

**Janani Rajbhandari-Thapa, PhD, MPA, MS**

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**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** Applied Economics (2014), Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

**M.P.A.** International Development (2011), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

**M.S.** Agricultural Economics (2007), Tribhuvan University, Nepal

**B.S.** Agricultural Economics (2005), Tribhuvan University, Nepal

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Current (August 2014 to present)**

Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management (HPAM), College of Public Health (CPH),  
University of Georgia (UGA), Athens, GA.

Tenure status: Tenure-Track

Appointment: 9 months

**Assigned workload: 50% Instruction, 45% Research, 5% Service**

Member, Graduate faculty, since September 2014

Director, Economic Evaluation Research Group, CPH, UGA, 2019-present

Director, Certificate in Obesity and Weight Management, CPH, UGA, 2019-present

Affiliate, Owens Institute of Behavioral Research, UGA, Aug 2015-present

Member, UGA Obesity Initiative, Aug 2014-present

**Past**

Graduate Research Assistant in a Public-Private Partnership for Cancer Prevention in Rural  
Communities funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (PI: Conrad  
Lyford). Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, May 2011 to August 2014

Graduate Research Assistant, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs, Cornell University, September  
2009 to May 2011

Planning Officer, Nepal Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Nepal, July 2009 to April  
2010

Agricultural Economist, Non-Profit, Nepal, February 2008 to May 2009

Lecturer, Principles of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, June 2006 to June 2007

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Non-Profit, Nepal, July 2007 to December 2007

## RESEARCH

### A. PUBLICATIONS (\* represent senior/corresponding author, student advisee italicized)

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., J. Ingels, K. Thapa, M. Davis, and P. Corso. School characteristics and its association with changes in physical activity opportunities: evaluation of a statewide physical activity policy. *Preventive Medicine (under review)*
2. Mekonnen, B., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, L. Shi, K. Thapa, Z. Zhang, and D. Zhang. Weekend Effect on Ischemic Stroke Mortality and Implications on Policy. *International Journal of Stroke (under review)*
3. Zhang, D, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, S. Panda, L. Shi, Y. Li, Y. Shen, and K.G. Emerson. Linguistic isolation in the community and all-cause mortality among Latino older adults: A survival analysis. *Preventive Medicine (under review)*
4. Chung S.R., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*, and S. Chatterjee. The Relationship between U.S. 2019. Households' Eating Behavior and Health Expenditure. *Journal of Health Population and Nutrition (under review)*
5. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., R. Ghimire, E. C. Stroer, K. Thapa, D. Zhang, M. Lan, H. Young, and D. D'Onofrio. 2019. Relationship between Fine Particulate Matter Pollutant in Air and Children and Adolescent's Asthma Related Emergency Room Visits. *Journal of Environment Health (8.5 under review)*
6. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., J. Ingels, K. Thapa, R. Ghimire, P. Corso, and E. A. Vall. School climate-related determinants of physical activity among high school girls. 2019. *Journal of Public Health Reports (invited submission under review 8.5 peer review in progress)*
7. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., M. vanDellen, D. Just, and S. Panda. Choice Architecture Interventions: Results from a Replicated RCT for Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Selection. *Journal of School Health (under review 8.5 admin processing)*
8. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., D. Zhang, H. Padilla, and S.R. Chung. Opioid-related hospitalizations, its association with comorbidities *Preventing Chronic Diseases (revise and resubmit)*
9. Shi, L., D. Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, and N. Katapodis, D. Su, and Y. Li. 2019. Neighborhood Immigrant density and Population Health among Native-Born Americans. *Preventive Medicine*
10. vanDellam, M., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, and J. Sevilla. Does serving vegetables in partitioned portions promote vegetable consumption? 2019. *Journal of Food Quality and Preferences*. 78(29)
11. Thapa, K., P.M. Bhandari, D. Neupane, S. Bhochhibhoya, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, and R.P. Pathak. 2019. Physical activity and its correlates among higher secondary school students in an urban district of Nepal. *BMC Public Health* 19:886.
12. Katapodis ND, Zhang D, Giabbanelli PJ, Li Y, Lyford CP, and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. 2019. Evaluating the impact of improving access on consumption of fruits and vegetables in a rural community in Texas: a modeling study. *Health Equity* 3:1, 382–389, DOI: 10.1089/heq.2018.0090.
13. Zhang, D., G. Wang, W. Zhu, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. Switzer, D. Hess, M. L. Smith, M. Ritchey, 2018. Expansion of Tele-stroke Services Improves Quality of Care Especially in Rural Areas: An Analysis of Medicare Fee-For-Service Claims Data from 2008 to 2015.

14. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., K. Ingerson, and K. Lewis. 2018. Impact of Tray-less Dining Intervention on Food Choices of University Students. *Archives of Public Health.* 76:61
15. Wang S., J. Hua, D. Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, and Z. Cao. 2018. A Cohort Study Assessing the Sustainable Long-Term Effectiveness of a Childhood Obesity Intervention in China. *International Journal of Epidemiology.* <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyy145>
16. Pullekines, E. B., and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. 2018. Health Care Access by Weight Status in the State of Georgia. *Journal of Georgia Public Health Association.* (forthcoming)
17. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. and C. Lyford. 2018. Nudges to Increase Fruits and Vegetables Consumption: Results from a Field Experiment. *Journal of Child Nutrition and Management*, Volume 42, Issue 1, Spring 2018.
18. Nguyen, T., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*, D. Zhang, E. B. Pullekines. 2017. The Association Between Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Weight Status Among Adults in Georgia, *Journal of Georgia Public Health Association*, Volume 7, No. 1, 12-18.
19. Li, Y., D. Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, K. Madondo, S. Yi, E. Fisher, K. Griffin, B. Liu, PhD, Y. Wang, J. A. Pagán, 2017. Assessing the Role of Access and Price on the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables across New York City Using Agent-Based Modeling, *Preventive Medicine.* 106:73-78. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.10.014
20. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., A. Bennett, F. Keong, W. Palmer, T. Hardy, J. A. Welsh. 2017. Impact of the Strong4Life School Nutrition Program on the Cafeteria Environment and on Manager and Staff Knowledge and Practice. *Public Health Reports*, 2017 Nov/Dec;132(2\_suppl):48S-56S. doi: 10.1177/0033354917723332
21. Khan, A.S., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, D. Zhang. 2017. Preventive Dental Checkups and its Association with Access to Usual Source of Care among Rural and Urban Adult Residents. *Journal of Rural Health.* Sep;33(4):419-426. doi: 10.1111/jrh.12271. Epub 2017 Sep 14.
22. Ghimire, R., S. Ferreira, G. Green, N. Poudyal, H.K. Cordell, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa. 2017. Green Space and Adult Obesity in the United States, *Ecological Economics.* Volume 136, June 2017, Pages 201-212. 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2017.02.002
23. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, E. Belasco, 2016. Improving Cancer Risk Awareness including Obesity as a Risk Factor for Cancer from a Multi-Tiered Community-based Intervention in a Small US Community, *Journal of Cancer Education.* doi:10.1007/s13187-016-1060-z
24. Saswat, P., Ko Otani, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. 2016 Weight Status and Satisfaction with Healthcare Received in the U.S. and Georgia. *Journal of Georgia Public Health Association*, Volume 5, No. 3, Winter 2016, 287-293.
25. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and C. Lyford. 2014. Behavioral Economics in the Lunchroom: Can it Affect Food Supplier Decisions? A Systematic Review. *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, Volume 17, Special issue A, 187-208
26. Barent N. M., C. Lyford, N. Hensarling, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, E. Belasco, T. Carter. 2013. Reducing Cancer Risk in Rural Communities through Community-Based Education. *Journal of Cancer Education.* 28:597-600.

## Peer-reviewed Extension Articles

(all as first author)

27. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and C. Lyford. 2018. Nudges using Inexpensive Toys and Stickers Proven Effective in Promoting Selection and Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables (F/V) in Elementary School Lunchrooms. Healthy Food Choices in School, Cooperative Extension System, September 7, 2018.  
<https://articles.extension.org/pages/74717/nudges-using-inexpensive-toys-and-stickers-proven-effective-in-promoting-selection-and-consumption-o>
28. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. 2018. Pediatric Clinical Care Provider and School Nutrition Professional Team Up for Smarter Lunchroom Movement in Georgia. Healthy Food Choices in School, Cooperative Extension System, February 19, 2018.  
<https://articles.extension.org/pages/74609/pediatric-clinical-care-provider-and-school-nutrition-professionals-team-up-for-smarter-lunchroom-mo>
29. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and C. Lyford. 2014. New Developments for School Food Suppliers to Encourage Healthy Eating: Behavioral Economics. Healthy Food Choices in School, Cooperative Extension System, October 7, 2014. [http://www.extension.org/pages/71392/new-developments-for-school-food-suppliers-to-encourage-healthy-eating-behavioral-economics#.VDRPE\\_lDXuQ](http://www.extension.org/pages/71392/new-developments-for-school-food-suppliers-to-encourage-healthy-eating-behavioral-economics#.VDRPE_lDXuQ)

