

Meghna Mukherjee
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D**
Sociology **University of California, Berkeley, CA**
Fields: Gender, Health and Medicine, Reproduction, Emerging Technologies
Qualifying Exams & Dissertation Committee: Raka Ray, Neil Fligstein, Armando Lara-Millan, Osagie Obasogie, Daniel Navon (QEs Completed April 6, 2020)
- M.A.**
Sociology **University of California, Berkeley, CA (2019)**
Thesis: “How Do You Want Your Eggs? Kin Making in the Clinic and Social Reproduction in the Bay Area and Kolkata”
- B.A.**
Sociology,
Human Rights **Columbia University** in the City of New York, Columbia College (2015)
Magna Cum Laude, Departmental Honors
Senior Thesis: “Commercial Surrogacy in India: Understanding and Protecting Non-Traditional Maternity in the Traditional Society”

PUBLICATIONS

- Mukherjee, Meghna (2022). “How Do You Want Your Eggs? The Medical Management of Kin-Making and Reproductive Inequalities in the United States and India”. *Social Problems (issue details forthcoming)*.
- Mukherjee, Meghna and Nairi Shirinian (2022) “Engineering for Perfection: The False Promises of Heritable Genome Editing in Assisted Reproduction”. *The Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley (issue details forthcoming)*.
- Barlevy, Dorit, Todd Lencz, Shai Carmi, Kristin Kostick, Meghna Mukherjee, Stacey Pereira, and Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz (2022). ‘Capacities and Limitations of Using Polygenic Risk Scores for Reproductive Decision Making’. *The American Journal of Bioethics*. Vol 22: 42-45.
- Mukherjee, Meghna (2022). “Hamstrung by Hardship: The Clinic’s Role in Protecting Egg Donors’ Reproductive Labor in Kolkata, India”. In *Birth Controlled: Selective Reproduction and Neoliberal Eugenics in South Africa and India*, 1st ed. Manchester University Press.
- Mukherjee, Meghna, and Margaret Eby (2021). "Making Better Babies? Past and Future State Fair Contests Evaluating Geneticized Worth". In *Birthing Techno-Sapiens: Human-Technology Co-Evolution and The Future of Reproduction*, 1st ed. Routledge.
- Mukherjee, Meghna (2020) The Management of Unequal Patient Status in Fertility Medicine: Donors' and Intended Parents' Experiences of Participatory and Imposed Enrollment. *Social Science and Medicine*. Vol. 247, pp. 1-8.
- Mukherjee, Meghna (2018) More Than a Womb: Recognizing and Protecting ‘Gestational Motherhood’ in India’s Commercial Surrogacy Industry. *Journal of Research on Women and Gender*. Vol. 8, pp. 64-79.
- Mukherjee, Meghna (2018). Ed. Susan M. Shaw et al. “Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” in *Women’s Lives Around the World: A Global Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. Vol. 4, pp 163-174.

AWARDS

Graduate Student Paper Award by the Pacific Sociological Association (2022)

- “Hamstrung by Hardship: The Clinic’s Role in Protecting Egg Donors’ Reproductive Labor in Kolkata, India”

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor by UC Berkeley Graduate Division (2021)

Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention by the Pacific Sociological Association (2021)

- “How Do You Want Your Eggs? Kin-making in the Clinic and Social Reproduction in Kolkata and the Bay Area”

Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention by the Council on Anthropology and Reproduction (2020)

- “Hamstrung by Hardship: Protecting Egg Donors’ Reproductive Labor in Kolkata, India”

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 by Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights (2014)

- “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”

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

- Award recognizes outstanding community leaders, who carry out service with exemplary commitment

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship awarded by Institute for Citizens & Scholars (2022-2023)

- Fellowship awarded to 22 scholars nationwide to support a year of dissertation writing

Graduate Research Grant awarded by UC Berkeley’s Center for Race and Gender (2021)

- Immaculate Re-Conception: Redefining Health and Reproductive Risk Using Prenatal Genetic Testing

Berkeley Connect Fellowship awarded by UC Berkeley (2021-2022)

- Fellowship to mentor a select pool of undergraduate UC Berkeley students

Lowenthal Fellowship awarded by UC Berkeley (2020-2021)

- Fellowship to support dissertation research and writing

Albireo Group Fellowship awarded by the Albireo Group (2019-2020, 2020-2021)

