

ANAKA AIYAR

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Professional Information

[Research Gate](#)
[Google Scholar](#), [Linkedin](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor

2023 - current

Department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE)

University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, VT

Faculty Member, *MPA program, CDAE, UVM*

Faculty Member, *SDPEG Program, CDAE, UVM*

Faculty Member, *Graduate College, UVM*

Faculty Member, *Food Systems Graduate Program, UVM*

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

2020 - 2023

University of Nevada, Reno, NV

Post Doctoral Associate, Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition

2016 - 2020

Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA

M.A. in Economics

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA

M.Sc. in Economics

Madras School of Economics, Anna University, Chennai, India

B.A. Economics (Hons)

Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University, New Delhi, India

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Food Systems, Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Development Economics

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Published with an undergraduate student. **Published with a graduate student

Joseph R Cummins, Guo, J.,** Agarwal, N., **Aiyar, A.**, Jain, V.,** & Bergmann, A.** (2024), Caste Differences in Child Growth: Disentangling Endowment and Investment Effects, *World Development*, 179, 106598.

Srinivas Venugopal, Mohapatra, S.,** & **Aiyar, A.**, (2024), Crafting Climate Resilience Solutions for Nature-Dependent Subsistence Communities: A Dignity-Centric View, *Journal of Macromarketing*, 02761467241238177.

Veronika Scavacini* & **Aiyar, A.**, (2024), Food Insecurity and Mental Health Outcomes among Transgender and Gender Diverse Communities in the United States post COVID-19, *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*, DOI:10.1891/LGBTQ-2023-0042

- Aiyar, Anaka** & Naveen Sunder (2024), The effectiveness of insurance in improving child health: A study from India, *Health Economics*, 33(5), 870-893.
- Purushotham, A.**, **Aiyar, A.**, & von Cramon-Taubadel, S. (2023). Processed foods, socio-economic status, and peri-urban obesity in India. *Food Policy*, 117, 102450.
- Wesselbaum, D., Smith, M. D., Barrett, C. B., & **Aiyar, A.** (2023). A food insecurity Kuznets Curve?. *World Development*, 165, 106189.
- Aiyar, Anaka**, Sunaina Dhingra & Prabhu Pingali. “Transitioning to an Obese India: Demographic and Structural Determinants of the Rapid Rise in Overweight Incidence”, *Economics & Human Biology*, 43 (2021): 101041
- Aiyar, A.**, Rahman, A., & Pingali, P. (2021). India’s rural transformation and rising obesity burden. *World Development*, 138, 105258.
- Aiyar, A.**, & Cummins, J. R. (2021). An age profile perspective on two puzzles in global child health: The Indian Enigma & economic growth. *Journal of Development Economics*, 148, 102569.
- Aiyar, Anaka**, “Unintended consequences of targeted health insurance on intra-household resource allocations.” *Journal of Development Studies*, 57-3 (2021): 502-518
- Aiyar, Anaka**, and Prabhu Pingali. “Pandemics and Food Systems: Towards a proactive food safety approach to disease prevention & management.” *Food Security* (2020): 1-8
- Aiyar, Anaka**, and Srinivas Venugopal. “A Macromarketing Approach to Addressing the Ethical Challenge of Market Inclusion in Base of the Pyramid Markets.” *Journal of Business Ethics*, 164 (2020): 243–260
- Pingali, Prabhu, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Diversity in Development – Inter-state Differences in the India Growth Story” *World Food Policy Journal* 4-2 (2018): 57-78
- Agarwal, Neha, **Anaka Aiyar**, Arpita Bhattacharjee, Joseph Cummins, Christian Gunadi, Deepak Singhanian, Matthew Taylor, and Evan Wigton-Jones. “Month of birth and child height in 40 countries.” *Economics Letters* 157 (2017): 10-13.
- Kathuria, Vinish, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Link between Exporting and Productivity: Firm Level analysis for Indian Chemical Industry.” *Science, Technology and Society* 16-3 (2011): 309-331.

BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Inclusive Marketing: Fostering Sustainable Wellbeing in Subsistence Communities”, with *Srinivas Venugopal*, (*Book Chapter, Accepted October 2024*)
- Pingali, Prabhu, **Anaka Aiyar**, Mathew Abraham & Andaleeb Rahman (2019), *Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India*, Open Access: Palgrave Studies in Agricultural Economics and Food Policy, Palgrave Macmillan [120,000+ Downloads](#)
- Pingali, Prabhu, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Policy: Looking Ahead to 2050.” *Agriculture and Food Systems to 2050*, edited by Prabhu Pingali & Rachid Serraj. World Scientific Publishing, (2018): Chapter 18

