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## **A biographical note in honour of Sanjaya Lall**

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Sanjaya Lall was Professor of Development Economics at Oxford University and a global authority on industrial development. He died unexpectedly in Oxford on 18 June 2005. Over a career that spanned more than 350 major publications, with others in process at the time of his death, Sanjaya contributed fundamentally to understanding the dynamics of the manufacturing sector's growth in developing countries. Multinational corporations and direct foreign investment were the initial foci of his attention. His first major work, with Paul Streeten, was *Foreign Investment, Transnationals, and Developing Countries* (Lall and Streeten, 1977), which conclusively demonstrated that multinationals and direct foreign investment were a strongly positive force in economic development, contrary to the tenets of dependency theory, then a major influence in the development field.

Shortly thereafter, Sanjaya turned his main attention to the multiple ways in which technological capabilities are developed and deployed in accomplishing technological changes. Few at that time recognised the critical importance of capability building. It was then thought by most that the assimilation of technology could be taken for granted. In *Learning to Industrialize: The Acquisition of Technological Capability by India* (Lall, 1987), he conclusively demonstrated otherwise. His research on India proved to have a significant impact on Sanjaya's comprehension of industrialisation, from which he drew a profound understanding of the consequences of policy choices, factor accumulation and institutional development.

Over time, this understanding led to Sanjaya's becoming the pre-eminent advocate of a holistic approach to industrial development policy, one that integrated the various elements in a coherent strategy encompassing the roles of the public and private sectors to seize the development advantages inherent in globalisation. His continuing research maintained his stature as an authority on globalisation's role and on the implications of continuing global technological and institutional changes. In a series of books and articles, Sanjaya disseminated his findings of general consequence and applied his knowledge in important advisory pieces written for governments around the world.

Well known as an exceptionally able expositor and as a seemingly tireless professional, Sanjaya's consulting services were in high demand. Most prominently, he served as Senior Consultant to the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development, playing a major part in the production of several *World Investment Reports*. As Senior Consultant to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, he had a major hand in its first, pioneering *Industrial Development Report*. Among the many products of his consulting for the World Bank, none better exemplifies Sanjaya's analytical rigor and uncompromising intellectual integrity than *World Bank Support for Technology Development* (Lall and Najmabadi, 1993), written at the behest of the Operations Evaluation Department, in which the World Bank is strongly criticised for an excessively narrow and ineffectual approach to industrialisation.

Indeed, throughout his career, Sanjaya resisted the passing fads and fashions that have so dominated development economics. He was above all a pragmatist whose allegiance was to what seemed proven to have worked in achieving development. A proponent of trade as an engine of development, he was at the same time an advocate of strategic public intervention in markets. His subtle understanding of the seeming contradictions and tensions inherent in effective industrial policy informed the lessons that he drew from East Asian development in numerous writings over the years, as well as his advocacy of their application elsewhere, as seen in *Industrial Competitiveness in Africa: Lessons from East Asia* (Lall and Kraemer-Mbula, 2005).

Sanjaya was born in India and was raised there by his mother, a prominent barrister. He attended school in Patna, Bihar, graduating from St. Xavier's School and Patna University, where in 1960 he earned First Class Honours in Economics, ranking first in the university. Following his grandfather's example, he then came to Oxford, where he studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at St. John's College, achieving a double first in 1963. He continued on at St. John's to earn an MPhil in Economics in 1965.

Sanjaya began his professional career at the World Bank, leaving in 1968 to assume a junior research position at Oxford's Institute of Economics and Statistics, where he rose to Senior Research Officer. He subsequently took up the position of University Lecturer in Development Economics at Queen Elizabeth House and became Professor in 1999. He was a Fellow of Green College, Oxford, from 1982. Last year he was awarded honorary degrees by Nankai and Wuhan Universities in China.

A genuinely warm and caring individual, Sanjaya's hospitality was legendary among those in the field. One seldom visited him at office or home without encountering other visitors, always engaged with him in spirited discussions of topical matters. He had a pronounced impact on the careers and lives of his many masters and doctoral students, to whom he was an exceptionally nurturing mentor. They deeply suffer his loss, as do a host of collaborators and close colleagues around the world, who respected Sanjaya as a scholar and felt a close bond of reciprocal fondness with him as a human.

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