- Professional development to translate academic research and writing skills into social impact applications

Social Science Matrix Research Team funding awarded by UC Berkeley (2018-2019, 2019-2020)

- Grant to support an interdisciplinary study of consumer genetic testing and its impact on reframed health diagnoses, management of risk, and tensions between lay and expert medical knowledge

Graduate Division Summer Research Grant awarded by UC Berkeley (2020)

- Grant to support advancement toward candidacy and dissertation research

Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant awarded by UC Berkeley (2019)

- Support to present original research at out-of-state conferences

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 projects centered on contemporary India

Regents Fellowship winner at UC Berkeley (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

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

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, “Introduction to Sociology for Pre-Health majors” (Summer 2021)

Head Graduate Student Instructor, “Evaluation of Evidence.” Instructor: Dr. Edwin Lin. (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

Co-Instructor, “Qualitative Research Methods.” Center for Ethnographic Research (Summer 2019, 2020)

Head Graduate Student Instructor, “Introduction to Sociology.” Instructor: Dr. Robert Braun. (Spring 2020)

Graduate Student Instructor, “Introduction to Sociology.” Instructor: Dr. Robert Braun. (Spring 2019)

Guest Instructor

- “Genetic Counseling and ELSI” UC San Francisco Genetic Counselors Master’s Program (April 2022)
- “Human Contexts and Ethics Data Science 198” (2020-2021)
- “Qualitative Research Methods” Carnegie Mellon University graduate workshop series (October 2020)
- “Medical Case Studies” undergraduate DeCal course (October 2018, April 2019)
- “Sociology of Health & Medicine” undergraduate course. Instructor: Armando Lara-Millan. (March 2019)
- “NICU’ infants and women’s health” undergraduate DeCal course. (March 2019)
- “Sociology of Medicine” undergraduate course. Instructor: Dr. Alex Barnard. (August 2018)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Pacific Sociological Association

- Hamstrung by Hardship: The Clinic’s Role in Protecting Egg Donors’ Reproductive Labor in Kolkata, India (April 2022)
- Adjudicating Existence in Wrongful Birth and Life Cases: The Changing Socio-legal Landscape of Health and Reproduction alongside Prenatal Genetic Technologies (April 2022)
- How Do You Want Your Eggs? Kin-making in the Clinic and Social Reproduction in Kolkata and the Bay Area (March 2021)
- The Costs of Unequal Patient Status in Fertility Medicine: Nurturing Embryos while Obscuring the Women behind the Egg (March 2019)

Reproductive Ethics Conference

- Toward an Era of Consumerist Eugenics: Polygenic Embryo Screening and the Market for Stratified Existence (January 2022)
- Adjudicating Existence in Wrongful Birth and Life Cases (January 2022)
- The Management of Unequal Patient Status in Fertility Medicine: Donors’ and Intended Parents’ Experiences of Participatory and Imposed Enrollment (April 2021)
- How Do You Want Your Eggs? (April 2019)

American Sociological Association

- How Do You Want Your Eggs? (Race, Gender, Class session August 2021; earlier version 2019)
- Between Promise and Reality: How Experts and Consumers Mitigate Uncertainty in Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Health Testing (Science, Knowledge and Technology roundtable August 2021)

Birth Rights Bar Association

- Hamstrung by Hardship (April 2021)

National Science Foundation “Science & Innovation Policy Grantee Conference” Early Career Scholars

- Invited to discuss future direction of research in science and innovation studies (October 2019)

AFIN “Towards Reproductive (In)Justice: Mobilities, Technologies, Labourings & Decisions”

- How Do You Want Your Eggs? (September 2019)

American Anthropological Association

- The Idealization of Embryos as Patients in Fertility Care: The Role of Fertility Technology in Nurturing Embryos While Obscuring the Women Behind the Egg (November 2018)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Baylor College of Medicine/Harvard Medical School Texas, Massachusetts, USA (May 2021-present)
Pre-doctoral Fellow: Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy

- Support research team studying ethical, social, and legal implications of polygenic embryo screening
- Conduct data collection and analyses, including in-depth interviews with physicians and potential parents
- Author relevant publications, including leading medical ethics commentary about selective enhancements

UC Berkeley Data Science Education Program California, USA (May 2020 - 2021)
Graduate Student Researcher: Human Contexts and Ethics

