

## **Lyla Mehta**

My area of interest is resource scarcity and how it has been conceptualised, contested, naturalised and politicised by different actors. I began this enquiry in Kutch, a drought prone but also maritime region in western India where I studied how scarcity had moved from being something that is cyclical and temporal to something that is now 'natural' and permanent. I am interested in engaging with historical meteorological records in the Indian Ocean World in order to investigate patterns of scarcity and abundance and whether these are in sync (or not) with dominant perceptions of climate change and environmental crisis. I would also be interested in understanding more about indigenous / local and colonial strategies to combat scarcity, drought, famine and uncertainty.