## Public Health Media Coverage

1. Research shows food presentation can affect eating behaviors  
<https://news.uga.edu/partitioning-vegetables-increase-consumption/>
2. UGA researchers use modeling to help rural communities eat more fruits, veggies  
<https://publichealth.uga.edu/uga-uses-modeling-to-help-rural-communities-eat-more-fruits-veggies/>
3. UGA, Shanghai researchers find evidence of how obesity programs can work long-term  
<https://publichealth.uga.edu/uga-shanghai-researchers-find-evidence-of-how-obesity-programs-can-work-long-term/>
4. Childhood obesity: UGA experts are on the front line  
<http://medicalpartnership.usg.edu/?/news/article/childhood-obesity-uga-experts-are-on-the-front-line>  
<https://news.uga.edu/childhood-obesity-uga-experts-are-on-the-front-line/>
5. School lunchroom staff can help kids make healthier food choices  
<https://ugaresearch.uga.edu/school-lunchroom-staff-can-help-kids-make-healthier-food-choices/>
6. Georgia obesity initiatives <https://www.aspph.org/georgia-obesity-initiatives-2/>
7. Georgia study shows training prompts school cafeteria staff to promote healthier foods in school lunchrooms <https://www.aspph.org/georgia-study-shows-training-prompts-school-cafeteria-staff-to-promote-healthier-foods-school-lunchrooms/>
8. Toys motivate children to eat healthier diet  
<https://news.uga.edu/toys-motivate-children-to-eat-a-healthier-diet/>  
<https://www.aspph.org/uga-study-finds-toys-motivate-children-to-eat-a-healthier-diet/>  
<https://www.wsbradio.com/news/local/toys-make-eating-fun/peygAJu0dplI4Nn9JLTpAO/>
9. UGA's sustainable food system initiative awards third round of fellowships  
<https://www.caes.uga.edu/news->

## Other Technical and Research Reports

1. Rajbhandari-Thapa J. and C. Lyford, Results from the Fun in the Lunchroom Research Project Principals of participating schools, Lubbock, TX, Spring 2014
2. Rajbhandari-Thapa J. and C. Lyford, Project Completion Report, Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, Spring 2014
3. Rajbhandari-Thapa J. Results from Table Talkers Talk Children into Healthy Eating Project, School Nutrition Director, Jackson County, GA, Spring 2018
4. Rajbhandari-Thapa J. Results from Table Talkers Talk Children into Healthy Eating Project, School Nutrition Director, Clarke County, GA, Spring 2018

## Peer Reviewed Abstracts and Conference Papers (oral presentation unless marked as poster)

1. *Thapa, K.* and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa. Physical activity and alcohol use among middle and high school students in Georgia public schools. State of Public Health Conference
2. *Carruthers, H.* and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa. Georgia Middle School Physical Education Participation and its Association with Measures of Physical Fitness. State of Public Health Conference
3. Chen Z., J. Ying, J. Ingles, D. Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa. Cost of Bereavement in China: Evidence from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey. The Lancet-Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Conference, 2019
4. Mekonen, B., D. Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. Stroke related in Hospital Mortality: Weekend Effect and Rural Urban Differences. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Services Research Day at Emory University (poster)
5. *Thapa, K.*, R. Ghimire, E. Vall, and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. Physical Fitness and its Relationship with Adolescents' Alcohol Use in Georgia Public Schools. American Public Health Association (poster)
6. *Katapodis N.*, D. Zhang, *M. Edwards, D. Alvin, G. Mulay*, and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\* Assessing the Healthfulness of Chain Restaurants in Georgia Counties after Mandatory Menu Labeling. American Public Health Association
7. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., D. Zhang, and *D. Schneider*. Obese individuals' insurance coverage before and after Medicaid expansion- a difference-in-difference approach. Obesity Society (poster)
8. *Chung S.R.*, S. Chatterjee, and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. The Relationship between U.S. Households' Eating Behavior and Proportion of Health Expenditures over Other Expenditures. American Council on Consumer Interests, May 21-23, 2019 (poster)
9. *Juneja, F.* and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. Efficacy of Nutrition and/or Physical Activity with Alternative Pain Management Methods among Patients with Chronic Conditions. 2019 CURO Symposium. April 8-April 9, 2019
10. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., *Katapodis, N.*, and D. Zhang. Assessing Healthfulness of the Food Environment after the Mandatory Menu Labelling and Predicted Impact on Healthy Eating. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga, July 21-23, 2019. Available at <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/290926?ln=en>

11. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., J. Sevilla, R. Nayga. Scarcity, Consumption, and Satiation: Results from a Controlled Experiment. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga, July 21-23, 2019 (poster)
12. Thapa, K., R. Ghimire, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa. Do Physically Active Students Perform Better in Schools? Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Chicago, IL, March 8-10, 2019 (poster)
13. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., S. R. *Chung*, B. *Mekonnen*, F. *Pham*, and D. Zhang. Opioid-related hospitalizations, its association with comorbidities, and payer differences in rural and urban America. Academy Health - Annual Research Meeting, June 2-4, 2019 (poster)
14. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., K. *Thapa*, J. Ingels, M. Davis, and P. Corso. Change in school level physical activity after implementation of state physical activity policy. Active Living Research Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC, February 17-19, 2019
15. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., D. Zhang, and S.R. *Chung*, Trends in Obesity Diagnosis and Treatment. Obesity Week 2018, Nashville, TN, November 11-15, 2018 (poster)
16. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., D. Zhang, S.R. *Chung*, F. *Pham*, and B. *Mekonnen*. Comorbidities and Payer Difference in Opioid-related Hospitalization. Interdisciplinary Opioid Epidemic Symposium, Athens, Ga, October 20, 2018 (poster)
17. Zhang, D. and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, S.R. *Chung*, F. *Pham*, and B. *Mekonnen*. Rural-urban differences in opioid-related hospitalization. Interdisciplinary Opioid Epidemic Symposium, Athens, Ga. October 20, 2018 (poster)
18. *Katapodis N.*, D. Zhang, P. Giabbanelli, Y. Li, C. Lyford, and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. An Agent-Based Simulation Model to Estimate the Impact of Improving Access on Healthy Food Intake in a Rural Community. Academy Health-Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 24-26, 2018 (poster)
19. *Thapa, K.*, R. Ghimire, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*, Do Physically Active Students Perform Better in School. Atlanta Studies Symposium, April 20, 2018 (poster)
20. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., and B. *Pullekines*. Changes in Out-Of-Pocket Expenditure for Mammogram Screening Following Implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Chinese Economics Society North American Conference, Athens, GA, April 6, 2018
21. *Khan, A. D.* Zhang, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. Ischemic Stroke Mortality, State Obesity Prevalence and Implications on Policy. Chinese Economics Society North American Conference, Athens, GA, April 6, 2018
22. *Wei, H.*, D. Zhang. and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\* Health Care Access by Weight Status before and after the Affordable Care Act. Chinese Economics Society North American Conference, Athens, GA, April 6, 2018
23. S. *Velasquez*, T. *Nguyen*, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*, D. Zhang, E. B. *Pullekines*. Georgia Adult's Weight Status and association with Nutrition and Physical Activity. State of Public Health, Athens, Ga, Oct. 17, 2017 (poster)
24. *Ladislac AE*, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, Smith JJ, Birch LL. Messages About Energy Content of Snacks Affects Consumer Choices: A Pilot Study. 2016 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) Symposium. (poster)
25. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and J. Welsh. Georgia Elementary School Lunchroom Participation: Impact from the Statewide Implementation of the Smarter Lunchroom Movement. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, July 31-Aug 2, 2016
26. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., and C. Lyford, Differential Effects of Improving Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Using Reinforcement. WERA Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO, June 5-7, 2016

27. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., and M. vanDellán. Lunchroom Table Talkers Talk Students into Eating Fruits and Vegetables. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, July 31-Aug 2, 2016
28. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., K. Ingerson, and K. Lewis. Changes in Food Choices after Tray Removal in a University Dining Hall. Selected Paper at the annual meetings of the Annual Meetings of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Boston, MS, July 31-August 2, 2016. Available at <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/236270?ln=en>
29. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Lyford, C., B. McCool, E. Belasco, B. Pence, and A. McCool. Improving Cancer Risk Awareness including Obesity as a Risk Factor for Cancer from a Multi-Tiered Community-based Intervention in a Small US Community. ASHEcon Sixth Biennial Conference, New Frontiers in Health Policy and Health Care, Philadelphia, PA. June 12-15, 2016 (poster)
30. Matthew, S. and J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*. Challenges and Opportunities in Healthcare Delivery Practices in Treatment of Patients with Obesity- A Systematic Review. ASHEcon Sixth Biennial Conference, New Frontiers in Health Policy and Health Care, Philadelphia, PA. June 12-15, 2016 (poster)
31. Rajbhandari-Thapa J., M. vanDellán, S. *Panda*. Lunchroom Table Talkers Talk Kids into Healthy Eating. ASHEcon Sixth Biennial Conference, New Frontiers in Health Policy and Health Care, Philadelphia, PA. June 12-15, 2016
32. *Panda, S.*, J. Rajbhandari-Thapa\*, Ko Otani. Patient Satisfaction in Relation to Weight Status and Access to Primary Care Provider across the U.S. Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference Understanding Public Health Research Evidence and Practice. Atlanta, Ga, March 22-23, 2016 (poster)
33. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. and C. Lyford. Can Lunchroom Nudges Develop Healthy Taste Buds in Elementary School Children? Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, , Minneapolis, MN, July 27-29, 2014
34. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, E. Belasco, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, T. Carter. Nudges in the Supermarket: Experience from Point of Sale Signs. Selected paper prepared for presentation at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's 2014 AAEA Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, July 27-29, 2014. Available at <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/171442?ln=en>
35. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and C. Lyford. Fun in the Lunch-Room: A Nudge to Develop Healthy Taste Buds. Oral presentation, June 22-25, 2014. ASHEcon Fifth Biennial Conference, Health and Healthcare in America: From Economics to Policy. LosAngeles, CA, June 22-25, 2014
36. Lyford, C., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, E. Belasco, B. Pence, A. McCool, B. McCool, and T. Carter. The Effect on Supermarket Food Purchases from Point of Sale Nudges with Community Reinforcement. ASHEcon Fifth Biennial Conference, Health and Healthcare in America: From Economics to Policy. LosAngeles, CA, June 22-25, 2014
37. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., and C. Lyford. Visual Nudges Can Change Children's Food Choice Decision: What Next? A Systematic Review. ASHEcon Fifth Biennial Conference, Health and Healthcare in America: From Economics to Policy. LosAngeles, CA, June 22-25, 2014 (poster)
38. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, B. McCool, A. B. Pence, and A. McCool. Abstract A43: Comparing changes in cancer knowledge, health attitudes, and behavior by demographics and assimilation from a multi-tiered community-based model. Sixth AACR Conference: The Science of Cancer Health Disparities; December 6–9, 2013; Atlanta, GA. Available at



