

Meghna Mukherjee

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EDUCATION

- University of California, Berkeley Summer 2023 (Expected)
- PhD Sociology, Regents Fellow; GPA 4.0
 - Fields of Research: Gender, Fertility Medicine, Reproductive Labor, Emerging Medical Technologies
- Columbia University in the City of New York, Columbia College May 2015
- BA Sociology (with Senior Honors Thesis) and Human Rights; GPA 3.88
 - Magna Cum Laude; Dean's List Term Honors (2011-2015)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Bhattacharya Research Fellowship awarded by UC Berkeley's Institute for South Asia Studies to support Master's Thesis research (2018)

- Research grant awarded to 3 graduate students to support research projects centered on contemporary India
- Supporting MA research studying medicalized practices surrounding egg donation and donor-parent matching within fertility clinics in California, USA and Kolkata, India

Social Science Matrix research funding awarded by UC Berkeley (2018)

- Research grant to study the media accounts of consumer genetic testing marketing, particularly focusing on the impacts on individuals' approaches to managing health risk

Regents Fellowship winner at UC Berkeley (2017)

- Competitive scholarship awarded to select graduate students pursuing a PhD research program at Berkeley

Best New Employee for role as a Grants Officer at The Door/University Settlement (2016)

- Recognition given to 3-4 new employees who have demonstrated commitment to their roles and made a significant impact on the organization

Departmental Honors for senior thesis, "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Understanding and Protecting Non-Traditional Maternity in a Traditional Society" (2014-2015)

- Distinguishes less than 10% of undergraduates in Columbia University's Department of Sociology

Human Rights Essay of the Year for "A Bridge of A Difference: The Underlying Factors Characterizing The Kingdom of Bahrain's and Saudi Arabia's Respective Approaches to Women's Public Participation" (2014)

- Comparative historical and political analysis of trends concerning differing levels of women's public participation in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia
- Two undergraduate students are awarded each year and invited to present research to Columbia University faculty and students

King's Crown Leadership Excellence for Civic Responsibility for involvement in Columbia Child Rights Group (2013)

- President of Columbia Child Rights Group (2012-2015), Chairperson of Communications (2011-2012)
- Award recognizes outstanding community leaders, who carry out service with exemplary commitment and energy

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

American Anthropological Association panel "Kinship Imagination and Multi-Parentality in Gamete Donation and Surrogacy: Resistance, Resilience, and Adaptation" (upcoming AAA conference, November 2018)

- Presenting research "The Idealization of Embryos as Patients in Fertility Care: The Role of Fertility Technology in Nurturing Embryos While Obscuring the Women Behind the Egg" as a panelist

"Capitalism: Culture and the Individual" Conference at San Diego State University (2018)

- Presented research "Renegotiating the Medical Wall: Locating and Empowering the Surrogate Mother Within the Capitalistic Clinical Structure" as a panelist

Journal of Research on Women and Gender (2018)

- "More Than a Womb: Recognizing and Protecting 'Gestational Motherhood' in India's Commercial Surrogacy Industry"

ABC-CLIO's *Women's Lives Around The World: A Global Encyclopedia* (2016)

- Published the country entry for Saudi Arabia, providing a comprehensive discussion of all aspects of women's lives in The Kingdom

"The Care and Politics of Boundaries" Conference at Rutgers University (2016)

- Presented senior thesis research on commercial surrogacy in India as a panelist
- Led discussion on boundaries surrounding female exploitation vs. empowerment in commercial surrogacy

"The First Annual Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference" at The University of Central Oklahoma (2016)

- Invited to present senior thesis research and participate as a panelist

Oxford Women's Leadership Symposium (2014)

- Recognized for research paper studying women's public participation in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

"The Costs of Perfecting Reproduction: Embryos as Patients and Female Reproductive Bodies as Parts" (*in progress*)

- To be submitted to a social science journal as well as edited and submitted to *The Economist* publication

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix

California, USA (May 2018 - *present*)

Co-Researcher: "The DNA of Media Accounts on Genetic Ancestry Testing"

- Conducting a systematic review of diverse media sources (commercials, news, videos, podcasts, print media, etc.) and a digital ethnography of forum discussions pertaining to consumer genetic technology
- Studying the ways in which consumer genetic testing is harnessing the marketplace to reconfigure societal and individuals' psychological approach to health, with regard to increased emphasis on health risk prevention
- Contributing to research on implications for genetic technology consumers and policy governing this market

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

California, USA and Siliguri, India (April 2018 - *present*)

Graduate Student Researcher

- Conducting participant observations at two vocational training institutes, certified under India's National Skill Development Corporation
- Interviewing 40-50 students, trainers, and administrative staff at vocational training institutes to understand individuals' economic aspirations, gendered assumptions within labor and employment, and foundations of social development and upward mobility
- Working with faculty member Professor Raka Ray, an expert in gender, emerging middle classes, and South Asia

