

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## **Dr. Sonam Dorji W**

*Paro College of Education*

*Royal University of Bhutan*

## **Industry/Professional Fellow**

*School of International Studies and Education*

*University of Technology Sydney, NSW, Australia*

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## **PROFISSIONAL PROFILE**

I am a teacher educator, researcher and academic leader with more than two decades of experience in higher education. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving Bhutan's only two Colleges of Education in academic and leadership roles, including Distance Education Coordinator, Programme Leader, and Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages. These experiences have deepened my understanding of teacher education and the importance of building strong academic communities through collaboration, research and continuous improvement.

I hold a PhD from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, and continue my engagement with the University as an Industry/Professional Fellow. My academic work has been recognised through inclusion on the University of Technology Sydney Chancellor's List, one of the University's highest academic honours, and the Faculty Thesis Award for doctoral research excellence.

I believe that effective academic leadership is ultimately about developing people and creating the conditions in which they can do their best work. I am interested in strengthening teaching, research and institutional capability, supporting the professional growth of colleagues, and fostering partnerships that enable colleges of education to respond thoughtfully to Bhutan's educational priorities while contributing to wider scholarly conversations.

## **EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

|                                              |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)                   | University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia. Year: 2021 – 2025                   |
| Master of Social Sciences (MSOC)             | University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW, Australia Year: 2006 – 2007                         |
| Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) | National Institute of Education (now Samtse College of Education) Samtse, Bhutan. Year: 2001 |

Bachelor of Education (BA)

Raid Laban College, North-Eastern Hill University,  
Meghalaya, India Year: 1997 – 2000

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## **ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**1. Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages (DRIL)**  
**Paro College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan**  
**June 2017 – March 2021**

Provided strategic leadership for the College's research, innovation and external engagement portfolio. The role involved strengthening research capacity, supporting scholarly publication, coordinating postgraduate research, fostering national and international partnerships, and contributing to institutional planning and policy development.

**2. Officiating Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages (DRIL)**  
**Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan**  
**August 2010 – November 2010**

Served as the Officiating Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages during the substantive Dean's study leave, providing leadership for the College's research and academic development portfolio while ensuring continuity in research, professional development and institutional initiatives.

**3. Programme Leader, B.Ed. Primary (Mixed Mode Programme)**  
**Paro College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan**  
**June 2010 – November 2012**

Provided academic and administrative leadership for the B.Ed. Primary Mixed Mode Programme, overseeing programme planning, curriculum implementation, academic quality, assessment coordination and student support to ensure effective programme delivery.

**4. Project Manager, Localisation of Moodle Project (IDRC Funded)**  
**Paro College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan**  
**September 2009 – December 2010**

Led the implementation and management of an International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-funded project, valued at Nu. 3.8 million, to localise the Moodle Learning Management System for the Bhutanese higher education context. The role included project planning, financial management, stakeholder coordination and collaboration with national and international partners to strengthen digital teaching and learning.

### **Selected Leadership Achievements**

- Successfully managed an externally funded project valued at Nu. 3.8 million from project inception to completion.
- Coordinated collaboration among national and international partners throughout project implementation.
- Led the first initiative to integrate the Dzongkha script into the Moodle interface, enhancing the accessibility and localisation of digital learning in Bhutan.

- Strengthened institutional capacity in the use of digital learning technologies through project planning, implementation and stakeholder engagement.

## **5. Distance Education Coordinator**

**Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan  
November 2008 – December 2009**

Coordinated the planning, delivery and quality assurance of the College's distance education programmes for in-service teachers. The role involved programme coordination, student support, liaison with partner schools and education offices, and strengthening systems for flexible and distance learning.

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## **TEACHING, RESEARCH SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM LEADERSHIP**

With more than two decades of experience in teacher education, I have taught across secondary schools and higher education, supervised undergraduate and postgraduate research, and led curriculum and programme development within the Royal University of Bhutan. My academic work has focused on strengthening teacher education through quality teaching, research supervision and curriculum innovation.