[http://cebp.aacrjournals.org/content/23/11\\_Supplement/A43.short](http://cebp.aacrjournals.org/content/23/11_Supplement/A43.short)

39. Lyford, C., J. Rajbhandari-Thapa, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence. The Effect of a Multi-Tiered Model for Reducing Obesity Risk Factors: Attitude and Behavior Change in a Rural Community. Annual Research Conference on Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer organized by the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), Bethesda, MD, Nov 7-8, 2013 (poster)
40. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, E. Belasco, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, T. Carter. The Effect of a Multi-Tiered Model for Reducing Obesity Risk Factors: Attitude and Behavior Change in a Rural Community. Selected Paper prepared for presentation at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, February 3-5, 2013. Available at <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/143052?ln=en>

### **Invited Oral Presentations**

41. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Behavioral Economics in Smarter Lunchroom, Smarter Lunchroom Annual Symposium, Ithaca, NY, October 10-12, 2019
42. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Secondary Data in Health Policy Research, BRFSS 2018 Training Workshop in Health Policy Research, Atlanta, Ga, April 13, 2018
43. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Merging Nutrition Training Data with Fitness Data to Improve School Health, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, Aug 5-Aug 7, 2018 (unable to attend)
44. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Taking Fun to School Lunchrooms, Research presentation on ongoing and completed research funded by the Cornell BEN Center, Smarter Lunchroom Annual Symposium, Ithaca, NY, May 9-12, 2018
45. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Smarter Lunchroom Annual Symposium, Ithaca, NY, May, 2015
46. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Seminar on Behavioral Economics in Public Health to the Northeast Georgia Dietetic Association, Athens, Ga, Fall 2014
47. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Seminar on Prospect of Choice Architecture and Behavioral Economics in Home Food Environment, Maternal and Childhood Obesity Team, Obesity Initiative, Fall 2014
48. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, E. Belasco, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, T. Carter. Health Attitude and Behavior Change in a Rural Community after a Multi-Tiered Obesity Reduction and Cancer Prevention Project. Open Society Foundations' Grantee Conference, New York City, NY, March, 2013
49. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., C. Lyford, E. Belasco, B. McCool, A. McCool, B.C. Pence, T. Carter. Collating and Evaluating the Outcomes from a Multi-Tiered Reinforcing Model for Cancer Prevention between Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Hispanic Population in Rural Communities of West Texas. oikos Annual Young Scholars Economics Academy, Geneva, Switzerland, August, 2012

### **Public Health Outreach, Research, and Instruction (\*invited)**

- \*Member, 2020 Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Conference Planning committee
- \*Attendee, Food-shed UGA Planning meeting, February, 2019
- \*Attendee, Obesity Certificate Steering Committee meeting, October, 2017
- Attendee, State of Public Health Conference, 2016



Attendee, State of Public Health Conference, 2015

\*Attendee with presentation, Instruction Mini-Conference, USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant, Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, August 28, 2015.

\*Attendee with presentation, Food industry-academia workshop, Edgar L. Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science organized by the Obesity Initiative. April 16, 2015

\*Attendee with presentation, Seminar and Strategic Planning for Obesity Education, USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant, Georgia Center, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, March 4-5, 2015,

Attendee, State of Public Health Conference, 2014

Attendee, SEC Symposium “Prevention of Obesity: Overcoming a 21st Century Public Health Challenge” Atlanta, GA, September 20-22, 2014

## **B. RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS**

### **Current**

*Using agent-based modeling to compare strategies that can reduce rural-urban disparities in cardiovascular disease.* National Institute of Minority Health, National Institute of Health. \$1,574,071 total, 4/1/2019 – 3/31/2023.

