Vanika Sok

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Phone: (484) 546-9628 LinkedIn: vanika-sok

Education Lafayette College

Easton, PA

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Economics, GPA: 3.7

May 2026

Pursuing Honors in Economics

Primary advisor Dr. David Stifel

Orientation Leader and First-Year Mentor; Mentor for Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education Lafayette Investment Club, International Student Association, Women in Computing, Women in Math

Teaching

Lafayette College

Assistant ECON 253: Econometrics

Fall 2025

ECON 251: Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 2024

PHYS 131: Mechanics

Spring 2024

Honors and Awards Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), the National Honor Society for Economics.

Best Overall Hackathon Award

Feb. 2023

Best overall hackathon award from Lafayette College's Association for Computer Machinery for a project on a mental health website featuring a chatbox, games, and videos designed to alleviate stress.

SHE-CAN Scholar

Chosen for the SHE-CAN scholarship program based on excellence in academics, project management, leadership skills, and public speaking.

Professional Experience

University of Utah, Office of Undergraduate Research

Salt Lake City, UT

2020 - Present

Researcher, Dept. of Economics

May 2025 - Present

Led quantitative research at the University of Utah by cleaning, merging, and analyzing 15+ years of large-scale panel data using Python, R, and Stata. Applied econometric techniques (OLS, fixed effects, instrumental variables) to study public library use and childcare affordability during economic downturns, and developed a strategic framework to guide resource allocation during recessions. Co-authored two research papers in progress, integrating evidence from the Great Recession and COVID-19 to generate actionable insights for policy and organizational decision-making.

Lafayette College, Dept. of Economics

Easton, PA

Research Assistant

May 2024 - May 2025

Researched the "price of conscience" in labor markets by integrating longitudinal data from the The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97) with occupational characteristics from ONET to quantify how jobs requiring moral compromise are compensated. Applied fixed-effects econometric models to uncover a significant wage premium for occupations involving ethical tradeoffs, with effects increasing by age and education. Presented findings at Lafayette College's Poster Symposium, demonstrating how markets price moral considerations and offering insights with implications for workforce management, compensation strategies, and organizational decision-making.

Lafayette College, Dept. of Economics

Easton, PA

Research Assistant

May 2023 - Aug. 2023

Analyzed how crop diversification affects household welfare in Nigeria, leveraging World Bank panel survey data. Applied econometric models, data wrangling, and visualization in Excel and Stata to quantify the relationship between agricultural diversity and economic well-being. Produced insights on how diversification strategies can strengthen household resilience and inform development policy.

Research

Working Papers

"Unemployment and Public Library Usage in the United States: Evidence from Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic" coauthored with Dr. Rachel Ernst and Dr. Sarah Small

"Do Public Libraries Fill Care Gaps? Regional Analyses of Children's Library Programming, Childcare Markets, and Parenthood" coauthored with Dr. Rachel Ernst and Dr. Sarah Small

"The Compensation of Conscience" research assistant for Dr. Sayorn Chin

Poster Symposiums and Presentations

Presented research poster "Unemployment and Public Library Usage in the United States" at Lafayette College Symposium (Fall 2025).

Presented research poster "The Compensation of Conscience" at Lafayette College Poster Symposium (Spring 2025).

Presented research poster "Unemployment and Public Library Usage in the United States" at University of Utah Undergraduate Research Symposium (Summer 2025).

Shared findings on childcare markets and public library programming at University of Utah Summer Research Symposium (2025).

Skills

Programming

Python, R, MySQL, Java, HTML

Software

Stata, LATEX

Languages

English (fluent), Khmer (native), Chinese (intermediate)

Conferences

Grace Hopper Conference

Orlando, FL

Represented Lafayette College's Women in Computing club. I shared my experiences and engaged in discussions to learn from other women's experiences in the technology and STEM fields.

SHE-CAN Leadership Summit 2024

San Francisco Bay Area

Annual, weekend long, in-person summit in the San Francisco Bay Area. Summit Theme: The Perpetual Power of One: How You Can Make a Difference. Summit Mission Statement: The "Perpetual Power of One" is the realization that individual actions and contributions, no matter how small they may seem at the outset, can create a ripple effect that reverberates through time and inspires others to make their own contributions.

Leadership Summit

San Francisco Bay Area

SHE-CAN Leadership Summit 2023 for All Freshmen

Leadership and Volunteering

Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education (LIME)

Madagascar

Math Tutor

Dec. 2024 - Present

Selected for a 1.5-year commitment with the LIME; traveled to Antananarivo, Madagascar (Winter 2025) to mentor high school students, providing academic guidance, leadership training, and support in preparing for competitive university and scholarship applications to the U.S.

Cambodian Student Association in the United States

Washington, DC

Director of Finance

Sep. 2023 - May 2025

I meticulously record the organization's revenues and expenses while also actively applying for grants and funds. I oversee the receipt and disbursement of funds. Additionally, I oversee the receipt and disbursement of funds.

SHE-CAN Make A Change Project: Higher Education Fair

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Founde

Mar. - Jun. 2024

I brought the first-ever Higher Education Fair to live at a Rural High School in Siem Reap province. We drawn over 300 students participation from 12 different high school across Cambodia. We invited four incredible speakers. All this made possible due to the help of my younger sister, Pichsocheat Sok, and a team of six bright future volunteers whom we recruited from 200+ student who filled out our volunteer application form.

Center of Khmer Studies and American Corner

1st and 2nd Book Fair Team Leader and Speaker

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Apr.- Jul. 2022 and May-Jun. 2023

I planned and executed 3-month project to organize inaugural book fair in Siem Reap. sending invitations to 20 high schools, universities, and other educational institutions, driving 5,000 in-person attendees. I collaborated with 25 publishers, libraries, bookstores, universities, and educational institutions to display their products, securing donations, increasing event attendance 525 percent over projections. I supervised Booth and Registration teams and emcced 5000 person event. After the great success from the first book fair, we came back again in 2023 (and May 2024) with more big exhibitors around the country.

United States Agency for International Development

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Student Representative

November 2021

I led group discussions on career development and education challenges in rural areas Cambodia, delivering public speeches and fostering group discussions on 5-year plans to develop Cambodia.

Cambodia Women's Crisis Center

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Community Service Volunteer

Aug.-Oct. 2021

I organized events for 35 families in my community to raise awareness of domestic violence and sex traffick ing. Organized events with the Center to raise awareness and educate community and incoming tourists Directed underprivileged households to the hotlines number to reduce impact of domestic assault across Cambodia.