

Batabyal, Amitrajeet A

Dr. Batabyal grew up in the small railway town of Chittaranjan, West Bengal, India before moving to the United States in 1983. He was educated in economics at Cornell, the U of Minnesota and the U of California at Berkeley. He began to seriously research issues and problems in range management while at Utah State University.



While reviewing the relevant literature on use and management of natural resources and rangelands, Dr. Batabyal noticed that although there were many claims about whether the stocking rate or the length of time that animals grazed a particular rangeland was more important from a management perspective, there were absolutely no theoretical analyses of this important and much debated question – so he developed a novel stochastic model that clearly demonstrated the relative salience of stocking rate.

His 2002 *JRM* paper on the theoretical formation of the state-and-transition idea simply and nicely uses the theory of discrete time Markov chains to show how the stochastic dynamics of a 4 condition class rangeland can be modeled and understood. Although rangelands have often been conceptualized and managed from primarily an ecological perspective or an economic perspective, there is interest in jointly determined ecological-economic systems. His 2005 research showed that ecological and economic criteria are largely disjoint, except in unusual circumstances, and optimizing one will not simultaneously result in the optimization of the other.

Dr. Batabyal is a brilliant researcher and author, as exemplified by ***Stochastic Modeling in Range Management: Selected Essays***. He is widely published internationally, and a sought after speaker. He also serves SRM as a book reviewer (20+ published in ***JRM/REM*** and ***Rangelands***).

Dr. Batabyal is one of the youngest holders of an endowed chair at the Rochester Institute of Technology (Arthur J Gosnell Chair/Professor of Economics). He is most deserving of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

