

Institute of World Culture
Biography



Speaker: Dr. Mary Jacob

Dr. Mary Jacob is the Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a cultural geographer whose regional focus has been on South Asia and Africa. She developed her interest in the role of culture in mediating women's varied relationships with the environment while attending the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum in connection with the UN Decade Conference for Women in Kenya in 1985. At that time she met a number of women environmental activists including Wangari Maathai and visited some of the Green Belt Movement sites. She also attended the Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, an international Women's NGO Conference that prepared an environmental action agenda for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Dr. Jacob has participated in the Fulbright Program for International Education Administrators in Japan, conducted research in cultural geography in India and Ethiopia and taught a variety of courses related to environment, population growth and development at Mount Holyoke College and UCSB.

Dr. Jacob authored the legislation that became California's state International Education Policy in 2002. An active member of NAFSA Association of International Educators, she has held a number of leadership positions at the national and regional level working to promote learning and scholarship through international exchange.

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