Aadra Gunashekar

B.Tech., M.Tech., IIT Kharagpur
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WHY ME?

- **Breadth of Experience**: Worked in the Energy Sector, Non-Profits, MNCs, and held Assistantships
- **Depth of Experience**: Multiple peer-reviewed publications and international project appraisals
- **Acquired Skills**: Data Analysis and Consulting, Communication, Collaboration and Leadership
- **Well-Rounded**: Quantifiable achievements in academics as well as extra-curricular activities including sports

WORK EXPERIENCE

Thomson Reuters, New York, United States　　　　　　　　　　Jul 2015 – Jan 2016
Graduate Consultant　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Mentor: Russell Dyk

- Benchmarked third-party (Genscape, IIR) oil supply chain content on the Eikon trading platform with official data from the EIA and JODI databases and performed stress tests on refinery indices
- Mapped weekly refinery indices to regional hubs in order to extract granular perspective of downstream oil markets and to standardize units across all segments of the oil supply chain
- Collaborated with the Reuters Oil Research and Forecasts team and presented results to the Global Head of Oil Markets every fortnight

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Caribbean, Jamaica　　May 2015 – Aug 2015
Consultant　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Mentor: Prof. Glenn Denning

- Responsible for fundraising and negotiating strategic collaborations between 10 businesses and the Jamaican Tourism Board in just under 3 months
- Built multi-national networks to facilitate advocacy for the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Analyzed and drafted framework for strategic collaborations transferring innovation to commercialization and marketing in the Caribbean region

Asia Initiatives, New York, United States　　　　　　　　　　Sep 2014 – Jan 2015
Country Project Manager　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Mentor: Dr. Geeta Mehta

- Drafted partner engagement and program proposals for pilot studies in India for implementing the *Social Capital Credits* (SoCCs) in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra
- Designed evaluation framework to map progress on SDG targets and building online data management systems
- Analyzed and compared project progress with sister programs located in Ghana and Costa Rica
- Monitored project progress at various sites along with planning and sequencing evaluation baselines

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India　　　　　Jul 2013 – Mar 2014
Senior Research Fellow　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Mentor: Dr. Prasun Das

- Represented India in the value chain research pillar of the DFID (Govt. of UK) funded project *Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia* (LANSA)
- Developed the Value Chain Inventory and framework for synthesizing country level review drafts; framework to be followed by international partners BRAC (Bangladesh) and CSSR (Pak)
- Work presented in London to stakeholders IDS (UK) & SOAS (Uni. of London)

INTERNSHIPS

Lucky Iron Fish, Columbia Impact Investing Initiative　　　　　Aug 2014 - Jan 2015
Group Project　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　New York, United States

- Explored growth strategies for Lucky Iron Fish - geographically and by method of product distribution
- Identified possible gaps in LIF's current growth strategy and constructed possible scenarios to mitigate price and competitor risk through market research

- In-depth analysis of operational models using SWOT analysis and McKinsey 7S model

Hindustan Unilever Limited   May 2011 - Jul 2011
Research Intern   Bangalore, India

- Implemented new procedures to produce slowly digestible carbohydrates for lowering insulin demand by body, with a focus on diabetic patients
- Minimized process costs saving nearly INR 3.3 million through new experiment design
- Single point of contact between HUL Research team and the Vlaardingen (Netherlands) starch research team

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad   May 2010 - Jul 2010
Research Intern   Ahmedabad, India

- Finalized the process and components of food procurement, under the guidance of Prof. G. Raghuram
- Proposed a method to increase packaging efficiency in the existing Akshayapatra mess system by 12% through usage of triangular rotis (wheat bread)
- Compared and analyzed parameters of food wastage in India versus BRIC nations; results presented at the Global Food Wastage Seminar, 2010 in London

KEY ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Redesigning Jordan's Tourism Sector   Aug 2015 - Dec 2015
Columbia University

- Built an innovation framework linking schools to the tourism sector to vocational training corporations to women's employment
- Case study integrating and promoting study and use of technology in the tourism sector by better provision of capital to start ups and entrepreneurs from mentorships and scholarships

