

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	<i>Chapel Hill, North Carolina</i>
<i>Senior Research Associate</i>	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	<i>Urbana-Champaign, IL</i>
<i>Research Analyst</i>	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	<i>New York City, NY</i>
<i>Research Analyst</i>	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

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).