### **Teaching**

- More than two decades of teaching experience spanning secondary schools and higher education. Taught English and History in Bhutanese secondary schools (2002–2003) before joining teacher education, where I have taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including the Bachelor of Education (Primary and Secondary), Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PgDE), and Master of Education (M.Ed.), for both pre-service and in-service teachers.
- Taught courses in Research Methodology, Teaching Skills and Strategies, Dynamics of Change, History, Social Studies, and Action Research.
- Designed and delivered teaching through face-to-face, blended and distance learning approaches to support diverse learner needs.

### **Research Supervision**

- Supervised Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Management (M.Ed. ELM) dissertations to successful completion since 2013.
- Supervised undergraduate Action Research Projects (ARP) for final-year Bachelor of Education students since 2013.
- Guided students throughout the research process, including proposal development, research design, ethics, data collection and analysis, and dissertation writing.

### **Curriculum and Programme Leadership**

- Led the development of Social Studies modules for the revised Bachelor of Education (Primary) programme in 2018, subsequently endorsed by the 55th Programme and Quality Committee (PQC) in 2019.

- Led the development of the Master of Education in Social Studies curriculum and modules, strengthening postgraduate teacher education in Social Studies.
- Led the development and successful validation of the Bachelor of Education (Primary) Mixed Mode Programme in 2009.
- Led the design and development of the Bachelor of Education Distance Education Programme (2008–2009), expanding access to teacher education for in-service teachers.
- Developed ten History modules for the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) programme at Samtse College of Education in 2008.
- Developed two History modules for the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PgDE) at Samtse College of Education during 2007–2008.
- Contributed to the review and development of undergraduate and postgraduate modules across the Colleges of Education, including History, Social Studies, Introduction to Action Research, and Action Research Report.

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## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

My research focuses on teacher education, place based education, environmental citizenship, Educating for Gross National Happiness, curriculum studies, Bhutanese knowledge systems, educational leadership, and sustainability education. Through national and international collaborations, my scholarship seeks to generate contextually relevant knowledge that informs teacher education, curriculum development, educational policy, and sustainability education in Bhutan and beyond.

Dorji W., S., & Flowers, R. (2026). *From Ritual to Responsibility: Rethinking Environmental Citizenship in Bhutanese Schools*. *RABSEL*, 26(2). (In press).

Dorji W., S., & Flowers, R. (2026). *Beyond Global North Models: Centring Bhutan's Home-Grown Place-Based Education*. *Bhutan Journal of Research and Development*, 15(1), 1–21.

Dorji W., S. (2025). *Transforming Social Studies Education in Bhutan: Blending Spiritual Ecological and Modern Sustainability Knowledges for Environmental Citizenship* (Doctoral thesis, University of Technology Sydney, Australia). (Under embargo until 2027).

Hopwood, N., Pressick-Kilborn, K., Pant, B. P., Dhungana, P., Shrestha, D., Shahi, R., Dorji W., S., Wangchuk, T. K., Wangchuk, T., Zangmo, T., & Choden, S. (2024). *School-University Partnerships on the Edge of Possibility: Expansive Learning and Practice Transformation Across Australia, Nepal, and Bhutan*. In C. A. Green & M. J. Eady (Eds.), *Creating, Sustaining, and Enhancing Purposeful School-University Partnerships: Building Connections Across Diverse Educational Systems* (pp. 181–201). Springer.

Dorji W., S., & Flowers, R. (2023). *Why Did Fridays for Future Not Spread to Bhutan and Other Parts of the Global South? A Spiritual, Ecological and Middle Path Between Global and Local Climate Crisis Education*. *The Social Educator*, 41(2), 20–36.