Analyzing the Impact of Grain Price Volatility on Nutritional Vulnerability   Jul 2012 - Dec 2012
I.I.T. Kharagpur

- Built a quantitative framework linking price volatility and calorie consumption distribution
- Econometric estimation of a demand system and incorporation into a CGE Model

Analysis of Milk Quality Using an Electronic Nose   Jul 2011 - May 2012
Food Processing Laboratory, I.I.T. Kharagpur

- Predicted the quality and storage days of an unknown sample of milk at refrigerated and room temperatures
- Validated the reliability of electronic nose in detecting milk spoilage using Principal Component Analysis, Discriminant Function Analysis and Statistical Quality Control

POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

President, SIPA Food Systems, Columbia University   2015-2016

- Organized Brownbag Speaker Series inviting high level speakers from the NYC area to speak with students
- Organized case studies related to analyzing food security for students

Governor, Technology Quiz Club, Gymkhana, I.I.T. Kharagpur   2012

- First woman to hold the post of Governor since the Quiz Club's inception
- Co-Drafted the bid for hosting Nihilanth (the inter I.I.T. and I.I.M. quizzing festival)
- Hosted and organized the Freshers Quiz to a house-full audience of around 500 students

Student Head, Technology Transfer Group, I.I.T. Kharagpur   2010-2011

- Raised INR 20,000 as Sponsor Head for the first ever TEDx-IIT Kharagpur
- Instrumental in showcasing I.I.T. Kharagpur's technical competence as a consultant to over 50 companies including Nokia, Maruti Suzuki, and DLF Limited

Student Coordinator, Technology Adventure Society, I.I.T. Kharagpur   2010-2011

- Organized treks to Dzongri and Gurudongmar lake, Sikkim, and Pindari glacier, Uttaranchal

- Conducted workshops to introduce freshers to adventure sports like Rappelling and Rock Climbing

PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Pradhan R.P., **Gunashekar A.**, Samadhan B., and Pandey S., **Modelling the Causal Nexus between Social Development and Economic Growth in 15 Asian Countries**, Asian-African Journal of Economics and Econometrics, Vol.12, No.2, 2012:407-420
- Pradhan R.P.,Mukhopadhyay B., **Gunashekar A.**, Samadhan B., and Pandey S., **Financial Development, Social Development, and Economic Growth: The Causal Nexus in Asia**
  DECISION, Vol.11, 2013
- Pradhan R.P.,and **Gunashekar A.,Finance-Growth Nexus in Select Asian Countries**
  The IUP Journal of Applied Finance, Vol. 19, No.3, July 2013, pp. 39-55
- Chapter on **Financial Development and Economic Growth in Select Asian Countries** in **Project Financing** (Editor Dr.Rudra Pradhan), Bloomsbury Publications, United Kingdom, 2012

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded the Dr. Edwin Price Endowment Scholarship for the academic year 2014-2015 for contributions to food security and agriculture in the developing world; only 2% of incoming students received scholarships
- Awarded extremely competitive Teaching Assistantships for Data Science for Social Innovation and Development, and Ecological and Social Systems for Sustainable Development (2015-2016)
- One of 30 students to be selected globally and awarded scholarship from amongst 2,700 applicants to the 16th World Business Dialogue held at Cologne, Germany. (2013)

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports
- Represented the Women's Athletics team in the Long Jump and 400m relay events at the 46th Inter-IIT sports meet held at IIT Delhi
- Silver and Bronze, Inter Hall Basketball, 2009-2010 and 2008-2009, respectively

Finance
- Scored 90% in the NCFM module on Financial Markets conducted by the National Stock Exchange (N.S.E.) of India

Tech.
- Quizzing Captain representing the 400 resident strong Sarojini Naidu Hall
- Recipient of Hall Greens for outstanding contribution in the field of technology

Social Work
- Certificate from HelpAge India for creating awareness and assistance in raising funds for the care of the elderly irrespective of race, religion, caste, or creed

LANGUAGE AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Languages	English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Spanish (elementary)
Programming Languages	C, R, Python
Tools	MS Office suite, STATA, SPSS, STELLA