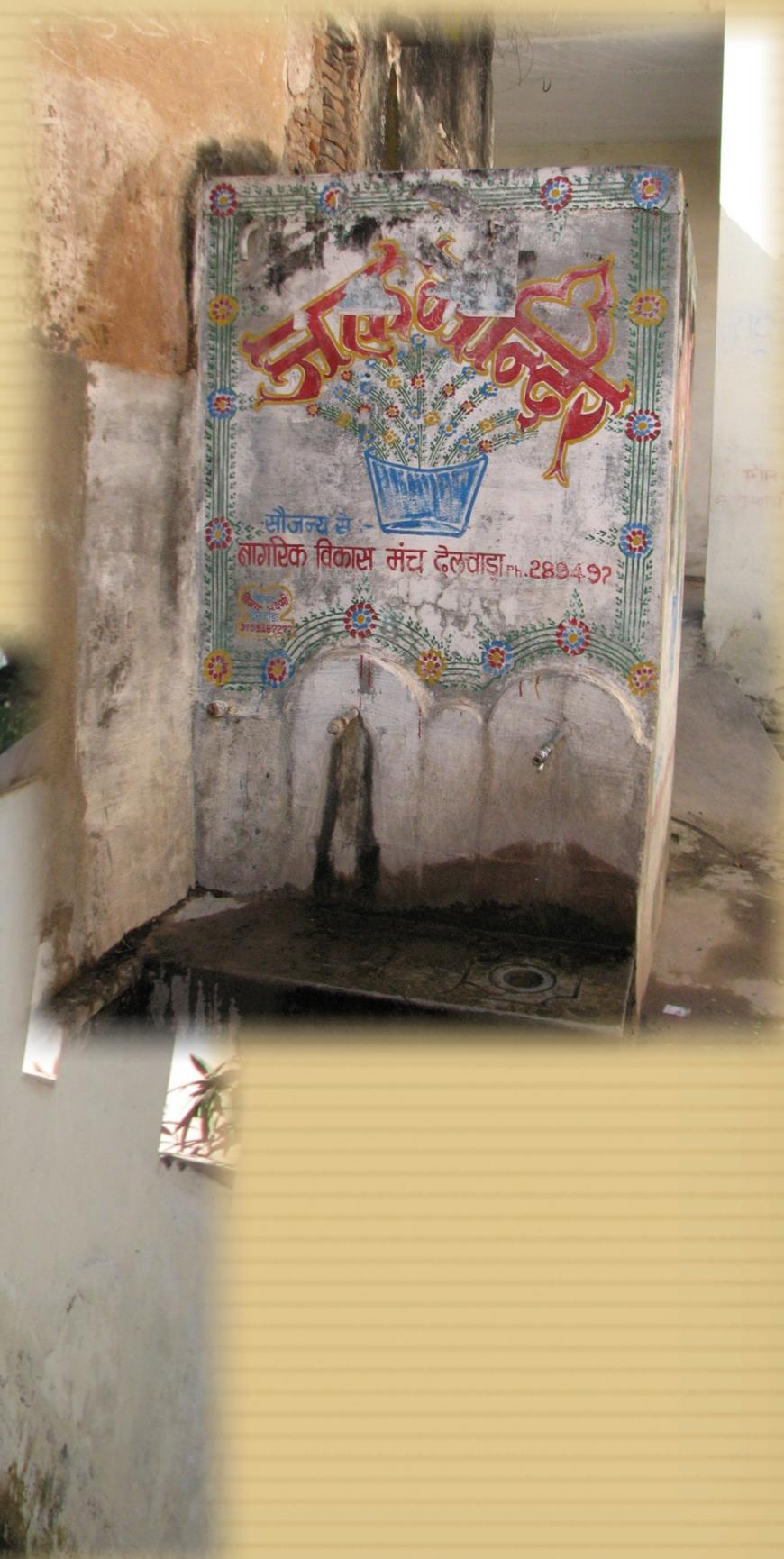


**pump sharing groups**



beehives, stoves...