- Samten Tharchen, & Dorji W., S. (2022). *Work and Contribution of Lam Gyalwang Nima to the Education System*. In *Buddhist Studies: Buddhist Masters' Contribution to the Foundation of Education in Bhutan*.
- Dorji W., S., Wangchuk, B., Wangpo, T., Karma, T., Dorji, S., Norbu, S., & Gyeltshen, D. (2019). *Situational Analysis of Global Citizenship Education in the Curricula of Bhutan*. *RABSEL: The CERD Educational Journal*, 20(2), 71–84.
- Dorji W., S., Wangchuk, B., Wangpo, T., Karma, T., Dorji, S., Norbu, S., & Gyeltshen, D. (2019). *Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education in Bhutan*.
- Tshomo, U., Dorji W., S., Wangchuk, D., & Tshering, K. (2018). *Perceptions and Experiences of Unplanned Pregnancies among University Students: A Case Study at Paro College of Education*. *RABSEL: The CERD Educational Journal*, 19(2), 103–199.
- Sherab, K., & Dorji W., S. (2015). *Research Teaching Nexus: Perceptions of the Royal University of Bhutan Faculty and Personal Experiences of Integrating Research into Teaching*. *RABSEL: The CERD Educational Journal*, 16(2).
- Gyeltshen, K., Rai, R., & Dorji W., S. (2015). *Culture and Change in Lotokuchu Community*. In K. Phuntsho (Ed.), *Twilight Cultures: Tradition and Change in Four Rural Communities in Bhutan* (pp. 89–129). Shejun Agency for Bhutan's Culture Documentation and Research.
- Dorji W., S. (2012). *Impact of ICT Support System through Localization of Moodle for the Distance Education Programme*. Report submitted to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), PAN/DLT (Asia).
- Dorji W., S. (2011). *Baseline Study of ICT Support System for Distance Education Programme*. Report submitted to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), PAN/DLT (Asia).
- Dorji W., S. (2009). *Distance Education Programme: Post Course Evaluation for In-service Students*. *Rig-ter*, 7(1), 55–67.
- Wangdi, L., & Dorji W., S. *Expectation of Trainee Teachers in Teaching Health and Physical Education*. In *Support Teacher Education Programme*, 1, 49–69.

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## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

My international engagement has focused on building sustainable academic partnerships that strengthen teacher education, research, curriculum development, digital innovation, and institutional capacity. Through externally funded projects, international fellowships, collaborative research, and academic exchange, I have established and supported partnerships with universities and organisations across Asia, Europe, and Australia, contributing to the internationalisation of Paro College of Education and the Royal University of Bhutan.

- Appointed as Industry/Professional Fellow, School of International Studies and Education, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (2025–2028).
- Established sustained research collaborations with scholars from Australia, Nepal and Bhutan, resulting in peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and international research projects.
- Co-authored an international Springer book chapter on school–university partnerships involving researchers from Australia, Nepal and Bhutan.
- Led an International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada-funded project (Nu. 3.8 million) on the localisation of the Moodle Learning Management System, collaborating with the Virtual University of Pakistan, Wawasan Open University (Malaysia), and Universitas Terbuka (Indonesia). The project introduced the first Dzongkha interface for Moodle and strengthened digital learning and open and distance education within the Royal University of Bhutan.
- As Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages, served as the College Adviser and a Core Team Member for the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project, valued at €505,960 (approximately Nu. 40.3 million). The project successfully established Happiness and Wellbeing Centres across the constituent colleges of the Royal University of Bhutan, strengthening institutional capacity through international collaboration.
- Contributed to the UNESCO Bangkok-funded project, *Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education (GCED): Integration of GCED Core Competencies into Curricula across Three Key Stages in Bhutan* (2018–2019), implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The project supported the integration of Global Citizenship Education into Bhutanese curricula and teacher education and led to peer-reviewed publications on Global Citizenship Education in Bhutan.
- Contributed to a collaborative action research project on developing innovative pedagogies and enhancing the effectiveness of mathematics and science teaching in two schools in Paro, Bhutan. The project was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, strengthening school–university partnerships and classroom-based educational research.
- Initiated an academic partnership (2018–2019) through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) between Paro College of Education and Heidelberg University of Education (Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg), Germany. The partnership established staff and student exchange programmes, which continue to the present, and facilitated the award of a PhD scholarship to a faculty member, strengthening the College's internationalisation and academic capacity.
- Initiated an international student mobility programme with the University of New England, Australia, enabling pre-service teacher education students to undertake a two-week academic and school-based immersion programme at Paro College of Education and partner schools in Bhutan, promoting intercultural learning and professional exchange.
- Initiated an academic partnership with the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, through which the first cohort of eight pre-service teacher education students undertook academic exchange and school-based learning experiences at Paro College of Education and partner schools in Bhutan, establishing an international student mobility initiative in teacher education.

