

Meghna Mukherjee
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EDUCATION

- University of California, Berkeley Summer 2023 (Expected)
- PhD Sociology, Regents Fellow
 - 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

Body & Society: SAGE Journals (forthcoming, Spring 2019)

- Contributing article "Compelled to be Bioavailable: Do Women Own the Choice to Donate Their Eggs in Kolkata?" to the journal's special edition *Beyond Bioavailable Bodies*

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

PRESENTATIONS

Pacific Sociological Association (upcoming PSA conference, Spring 2019)

- Leading panel on 'Inequality, Gender, and Health'
- Presenting research "The Costs of Unequal Patient Status in Fertility Medicine: Nurturing Embryos while Obscuring the Women behind the Egg" as a panelist

American Anthropological Association (upcoming AAA conference, November 2018)

- Panel: Kinship Imagination and Multi-Parentality in Gamete Donation and Surrogacy: Resistance, Resilience, and Adaptation
- 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)

- Panelist discussing research "Renegotiating the Medical Wall: Locating and Empowering the Surrogate Mother Within the Capitalistic Clinical Structure"

"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

TEACHING AND MENTORHIP

UC Berkeley Graduate Student Instructor

Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2019)

- Teach a semester of 'discussion sections' for 40 students aimed at reinforcing understanding of class lectures
- Design a syllabus that thoroughly covers course concepts and includes additional assignments toward this end

UC Berkeley 'Medical Case Studies' undergraduate 'DeCal' course (October 2018)

- Lecturing pre-medical track students on the use of fertility technologies, encouraging students to think critically about their future roles in healthcare

UC Berkeley Sociology Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentoring Program (October 2018 - *present*)

- Mentoring an undergraduate student who is working on their senior thesis, studying social movements and organizations' institutional practices around sexual violence support in the Bay Area
- Guiding student through all components of research and writing, including developing a research question, fitting methodologies, strategically writing grant proposals, and maintaining structure around research and writing timelines in order to complete thesis by May 2019

UC Berkeley 'Introduction to Sociology' undergraduate course (2018)

- Guest lecturer presenting research on egg donation in Kolkata, India and the Bay Area of the United States
- Led class discussion around Durkheim's themes of social solidarity as they pertain to individuals interacting with the medical institution's mechanisms

UC Berkeley 'Sociology of Medicine' undergraduate course (2018)

- Guest lecturer presenting research on egg donation in Kolkata, India
- Led class discussion on the emergent issues, questions, and bioethical concerns surrounding reproductive labor and gamete donation

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

UC Berkeley Department of Public Health

California, USA (August 2018 - *present*)

Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Ann Keller and Dr. Ken Taymor

- Studying the federal-level uptake of emerging technologies CRISPR/Cas-9 and Automated Vehicles (National Science Foundation funded project)
- Conducting qualitative research components, including data collection, building interview protocols, interviewee recruitment strategies, and processing and coding interview data
- Contributing to project management and administrative efforts

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 (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

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

California, USA (January– July 2018)

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
- Working closely with Dr. Diane Tober, faculty member at UC San Francisco's Department of Medical Anthropology and expert in social implications of egg donation

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

California, USA and Siliguri, India (April – July 2018)

Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Raka Ray

- Conducted participant observations at two vocational training institutes, certified under India's National Skill Development Corporation
- Interviewed 30 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
- Worked with Dr. Raka Ray, an expert in gender, emerging middle classes, and related issues within South Asia

Columbia University Department of Sociology

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

Senior Thesis (mentorship from Dr. Thomas DiPrete): "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Understanding and Protecting Non-Traditional Maternity in a Traditional Society"

- Interviewed 20 surrogate mothers, recruiters, and clinicians
- Proposed protective policy framework, incorporating recommendations that respond to research findings
- Awarded Departmental Honors

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Berkeley Center for Genetics and Society

California, USA (Jan 2019 – present)

Research Consultant

- Supporting research efforts on a project studying international surrogacy and egg retrieval practices

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)

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
- 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

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)