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

California, USA (January 2018 - *present*)

Co-Researcher

- Administering 100-150 surveys to prior egg donors in order to understand the presence of a correlation between the medical risks donors experienced and the administration of certain hormonal injections, the frequency at which they donated eggs, and the number of eggs donated
- Quantitatively analyzing data to underscore risks that can be associated with donating eggs, a topic that is largely left untouched and under-researched by medical communities
- Working closely with Professor Diane Tober, faculty member at UC San Francisco's Department of Medical Anthropology and expert in social implications of egg donation and reproductive labor

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

California, USA and Siliguri, India (January 2018 - *present*)

Master's Thesis: "The Dual Role of the Physician-Salesman in Egg Donor Selection: How Fertility Clinicians Match Egg Donors to Intended Parents in Kolkata and California"

- Conducting participant observations at fertility clinics in the Bay Area and Kolkata, focusing on doctor-patient consultations pertaining to egg donation treatments
- Interviewing 40-50 egg donors and fertility clinicians to learn about their experiences, values, and perceptions of how egg donation is managed, specifically with regard to how donors are matched with intended parents
- Comparing egg donation practices, typical egg donors, and medicalized donor-parent matching processes between California, USA and Kolkata, India, the two largest egg donation industries worldwide

Columbia University Department of Sociology

New York, USA and Kolkata, India (Oct 2014 – May 2015)

Senior Thesis: "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Understanding and Protecting Non-Traditional Maternity in a Traditional Society"

- Interviewed surrogate mothers, recruiters, and clinicians (20 semi-structured in-depth interviews)
- Conducted an ethnography of a fertility clinic in Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Proposed protective policy framework, incorporating recommendations that respond to research findings
- Awarded Departmental Honors

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Albireo Group

New York, USA (Oct 2016 - present)

Research and Strategy Consultant

- Coordinate with research and social justice organizations to develop toolkits, funding strategies, and communications materials for non-profit organizations based on their specific needs
- Toolkits: (i) two-generation early childhood development model, (ii) data governance policies (current)

Every Atom Productions

New York, USA (July – Oct 2016)

Communications and Fundraising Consultant

- Managed all fundraising and communications to promote racial justice documentary as an educational tool
- Responsible for writing all grants, for public and private funding, and coordinating film festival applications

The Door – A Center of Alternatives, Inc.

New York, USA (June 2015 – September 2016)

Grants Officer

- Managed a portfolio of 7 programs across two organizations (The Door and affiliate University Settlement), including writing all proposals and reports for public and private funders, and managing administrative duties
- Coordinated data reporting and analysis, relevant policy research, and budget preparation
- Facilitated gap closing by conducting prospective donor research and evaluating New York's funding priorities
- Supervised and designed an internship program for the Development Department, which successfully established a pool of candidates who were hired into the department

Human Rights Watch

New York, USA (Sept 2014 – May 2015)

Foundations & Development Intern

- Coordinated donor relations by conducting prospect donor research, writing customized acknowledgement letters, and regularly updating Raiser's Edge database
- Managed administrative tasks such as filing, monthly budget preparation, and payment installment scheduling

King Hussein Foundation

Amman, Jordan (June – Aug 2014)

Communications & Fundraising Intern

- Conducted research on Jordan's social and economic development areas to incorporate into program design
- Led the renovation of the organization's website alongside the Executive Director, and applied for an USAID grant to support the process
- Developed fundraising schemes, event management materials, and media publications

National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

New York, USA (Sept – Dec 2013)

Research & Policy Intern

- Assembled comprehensive research reports on housing and legislative systems across all states in America
- Designed and produced informative materials and graphics for partner grassroots organizations

Apne Aap Women's Collective

Mumbai, India (June – Aug 2013)

Research & Strategic Communications Intern

- Conducted fieldwork to better understand the cultural boundaries oppressing the women and children in the red-light district, the target area of this non-profit organization
- Strengthened the organization's capacity by redeveloping AAWC's annual report and website
- Developed and launched a spoken English curriculum for school- and college-aged girls

East Harlem Tutorial Program

New York, USA (Aug 2012-April 2015)

Volunteer Coordinator & Instructor

- Directed a team of volunteers to design and conduct semi-annual professional development workshops for high school students in Harlem

Alternative Break Program

New York, USA & West Bengal, India (May 2012 – June 2013)

Project Manager & Team Leader

- Organized and executed a health and education service project in West Bengal, India to strengthen a local non-profit
- Headed project management, including the research and design of a sustainable project, team recruitment, and fundraising of over \$22,000
- Established a local network of doctors and student volunteers to sustain the project's impact

SKILLS

Technology:

Proficient with STATA, Microsoft Office, iMovie, Garageband, Adobe Creative Photosuite, Internet applications (i.e. Google Docs, WordPress, Prezi), social media platforms, Raiser's Edge Database

Languages:

English (fluent), Bengali (fluent), and Spanish (intermediate proficiency)