Statement of Consulting Approach

Manisha Desai

I come to this position at a time of myriad crises, not only of global pandemic, climate change, and rising inequalities sustained by centuries of settler coloniality and systemic racism but also of higher education in the United States. As such, this moment calls all of us specially sociologists to use the tools of our discipline to understand our own complicity in these crises but more importantly to reflect upon how, within institutional constraints under which we all operate, our curricula, our governance, PTR policies, and our departmental climate can provide alternatives that enable all our students, faculty, and staff to flourish and work collaboratively for “bread and roses” for everyone.

This commitment to ensure that our discipline becomes the leading edge of social justice is what guides my work as a teacher, scholar, department head, and my engagement in communities on and off campus, including professional organizations, and what I would bring to my work as a reviewer. I have several decades of experience in various leadership positions from department head to director of women and gender studies at two flagship public universities as well as at a liberal arts college. Across these positions and institutions, different as they are in size, location, and scope, colleagues have appreciated my timely, thoughtful, and clear modes of communication as well as a fair and open interlocutor. Qualities that I think are crucial for a reviewer as well.