working groups monitor shared water sources





community forest  
wardens



forest-use councils

# SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

- **CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE**

- LONG-TERM LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

- **RELY ON CO-MANAGEMENT**

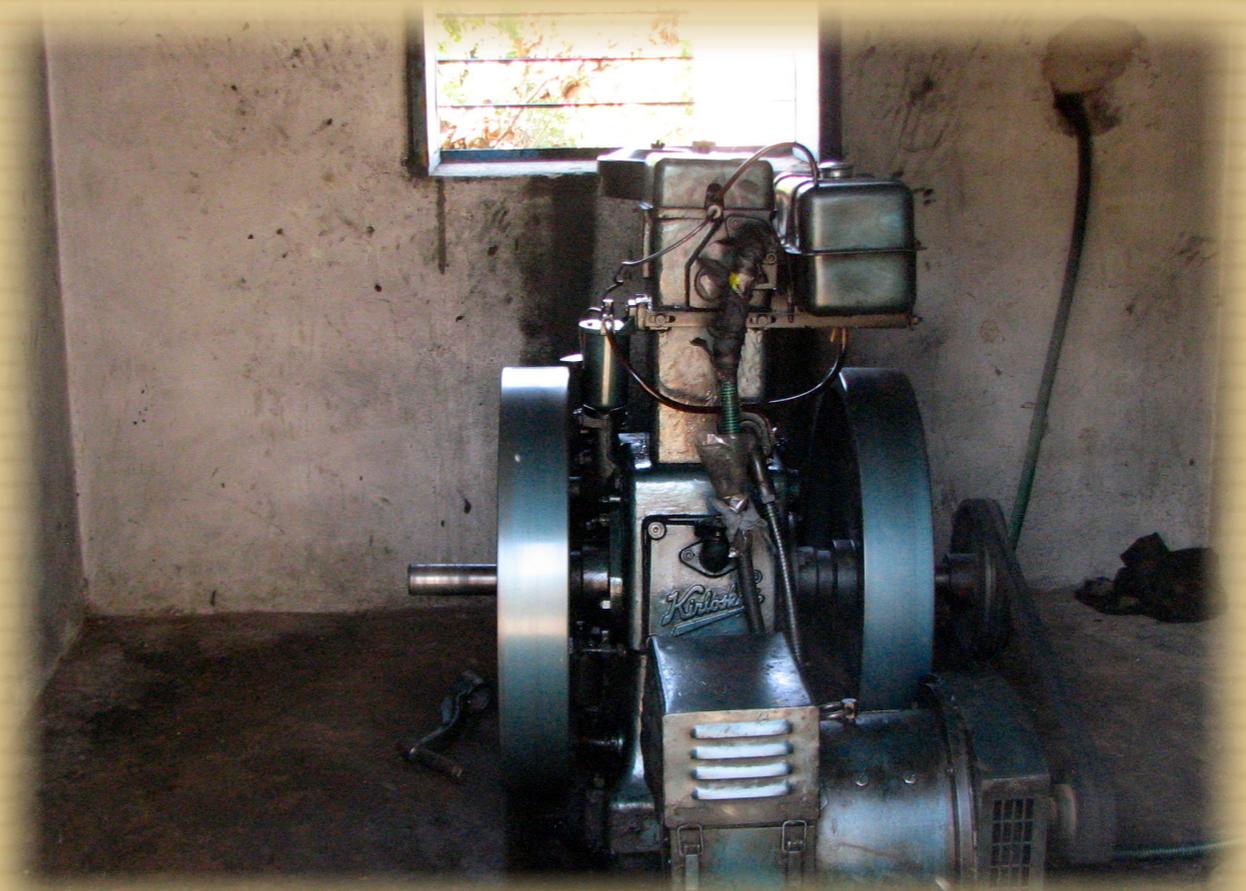
- NETWORKS OF NGOs, WORK WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS, MOBILIZE LOCAL PEOPLE
- REQUIRE STATE ACTORS WILLING TO COMMIT

- **DEMONSTRATE ASSOCIATIONAL DIVERSITY**

- A VARIETY OF GROUPS MOBILIZE ECOLOGICAL RESPONSE



they also generate politics



# ORIGINS: SOCIAL INNOVATION

## ■ EXISTED FOR OVER A CENTURY

- ORIGINATES IN FEARS OF SOCIALISM

- GUIZOT: TOUS LES PARTIS POLITIQUES, TOUS LES NOVATEURS SOCIAUX, TOUTES LES PASSIONS, TOUTES LES IDÉES, TOUS LES RÊVES RÉVOLUTIONNAIRES, APPARURENT DANS CETTE ANARCHIE

## ■ SHIFTS IN MEANING

- FROM SOCIALISM TO SOCIAL REFORM

- SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS TO TECHNOLOGICAL GROWTH

- TO JUST 'SOMETHING NEW'

## ■ INITIALLY ANTI CAPITALIST, TO BE ABJURED

- BUT NOW IT STANDS FOR EFFORTS SUPPORTIVE OF CAPITALISM



so there are multiple stories:  
on innovation  
on how to respond to the  
current ecological crises

“I will part with the water only at the point of a gun”



“If you cannot give us more funds then we prefer to receive none, it is causing disharmony:

# SUCH STORIES POINT TO A PARTICULAR POLITICS

## ■ CONTESTATION

- WHAT IS DEEMED TO BE IN COMMON?
- WHAT CAN WE AGREE UPON BECAUSE WE SHARE A COMMON SPACE?
- HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THE INHERENT ANTAGONISMS THAT EMERGE FROM SUCH SHARING?

## ■ CONTRADICTIONS

- MOMENTS OF “DRAMATIC RUPTURE”
- THAT SIGNIFY THE POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE PREVAILING MARKET FRIENDLY SETTING