- Lead the incorporation of critical social science methods into data science pedagogy and student projects
- Develop pedagogical materials using the Human Contexts and Ethics (HCE) toolkit
- Assist HCE leadership with higher level conceptual design of HCE content and projects

UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix California, USA (May 2018 – March 2021)
Co-Researcher: DNA of Media Accounts on Genetic Ancestry Testing

- Studying how genetic test results reconfigure understandings of diagnoses and health risk management
- Digital text analysis of health forum discussions pertaining to consumer genetic technology

UC Berkeley Department of Public Health California, USA (August 2018 – August 2020)
Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Ann Keller and Dr. Ken Taymor (NSF Grant #1735661)

- Studying the federal-level uptake of emerging technologies CRISPR/Cas-9 and Automated Vehicles
- Contributing to research, publication writing, preparing literature reviews, and project management
- Qualitative research: interviews, transcript analysis, building protocols, targeted recruitment

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology California, USA and Siliguri, India (January – December 2018)
Master's Thesis (advisors: Raka Ray, Armando Lara-Millan)

- Studying culturally variant kin-making logics and medicalized reframing of donor eggs' heritable traits
- Mixed qualitative research: participant observation at fertility clinics in the Bay Area and Kolkata, focusing on doctor-patient consultations, and 40 interviews with egg donors and clinicians

UC San Francisco, School of Nursing California, USA (January – July 2018)
Graduate Student Researcher for Diane Tober

- Analyzed 100-150 egg donor experience surveys (Qualtrics, STATA) to understand correlations between medical risks, types of hormonal injections, frequency of donation, and the number of eggs donated

UC Berkeley Department of Sociology California, USA and Siliguri, India (April – July 2018)
Graduate Student Researcher for Raka Ray

- Studied economic aspirations, gendered assumptions of labor and employment, and upward mobility
- Mixed qualitative research: 30 interviews and participant observation at two vocational training institutes

Columbia University Department of Sociology New York, USA and Kolkata, India (Oct 2014 – May 2015)
Senior Honors Thesis (advisor: Thomas DiPrete); awarded Departmental Honors

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Albireo Group New York, USA (October 2016 – December 2020)
Research and Strategy Consultant, Fellow

- Coordinate with research and social development organizations to create strategic toolkits, funding plans, and communications materials for non-profit organizations based on their specific needs
- Projects: (i) two-generation early childhood development toolkit, (ii) Black teacher-driven K-12 pedagogy model, (iii) data governance toolkit, (iv) National Black MBA White Paper

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, 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 (September 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: filing, monthly budget preparation, and payment installment scheduling

King Hussein Foundation Amman, Jordan (June – August 2014)
Communications & Fundraising Intern

- Conducted research on Jordan’s social and economic development areas for 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 (September – December 2013)
Research & Policy Intern

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

Apne Aap Women’s Collective Mumbai, India (June – August 2013)
Research & Strategic Communications Intern

- Conducted fieldwork to 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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service

- UC Berkeley, Department of Sociology, Graduate Student Admissions Committee: *Member*
- UC Berkeley “Social Science Research Pathways” program: *Founder, Program Coordinator, and Mentor* (2020-present)
- American Sociological Association: *Presider* ‘Race, Class, Gender session ‘Reproductive Justice’ (2021)
- Social Science and Medicine peer-reviewed journal: *Reviewer* (2020)
- UC Berkeley NavCal Mentorship Program: *Mentor* (2020-2021)
- UC Berkeley Sociology Anti-Racism Working Group: *Member and Facilitator* (2020)
- ReproScholars Graduate Network: *Student Organizer* (2020)
- UC Berkeley Sociology Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentoring Program: *Program Coordinator* (2019-2020): *Graduate Student Mentor* (Fall 2017; Fall-Spring 2019)
- Pacific Sociological Association: *Presider* ‘Inequality, Gender, and Health’ (2019)

Memberships

- American Sociological Association
- Pacific Sociological Association

Affiliations

- Institute for the Study of Societal Issues
- Berkeley Center for Social Medicine
- Center for Ethnographic Research

SKILLS

Research Methods: Proficient at conducting mixed-methods research. Expertise with in-depth interviews and participant observation. Intermediate abilities with survey methods and quantitative analysis.

Technology: STATA, R, Python, MaxQDA, ATLAS.ti, Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Raiser's Edge Database

Languages: English (fluent), Bengali (fluent), and Spanish (intermediate)