WORKING PAPERS

- Impacts of Health Insurance on Child Nutrition: Evidence from India, with *Katherine Lacy & Dilek Uz (Under Review)*
- The Effectiveness of Insurance in Increasing Preventative Care Reproductive Health Procedures among Low-Income Women in India, (with Anil Deolalikar)
- Traditional- and Modern-Medicine: From Epistemic Dichotomy to Duality, (with Athi Karthick V, Srinivas Venugopal, Suruchi Singh, Arun Sreekumar, Vidya Vemireddy)
- Drivers of Cesarean Sections among Marginalized Women – The role of Health Insurance Access On Cesarean Sections Among Low Caste Groups In India, (with Srinivas Venugopal & Sarthak Mohapatra)
- (Papers can be made available on request)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Locked Down and Isolated – Did reliance on Subsistence Agriculture support Food Security of Indigenous Communities during Covid19 Pandemic? (with Divya Vasudev, Varun Goswami, Biang Syiem, Bhavendu Joshi, and Srinivas Venugopal)

Did Broadband Expansions for Rural Development increase the Supply of High-Speed Internet across the United States? (with Sankar Mukhopadhyay, Daniyal Butt, and Katherine Lacy)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Postdoc Achievement Award for Excellence in Leadership, Cornell University	2019
Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC, Riverside	2016
Travel Grant, Department of Economics, UC, Riverside	2014 & 2015
Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, UC, Riverside	2014
Grant in Aid, Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University	2013
Dean's Distinguished Fellowship Award, UC, Riverside	2011 to 2016
Merit Scholarship, Madras School of Economics, Anna University	2005 & 2006

RESEARCH GRANTS

Completed

“Eew! These people eat rats and cats”: The Systematic Exclusion of Tribal Consumers in Subsistence Marketplaces, ACR Grant, Transformative Consumer Research (2021-2022), (\$1,500), (**PI- Anaka Aiyar**, CoPI - Srinivas Venugopal)

Enhancing Community Resilience and Food Security in Remote Forest Villages in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-2022), (\$ 65,000), (PI - Varun Goswami, CoPI -Srinivas Venugopal, Divya Vasudev, **Co-Investigator - Anaka Aiyar**)

Strengthening Institutions to improve Public Expenditure Accountability – Global Development Network, 2010-2011, (£3000), (PI - Jyotsna Jha, **Co-PI** – Anaka Aiyar, Subhashansha Bakshi & Sandeep MS)

Review of Processes and Institutional Mechanisms of Programme Implementation and Service Delivery – Government of Karnataka, 2010-2011, (\$12000), (Principal Investigator – Dr. Vinod Vyasulu, **Co-PI** – Harini Rajesh, CBPS Team)

In Progress

Leveraging Broadband for Enabling Resilient, Sustainable, & Inclusive Communities in Vermont, FY 2025 Competitive Hatch and Hatch Multistate Awards, October 1, 2024 - Sept 30, 2029), (\$74,499), **PI - Anaka Aiyar**

No Monkey Business - Linking Conservation of Gibbons, Argo-ecological practices, and Food Security among tribal communities living in a bio-diversity hotspot in India. (Community-Engaged Research in Agroecology and Food Systems, University of Vermont, April 1, 2024 - Feb 28, 2025), (\$11,768), **PI - Anaka Aiyar**, Co-PI - Divya Vasudev, Collaborators - Srinivas Venugopal, Varun Goswami

Measuring the supply side impacts of health insurance from a developing country, OVPR EXPRESS: Early Extra Promotion of Research & Scholarly Success (University of Vermont, November 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), (\$3000), **PI - Anaka Aiyar**

Plant-based Proteins as Part of Sustainable Food Systems in the Northeast, RFP 04: Sustainability Metrics Full Grant (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026), (\$690,405), **PI - Anaka Aiyar**, CoPI - Andrew May, Emily Belarmino, Heather Darby, and Joshua Faulkner

Preferences Or Access: The Effects Of Broadband Internet On Rural Health Outcomes, USDA-NIFA-AFRI (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027), (\$649,988), PI - Sankar Mukhopadhyay, **CoPI - Anaka Aiyar**, Katherine Lacy, Annie Lindsay, Macy Helm, Ronnie Dahir

REPORTS

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (A Study of Karnataka), (*with Prakhya Bhat, Nehal Jain, Jyotsna Jha, Shreekanth Mahendiran, Kavitha Narayanan, Varun Sharma*), *Global Development Network*, (2013)

Review of Processes and Institutional Mechanisms of Programme Implementation and Service Delivery, *Government of Karnataka*, 2013

Analysis of Health Expenditures by the Government of Karnataka (*with Achala Yaareseme*), *Centre for Budget & Policy Studies*, (2010)