These international partnerships have strengthened the College's research culture, international engagement, academic exchange, and institutional collaboration while creating

sustained opportunities for staff development, student mobility, collaborative scholarship, and curriculum innovation.

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## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Throughout my academic career, I have contributed to the advancement of higher education in Bhutan through programme validation, curriculum quality assurance, external examining, curriculum development, and professional capacity building. These engagements have supported academic standards, programme enhancement, and institutional development across the Royal University of Bhutan and other higher education institutions.

### **Programme Validation and Academic Quality Assurance**

- Appointed by the Office of the Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan, as a Resource Checker for the validation of the B.A. Political Science and Sociology Programmes at Norbuling Rigter College (2019), contributing to programme quality assurance and academic standards.
- Expert Validation Panel Member, B.A. Political Science Programme, Norbuling Rigter College, Royal University of Bhutan (2019).
- Expert Review Panel Member, History Programme Review, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan (2018).
- Expert Validation Panel Member, Anthropology Programme, Royal Thimphu College (2017).
- Expert Validation Panel Member, History Programme, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan (2010).
- Expert Validation Panel Member, Political Science Programme, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan (2009).

### **External Examining**

- External Examiner, History Programme, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan (2010–2013), contributing to programme quality assurance, curriculum enhancement, and academic standards.

### **Professional Development and Capacity Building**

- Facilitated the national professional development programme, *The Art of Teaching Global Citizenship Education (GCED)*, for teachers across Bhutan (1–13 July 2019).
- Developed the training manual for *The Art of Teaching Global Citizenship Education (GCED)* (April–May 2019) to support teacher professional learning and classroom implementation.
- Facilitated a professional development workshop on *History of Buddhism in Bhutan* for licensed tourist guides at the Institute of Management Studies (IMS), Thimphu (2014).
- Facilitated professional development workshops on the Moodle Learning Management System for faculty members of Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan (2009), supporting the adoption of digital teaching and learning.



## AWARDS, HONOURS AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- Appointed as Industry/Professional Fellow, School of International Studies and Education, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (2025–2028), in recognition of sustained contributions to collaborative research, scholarship, and international academic partnership.
  - Included on the University of Technology Sydney Chancellor's List (2025), recognising outstanding doctoral graduates across the University.
  - Recipient of the Faculty Thesis Award, University of Technology Sydney (2025), recognising excellence in doctoral research.
  - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), University of Technology Sydney (2025), awarded without amendments following examination by two external examiners.
  - Recipient of the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship, University of Technology Sydney (2022–2025).
  - Awarded an Australian Government Fellowship through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 2016 to support international professional learning, institutional collaboration, and educational development in Australia.
  - Awarded the Support to Teacher Education Programme (STEP) Scholarship by the Royal Government of Bhutan in 2006 to pursue a Master's degree in Education at the University of Newcastle, Australia.
  - Awarded the 20 Years Civil Service Medal by the Royal Government of Bhutan in recognition of twenty years of dedicated and meritorious public service (2021).
  - Awarded the 10 Years Civil Service Medal by the Royal Government of Bhutan in recognition of ten years of dedicated and meritorious public service (2011).
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## CONFERENCES, INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Invited Speaker. *Beyond Imported Models of Place-Based Education from the Global North: Recognising Home-Grown Bhutanese Spiritual Ecology and Parallels with Indigenous Australian Learning from Country*. University of Technology Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 30 October 2025.
- Presenter. *Curriculum, Community and Beyond: Future Directions in Citizenship Education*. Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 19–20 April 2024.
- Presenter. *Intersections of Culture, Climate and Science: Innovations from Bhutanese Research in Australia*. Australia–Bhutan Research Conference, jointly organised by the University of Sydney and the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, University of Sydney, Australia, 4–5 December 2023.
- Presenter. *National Conference on Adolescent Sexuality and Wellbeing in the 21st Century*. Paro College of Education, Bhutan, 24 October 2019.
- Core Organising Committee Member. *7th International Art in Early Childhood Conference*. Bhutan, 15–18 April 2017.
- Presenter. *The 3rd International Conference of Creativity University (ICUN)*. Faculty of Traditional Medicine, Thimphu, Bhutan, 14–16 April 2014.
- Presenter. *Faculty Research Meet*. Samtse College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan, 5 June 2014.
- Presenter. *International Conference on Leveraging Cultural Diversity*. Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu, Bhutan, 3–4 June 2013.