PI: D. Zhang, CoI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa (25%)

*Pilot study on technology-enhanced health coaching intervention for low-income patients with multiple chronic conditions.* UGA Clinical and Translational Research Unit. \$40,000. 7/1/2019 to 6/1/2020.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Impact of the school and the surrounding environment on implementation of Georgia’s statewide childhood obesity policy.* UGA Presidential Interdisciplinary Grant. \$145,832. 7/1/2019 to 12/15/2020.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Evaluation of Core injury programs in Georgia.*

Georgia Department of Public Health.

PI at UGA: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Georgia’s SHAPE Act to prevent childhood obesity: A prospective policy evaluation.* National Institute of Child Health and Disparities, National Institute of Health, UGA Sub contract. \$130,000. 2/1/2019 – 1/31/2020.

PI at UGA: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Georgia’s SHAPE Act to prevent childhood obesity: A prospective policy evaluation.* National Institute of Child Health and Disparities, National Institute of Health. \$1,532,024. 2/1/2017 – 1/31/2020.

PI: P. Corso, CoI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa (20%)

*Promising Strategies for Promoting Healthier Food Purchases among SNAP Households.* USDA NIFA.

\$499,630, 3/15/2017–3/14/2020.

PI: C. Zhen, CoI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa (8%)

*Interdisciplinary Graduate Research and Education in Sustainable Food Systems.* USDA NIFA.

\$246,000, 9/1/2016 – 8/31/2021.

PI at CPH/UGA: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa (14%)

*Understanding the Effect of Poverty and Food Insecurity Status on Food Behavior.* University of Arkansas. \$5000, 8/1/2016 – 5/30/2020.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

### **Completed**

*Modeling consumer behavior and its interaction with food supply to foster a healthy and sustainable food system in the state of Georgia.* Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant, University of Georgia.

\$40,000, 01/03/17-01/03/19.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Table Talkers Talk Kids into Healthy Eating.* Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Program: USDA sub-award.

\$40,000. 9/16/2015 – 9/30/2018.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

*Do SNAP Recipients get the Best Prices?* UKCPR Food-APS Research Initiative funded by the Economic Research Service. June 2014 to December 2015.

\$40,000.

PI: C. Lyford, CoI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa

*Develop Healthy Eating Habits in Elementary School Children in Socioeconomically Deprived Hispanic Population of West Texas.* Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Program. USDA sub-award.

\$30,000, July 2013 to June 2014.

PI: J. Rajbhandari-Thapa.

### **C. AWARDS, HONORS and ACCOLADES**

Spring, 2019 Recognition by the UGA Career center for contribution to student career

Spring, 2019 Travel award from the College of Public Health/ University of Georgia, \$750

Fall, 2018 Travel award from the College of Public Health/ University of Georgia, \$750

Spring, 2018 Travel award from the College of Public Health/ University of Georgia, \$600

Spring, 2016 Deans award to advance Online Teaching and Learning at UGA, \$3,000

2014 Service Learning mini grant, UGA Office of Service Learning, \$500

2014 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Travel Grant, \$ 400

2014 Graduate School Travel Grant, Texas Tech University, \$ 300  
 2014 Travel award Texas Tech University, \$500  
 2013 Travel award Texas Tech University, \$ 850  
 2013 Open Society Foundation's Global Supplementary Grant, \$5,000  
 2012 Graduate School Travel Grant, Texas Tech University, \$ 1,500  
 2012 *oikos* Young Scholar Academy, Participation Grant, \$ 3,500  
 2012 Open Society Foundation's Global Supplementary Grant, \$4,000  
 2012 Graduate School Poster competition, Third award  
 2011 PEO International Peace Scholarship, \$10,000  
 2010 PEO International Peace Scholarship, \$10,000  
 2010 American Association of University Women International Scholarship, \$10,000-alternate  
 2009 Cornell Institute of Public Affairs Fellowship, \$28,000  
 2000-2004 Tribhuvan University Merit Award, \$ 500 Annual award to the top-ranking student  
 1998-2004 Glenn E. Maddy and Winrock International Scholar, \$ 2,000 Annual award to the best performing student in financial need

#### **D. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING:**

March 19, 2018	Grant Writer's Write Winning Grant Proposals Workshop
July 20-24, 2015	1st Short Course R25HL124208 Strengthening Causal Inference in Behavioral Obesity Research, Birmingham, Alabama
March 11, 2015	Writing and Winning NIH Proposals training at the Grant Training Center, Emory Univ.
October 8-9, 2013	Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Texas Tech Univ.
August 19-24, 2012	<i>oikos</i> Annual Young Scholars Economics Academy in Geneva, Switzerland
December 2010	SMART Program/Learning through Engagement, CIIFAD, Cornell Univ.
November 2003	Social Mobilization and Community Development, National Youth Leadership Development organized by SMELC/UNDP
November 2005	Report Writing and Data Management organized by SMELC/UNDP

