

# Mrignyani Sehgal

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720-939-2918 | San Francisco, CA

## PhD in Applied Economics | Causal Inference | Big Data | Data-Driven Decision Making

7+ years conducting experimental and quasi-experimental analysis for Gates Foundation, Bloomberg philanthropy, and NIH funded projects across 10+ countries. Hands-on expertise in primary and secondary data including unstructured administrative data, household panel surveys, large scale marketing and price data. Strong communicator translating complex research insights to diverse audiences through data-driven reports, policy briefs and stakeholder presentations. Findings published in leading journals and presented at major conferences.

### EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, PhD in Applied Economics (JBT Addington Fellowship)	2020-2024
TERI, MSc in Economics	2015-2017
Delhi University, Bachelors in Economics	2012-2015

### SKILLS AND TOOLS

**Data Management:** data cleaning, quality checks, aggregation, harmonization, and linking across multiple sources  
**Experimental Methods:** Online and field A/B testing, discrete choice experiments, power analysis, survey design  
**Quasi-Experimental Methods:** Difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, panel fixed effects models  
**Qualitative Methods:** Focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, systematic literature reviews  
**Languages and statistical software:** Excel, Stata, Python, SQL, Qualtrics

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Global Food Policy Research Program, UNC	Chapel Hill, North Carolina
<u>Senior Research Associate</u>	Sep 2024-Present

- Led **causal analysis** of Chile and Peru's front-of-package labeling (FOPL) policies using **NielsenIQ Marketing Data (1.5M+ transactions, 3500 beverages)** quantifying industry response vs. consumer behavior change
- Coauthored publication with **multidisciplinary research team**; producing well-documented **reproducible code**
- Designed NIH-funded **three-arm RCT** testing label language and design effects on U.S. consumers' purchase
- Directed **statistical design** for impact evaluation of Colombia's FOPL assessing wages and employment tradeoffs
- Secured grants from NIH, Wellcome Trust, and Bloomberg Philanthropies by **developing research proposals**

University of Illinois	Urbana-Champaign, IL
<u>Research Analyst</u>	Aug 2020-Aug 2022

- Examined **causal impacts** of agricultural technology on household welfare using instrumental variables
- Estimated **reduced-form causal inference models** to assess external shocks on household welfare using difference-in-differences methodology (World Bank's high frequency panel, N=120,000)
- **Panel fixed-effects models** to study price volatility impacts on household welfare (National survey, N=40,000)

#### Teaching Assistant

- Taught weekly lectures **translating technical economic concepts** into accessible analysis
- **Supervised and mentored** undergraduates through capstone projects

CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute	New York City, NY
<u>Research Analyst</u>	Jun 2022-Aug 2022

- Developed methodology to analyse multi-platform food marketing exposure; led 5-person team through data collection & focus groups; prepared policy report for NYC Department of Health

- Conducted **econometric analysis** for a Gates Foundation funded impact evaluation of health intervention; oversaw full research cycle from **survey design, data collection, data analysis** through manuscript publication
- **Designed and executed lab-in-field RCT**; using statistical methodology including **hypothesis testing** to assess how information and provider characteristics affect user willingness to pay
- Translated complex data into dashboards, **memos and policy briefs for non-technical Govt. stakeholders**
- Conducted **scoping reviews** of food environments in 4 countries, managing search strategy and data extraction

## RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

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### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 : Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Denver

2023 : Tufts Nutrition Data Symposium

2023 : 8th Annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Conference

2023 : Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Washington DC

2023 : 3rd Africa Food Environment Research Network

2023 : Tata Cornell Institute 10th Anniversary Conference

2022 : International Policy and Development (IPAD) workshop, UIUC

2019 : Indian Statistical Institute's 15th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development

### INVITED LECTURES

2023: Arizona State University (advanced undergraduate students)- Food Environment Policies.

2022: University of Illinois Urbana Champaign- Professional opportunities for graduate students.

2018: TERI University (for M.Sc. Economics students)- STATA Training- Working with IHDS Panel Dataset.

### PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED PAPERS)

Sehgal, M., Clarke, R. N., Marshall, Q., & Kumar, N. (2025). Food environment research in Tanzania: A desk review. Intl Food Policy Res Inst.

Clarke, R. N., Sehgal, M., Marshall, Q., & Kumar, N. (2025). Food environment research in Sri Lanka: A desk review. Intl Food Policy Res Inst.

Kumar, Neha, et al. "Women improving nutrition through self-help groups in India: Does nutrition information help?." Food Policy 128 (2024): 102716.

Margolies, A., Pather, K., Namara, R., Sehgal, M., & Olney, D. (2024). Urban country nutrition profile: Philippines.

Raghunathan, K., Alvi, M., & Sehgal, M. (2023). Ethnicity, information and cooperation: Evidence from a group-based nutrition intervention. Food Policy, 120, 102478.

Desai, S., Misra, M., Das, A., Singh, R. J., Sehgal, M., Gram, L., Kumar, N., & Prost, A. (2020). Community interventions with women's groups to improve women's and children's health in India: a mixed-methods systematic review of effects, enablers, and barriers. BMJ global health, 5(12), e003304.

Sehgal, Mrignyani; Nguyen, Phuong Hong; Avula, Rasmi; Scott, Samuel; and Menon, Purnima. 2018. Coverage of nutrition and health interventions in West Bengal: Insights from the National Family Health Survey-4 . POSHAN Data Note 33. New Delhi, India: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Sehgal, Mrignyani & Avula, Rasmi & Nguyen, Phuong Hong & Scott, Samuel & Menon, Purnima, 2018. "Coverage of nutrition and health interventions in Kerala: Insights from the National Family Health Survey-4," POSHAN data notes 18, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).