- Presenter and Participant. *Open Distance Learning Conference and Workshop*. Universitas Terbuka, Jakarta, Indonesia, 5–6 July 2010.
- Invited speaker. *Capacity Building on Open Distance Learning (ODL)*. Wawasan Open University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14–16 September 2009.
- Invited speaker. *IDRC–PANdora Capacity Building Workshop*. Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia, 8–13 September 2008.

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## RESEARCH GRANTS AND COMPETITIVE FUNDING

- College Adviser and Core Team Member, *Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Project: Establishment of Happiness and Wellbeing Centres in the Constituent Colleges of the Royal University of Bhutan* (2020–2023). Funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ (€505,960; approximately Nu. 40.3 million).
- Research Team Member, *Preparing Teachers for Global Citizenship Education (GCED): Integration of GCED Core Competencies into Curricula across Three Key Stages in Bhutan* (2018–2019). Funded by UNESCO Bangkok in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Bhutan.
- Research Team Member, *Collaborative Action Research on Developing Innovative Pedagogies and Enhancing the Effectiveness of Mathematics and Science Teaching in Bhutanese Schools* (2018–2019). Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in collaboration with the University of Technology Sydney, Australia.
- Project Manager, *Localisation of the Moodle Learning Management System* (2009–2010). Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada (Nu. 3.8 million). Successfully led the project from inception to completion, including the development of the first Dzongkha interface for Moodle.
- Research Team Member, *Transformation of the Socio-economic Conditions of the Indigenous Lotokuchu Community* (2013–2015). Funded by the European Union through HELVETAS (US\$6,000) under the Cultural Studies Programme. The research was successfully published as a book chapter in *Twilight Culture: Traditions and Change in Four Rural Communities in Bhutan* (2015).

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## POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION

- Initiated and led the development of the College Policy on Faculty and Staff Participation in Conferences and Seminars, providing institutional support for scholarly dissemination and professional development. The policy was subsequently endorsed by the College Academic Committee (2016–2017).
- Developed the policy template for the Annual Centre Review Report for Research Centres as a member of the working committee established by the Department of Research and External Relations, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan (2018).
- As a Core Team Member of the UNESCO-funded Global Citizenship Education (GCED) project, contributed to the development of policy directions for integrating Global Citizenship Education into Bhutanese schooling through curriculum inclusion across three key stages (2017–2018).

- Served as Chief Editor of *RABSEL: The CERD Educational Journal* (Issues II, 2017; Issues I & II, 2018; Issues I & II, 2019) and the *Journal of Educational Action Research* (Volume 1, Issue II, 2017; Volume 1, Issue III, 2018), providing editorial leadership, overseeing peer review, maintaining publication quality, and strengthening scholarly dissemination within the Royal University of Bhutan.
- Served as Adviser to *PCEyes*, the official newsletter of Paro College of Education, overseeing the publication of the 10th, 11th and 12th issues (2017–2018).