## INSTRUCTION

**Courses Taught** \* represents self-developed courses (average score from course evaluation)

*HPAM 7050e Obesity Policy online (100%)\**

Fall 2017	13 Graduate Students including 1 DrPH
Fall 2018	8 Graduate Students
Spring 2019	5 Graduate Students
Fall 2019	9 Graduate Students

*HPAM 7050 Obesity Policy (100%)\**

Spring 2015	5 Graduate Students (5/5)
Fall 2015	11 Graduate Students (4/5)
Spring 2016	4 Graduate Students (5/5)
Fall 2016	6 Graduate Students (5/5)
Spring 2017	8 Graduate Students (4/5)
Spring 2018	5 Graduate Students

*HPAM 8600 Health Economics (100%)*

Spring 2016	10 Graduate Students (4/5)
Fall 2016	7 Graduate Students (5/5)
Spring 2017	10 Graduate Students including 1 PhD (5/5)
Fall 2017	6 Graduate Students including 1 PhD (4/5)
Spring 2018	12 Graduate Students
Fall 2018	6 Graduate Students including 1 PhD
Spring 2019	16 Graduate Students including 2 PhD
Fall 2019	5 Graduate Students

*HPAM 8010S Advanced Service Learning in Health Policy and Management (100%)\**

Spring 2015	6 Graduate Students including 1 PhD (4/5)
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**Graduate Student Advisees in MPH and PhD**

Total capstone advisees: 14 (fully funded graduate research assistants in MPH program: 4)

*HPAM 7005 Graduate Student Seminar (GRAs under Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa's grant funding)*

1. Saswat Panda	Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016
2. Sophie John	Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
3. Kiran Thapa	Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
4. Nicole Katapodis	Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

*HPAM 9005 Doctoral Student Seminar*

1. Alexis Carraway	Fall 2019, Spring 2020
2. Kiran Thapa	Fall 2019

*PBHL 7800 Capstone in Public Health*

1. Christine Kim	MPH, Fall 2016
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2. Steven Matthew	MPH, Spring 2016
3. Saswat Panda	MPH, Fall 2016
4. Taylor Mann	MPH, Fall 2016
5. Trang Nguyen	MPH, Spring 2017
6. Skarlet Velasquez	MPH, Spring 2017
7. Elizabeth Bea Pullekines	MPH, Spring 2017
8. Heather Blaire Bornstein	MPH, Fall 2017
9. Emily Claire Stroer	MPH, Spring 2018
10. Aishah Khan	MPH, Spring 2018
11. Samrina Saeed Jamal	MPH, Fall 2018
12. Ansley Rebecca Hardin	MPH, Fall 2018
13. Sophie John	MPH, Fall 2018
14. Nicole Katapodis	MPH, Spring 2019
15. Kennicia Fortson	MPH/MSW, Fall 2019

*PBHL 7560 Internship in Public Health*

1. Taylor Mann	Fall 2016
2. Trang Nguyen	Fall 2016
3. Skarlet Velasquez	Spring 2017

*HPAM 8000 Directed Research Health Policy*

1. Steven Matthew	Fall 2015
2. Trang Nguyen	Fall 2016
3. Skarlet Velasquez	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
4. Elizabeth Bea Pullekines	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
5. Oluwatobi Mummed Olagunju	Spring 2018
6. Kennicia Ralston	Spring 2019
7. Kiran Thapa	Spring 2019
8. Nicole Katapodis	Spring 2019

*HPAM 9300 Doctoral Dissertation*

1. Hilary Carruthers	Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019
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**Student Advisees in Thesis and Dissertation Committee**

Masters

1. Kellyn W. Shollenberger M.Sc. Spring 2016. Minor advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa

Doctoral

1. Temitope Aiyejorun Walker Ph.D. 2018. Minor advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa
2. Katherine Ingerson, Ph.D. Ongoing. Co-Major advisor with Dr. Johnson
3. Skarlet Velasquez, Ph.D. Ongoing. Co-Major advisor with Dr. Cordero
4. Taylor Nicole Newman, Ph.D. Ongoing. Minor advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa
5. Sae Rom Chung, Ph.D. Ongoing. Minor advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa
6. Hilary Roberta Carruthers, DrPH. Ongoing. Major advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa
7. Kiran Thapa, PhD. Ongoing. Major advisor: Dr. Rajbhandari-Thapa