Case Study: Connecting Rural India with Broadband Wireless, (*with Ashok Jhunjhunwala*), *International Telecommunication Union, Development (ITU-D)*, 2010

Reproductive and Child Health Services - How much do they cost? A Preliminary Analysis of 2 districts in Karnataka, (*with Poornima Vyasulu*), *Centre for Budget & Policy Studies*, (2007)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars:

2024: Food Systems Research Center, UVM

2023: University of Vermont, Burlington; University of California, Riverside

2022: Indian Institute of Technology - Gandhinagar

2021: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Health Seminar); University of Massachusetts Boston; University of Nevada, Las Vegas;

2020: Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management and Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) Seminar series (Cornell University); University of Vermont, Burlington; Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad); Madras School of Economics; Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur); University of Nevada, Reno; University of Auckland, New Zealand; USAID brown bag seminar - Pandemics & Food Systems

2019: Indian Institute of Management (Bengaluru, Udaipur, Ahmedabad); International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington DC)

2018: Madras School of Economics, Chennai; Institute of Management, Udaipur; India. St. Michael's College of Vermont

2017: University of Vermont, Burlington

2016-2019: Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) Seminar series (Cornell University)

2016: University of California, Riverside, University of Southern California (Brown bag),

Conference Presentations:

2024: Multi-State Grant Workshop - WERA 1010 (Tuscon, AZ)

2023: TCI 10th Anniversary Conference (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY), Transformative Consumer Research (London, UK), Annual meeting of the American Society of Health Economists (St Louis, MO), Southern Economics Association Annual Conference (New Orleans, LA)

2022: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's Annual Conference (Panel Session: Leveraging Gender in Food Systems Transformations in South Asia); Southern Economics Association Annual Conference

2021: 3rd UNR College of Business-SGH Warsaw School of Economics Joint Symposium; International Health Economics Association Annual Conference; The annual conference of the Southern Economic Association

2020: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2019: Winter School of the Delhi School of Economics; Plenary session of ReSAKSS-Asia International Conference in Yangon, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C, Centre for Budget & Policy Studies (CBPS) and Society for Community Health Awareness Research and Action (SOCHARA), Bengaluru, India, Annual meetings of the American Society of Health Economists

2018: Indian 14th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI Delhi; Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference

2017: North Eastern Universities Development Conference

2015: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference

Invited Classroom Talks:

Program evaluations in Developing Countries, NFS 4245 Nutrition for Global Health, University of Vermont, (Fall 2024)

The Dissertation Process - From Idea to Publication, CDAE 7000 SDPEG Graduate Student Seminar, University of Vermont, (Spring 2024)

The short- and long-terms impact of health policy on child health: Evidence from India, FS 6810 Issues and Solutions Seminar, University of Vermont, (Spring 2024)

Food security: An overview of the global debates, some economics and my research program, CDAE 6920 Graduate Seminars, University of Vermont, (Fall 2023)

Introduction to food security, health, and Food Systems Transformation, Undergraduate Economics Club, University of Nevada, Reno (Spring 2021)

Implications of climate change on households: China's role in preparing for climate change - Cornell Summer Program: Session on Crop Nutrition and Climate Change; Cornell University (Spring 2018)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor:

University of Vermont, Burlington - FS 1010/ NFS 2113 US Food Policy and Politics; CDAE 2660 Introduction to Community Entrepreneurship

University of Nevada, Reno - Health Economics, Principles of Statistics (II), Applied Econometrics (Graduate level)

Instructor:

University of California, Riverside - International Trade, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

Teaching Assistant:

University of California, Riverside -Introduction to Econometrics, Introduction to Statistics, Introduction to Macroeconomics, Introduction to Microeconomics, Macroeconomic Theory

ADVISING

University of Vermont

Graduate Thesis Committee Co-Chair: Andrew May

Graduate Thesis Committee Member: Hakan Unveren

Graduate Thesis Committee Advisor: Veronika Scavacini

Undergraduate Thesis Research Advisor: Jana Murphy

Undergraduate Thesis Research Chair: Seraphina Fecher

Undergraduate Thesis Research Committee Member: Katharyn Hassan

University of Nevada, Reno

Dissertation Committee Member: Aina Katsikas, Rachel Flanigan

SERVICE

University of Vermont, Burlington (UVM)

Department level:

2023-onwards

Committee Member: Search Committee for Department Chair

2023- 2024

Committee Member: CID Major Evaluation Committee

2023- current

Committee Member: CENT Major Evaluation Committee

2023- current

Committee Member: Graduate Admissions Committee	2024- current
<i>College level:</i>	
Committee Member: Food Systems Major Evaluation	2023- current
<i>University level:</i>	
Committee Member: Food Systems Graduate Program	2023- current
University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)	
<i>Department level:</i>	
Seminar Committee Member: Department of Economics	2021 - 2023
<i>College level:</i>	
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Member: College of Business	2022 - 2023
<i>University level:</i>	
Awards Committee Judge, GSA's Spring 2023 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award	Spring 2023
Discipline Level	
<i>Discipline-wide DEI Award:</i>	
Discipline Level Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:	
Sub-Committee Chair (Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE))	2023 - current
Sub-Committee Member (Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE))	2021 - 2023
<i>Grant Reviewer:</i>	
USDA - NIFA A1661 (2023), Swiss NSF (2024)	
<i>Reviewer:</i>	
World Bank Economic Review; Agricultural Economics; Journal of Consumer Affairs; Biological Conservation; Global Food Security; Socio-Economic Planning Services; World Development; Data-in-Brief; Journal of Health Economics; Sustainability Science; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Food Policy; Journal of Labor Research; Applied Economics Letters; Applied Economics Perspectives & Policy; Journal of Asian & African Studies; Economic Modeling; Economic Analysis & Policy; Applied Geography; Business Ethics, the Environment & Responsibility; Health Economics; Journal of Development Studies; Agricultural Economics; Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health; Regional Statistics	
<i>Conference Reviewer:</i>	
AAEA Annual Conference (2024), American Society of Health Economists, Annual Conference (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), North East Universities Development Conference (2018)	
<i>Conference Session Organizer:</i>	
Southern Economics Association 2022, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference 2022 , Southern Economics Association 2021 (co-organizer with Todd Sorensen)	
<i>Conference Session Chair:</i>	
Transformative Consumer Research 2023 (London, UK), American Society of Health Economics 2023 , Southern Economics Association 2022, Southern Economics Association 2021, Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economics 2021, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference 2020, 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference (2015)	
<i>Conference Discussant:</i>	
Southern Economics Association 2023 , American Society of Health Economics 2023 , Southern Economics Association 2022 , Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economics 2021, Eastern Economic Association Conference, Boston (2018), North Eastern Universities Development Conference - Tufts University (2017); Southern Economic Association 2015 Annual Meeting; UC Riverside; 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference (2015)	

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate: Center for Budget & Policy Studies	2009 - 2011
Manager (Social Research): IITM's Rural Technology & Business Incubator	2007 - 2009
Senior Research Analyst: ICRA's Management and Consulting Service	2006

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association, American Society of Health Economists, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, International Health Economics Association, International Association For Feminist Economics (IAFFE), Southern Economic Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Teaching & Learning: Equity Minded Syllabus (2024)
Center for Teaching & Learning: Setting up your Gradebook (2024)
First Year Faculty Experience Workshop, 2023-24
Effective Teaching Practices Certificate Program: Association Of College And University Educators (ACUE), 2021-2022
CeMENT Workshop: Committee on Women's Status in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), 2022
Data Analytics Certificate Program: Cornell University (e-Cornell), 2020

GENERAL INTEREST WRITING

Pandemics and Food Systems – Towards a Proactive Food Safety Approach to Disease Prevention & Management	Read Here
Rising obesity in rural India, under the growing urban shadow	Read Here
Migration Mess: Using a Food Systems Lens to Understand India's Migrant Crisis after COVID-19	Read Here
Tackling India's Food Systems Challenges in the Era of Climate Change	Read Here
Examining the Indian nutrition transition: Reducing the risks for obesity by 2050	Read Here
Promoting equitable growth for 2050	Read Here
Gender Recap in Light of #MeToo	Read Here
The Incentive Mechanisms of the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) – are they geared for service delivery? The Case of Karnataka	Read Here
The Elephant in the Insurance Controversy Room	Read Here
Mother's Day, a Reflection	Read Here

MEDIA MENTIONS

Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India	See Here
Alumna Uses Research to Tackle Health Disparities	Read Here
TCI at 5: Five years of the Tata-Cornell Institute	See Here
Study: Causes of obesity in India depend on gender, age and where you live	Read Here
Health Insurance and Infant Mortality: Evidence from India	Listen Here
What's next on India's Plate?	
Opportunities and challenges for creating an equitable food system by 2050	See Here
Rising obesity in rural India, under the growing urban shadow	See Here

Indian diet changed, but not for the better, say expert	Read Here
What is on India's plate? Both undernutrition and obesity	Read Here
It takes a Village	Read Here
Book Launch: Coverage by Cornell Media	Read Here
Book Launch Event: International Food Policy Research Institute	See Here
Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India	See Here
Interstate differences in the Indian Growth Story	See Here
Must- and Should-Reads: September 14, 2017, By Brad DeLong	Read Here
Paying to be Treated Well, By Arathi Mohan	Read Here
Up Goes the Economy, Down Slips Healthcare, Special Correspondent	Read Here