8. Alexis Carraway, PhD. Ongoing.
9. Heejung Son, PhD. Ongoing.

### **Guest Lectures**

1. Evidence based policy for *HPAM 7010 Introduction to Health Policy and Management*, Fall 2014
2. Behavioral Economics in Public Health for *HPRB 7600 Public Health, Physical Activity and Nutrition Interventions*, Fall 2014
3. Community based behavior change interventions for obesity prevention for *PHRM 8620 Pharmacy Care Administration Special Topics Seminar*, Spring 2015
4. Behavioral economics in the National School Lunch Program for *FDNS 4540/6540 Public Health Dietetics*, Spring 2015
5. Behavioral Economics in Public Health for *HPAM 3600 Introduction to Health Policy and Management*, Spring 2016
6. Essential Principles of Micro and Macroeconomics for *HPAM 7001 Foundations in Health Policy and Management*, Fall 2016
7. Essential Principles of Micro and Macroeconomics for *HPAM 7001 Foundations in Health Policy and Management*, Fall 2017
8. Health in Sustainable Development for *FANR 1500 Fundamental of Sustainable Development*, Fall 2017
9. Health economics for *HPAM 3600 Introduction to Health Policy*, Fall 2017
10. Essential Principles of Micro and Macroeconomics for *HPAM 7001 Foundations in Health Policy and Management*, Fall 2018
11. NEMS-CS scoring of food environment in corner stores in Clarke county, *CRSS 4020S/6020S: Social Sustainability in Agricultural & Food Systems*, Spring 2019
12. Quantitative research, *AU/UGA Medical Partnership (Year 1 Community Health)*

### **Other Instruction Experiences**

1. Advanced Marketing Research, Spring 2014, Teaching Assistant to Dr. Conrad Lyford and Teaching Learning and Professional Development Center, Texas Tech University
2. Teaching Fellow, Fall 2013, TEACH (Teaching Effectiveness and Career enhancement) Program, Texas Tech University.
3. Mentor, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Lauro Cavazos & Ophelia Powell-Malone Mentoring Program (Mentor Tech), Texas Tech University.



## SERVICE

### To the Profession

#### *Membership in Professional Organizations*

January 2014- Community of Practice in Healthy Food Choices in School  
<https://articles.extension.org/pages/71450/janani-r-thapa-phd-college-of-public-health-in-the-university-of-georgia>  
November 2013- American Society for Health Economists  
January 2012- Agriculture and Applied Economics Association  
June 2013- The Obesity Society  
July 2013-2015 Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior

#### *Invited Manuscript Reviewer (numbers reviewed)*

Georgia Journal of Public Health (2)  
Public Administration Review (1)  
British Food Journal (1)  
Journal of Rural Health (2)  
Journal of Public Health (1)  
Health Education and Behavior (1)  
American Journal of Health Promotion (3)  
Interventions in Aging (1)  
Social Science Quarterly (1)  
Obesity (1)

#### *Abstract reviewer*

American Public Health Association, Annual meeting 2018, 2019  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Annual Meeting 2014, 2016, 2019

#### *Grant Reviewer*

USDA NIFA's internal call for proposals administered by the UGA's Sustainable Food System Initiative internal grant  
NIH Early Career Reviewer

### To the Department of Health Policy and Management

Member, MPH Curriculum Revision Committee (Chair Don Loyd), Fall 2015  
Member, Don Lloyd Scholarship Committee, Spring 2015  
Member, PhD in HPAM Committee (Chair Phaedra Corso), Spring 2017- Fall 2018  
Member, PhD in Health Services Research concentration with Epidemiology, Fall 2019-

### To the College of Public Health

Member, HPAM DH Search Committee (Chair Mark Wilson), Fall 2015  
Member, HPAM DH Search Committee (Chair Joel M Lee), Spring 2016  
Member, College of Public Health/Diversity Committee, Spring 2017- 2019

Member, College of Public Health/Diversity Committee, Fall 2019- 2021  
Member, College of Public Health/UGA Research Advisory Committee, Spring 2017-2019  
Member, College of Public Health/UGA Research Advisory Committee, Fall 2019-2021  
Member, HPAM DH Search Committee (Chair Timothy Heckman), Spring 2018  
Member, CPH Awards Committee, Spring 2018

### **To the University of Georgia**

Member, Graduate certificate in obesity and weight management steering committee, Fall 2017-Fall 2018  
College representative, University Libraries Committee, Spring 2017-  
Member, Executive Committee, Sustainable Food System Initiative/ University of Georgia, Spring 2015-ongoing  
Faculty Affiliate, University of Georgia Obesity Initiative, August 2014-

### **To the State of Georgia**

Member, UGA representative, Women Infants and Children (WIC) working group. This group constitute members from the Georgia Department of Public Health, profit and non-profit sector working collaboratively to increase participation and program retention in the WIC program.

UGA partner, Data entry and analysis assistance to Department of Public Health/ Women Infant and Children Program

Member, UGA representative, Georgia Shape Data and Evaluation Sub Group