

ANAKA AIYAR

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Official Contact
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Professional Information

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor

2026 - current

Department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE)
University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, VT
GUND Affiliate, GUND Institute (UVM)
Faculty Member, Food Systems Graduate Program (UVM)

Assistant Professor

2023 - 2026

CDAE, 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

Health Economics, Food Systems, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

AWARDS AND HONORS

Postdoc Achievement Award for Excellence in Leadership, Cornell University

2019

Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC, Riverside

2016

Grant in Aid, Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University

2013

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship Award, UC, Riverside

2011 to 2016

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

Belarmino, E.H., **Aiyar, A.**, Bradshaw, T.L., Brooks, A., Conner, D., Daigle K., and M. Niles. 2026. Looking back and looking forward: A decade of Food Systems education serving the land grant mission. Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems. *In-press, accepted for publication July, 2026*.

Nyarko, B., **Aiyar, A.**, Mays, K., Cope, M. and Conner, D., Farmers' Market Management Practices and Resource Allocation: Lessons From Vermont. Journal of Food Distribution Research. (*Accepted for publication July 29, 2026*).

Aiyar, Anaka & Anil Deolalikar (2025), Increasing Access to Cancer-related Diagnostic Care using Health Insurance: Evidence from South Asia, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, (*Accepted, October 2025*)

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 Singhania, 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.

Venugopal, Srinivas, & **Anaka Aiyar**, “Inclusive Marketing: Fostering Sustainable Wellbeing in Subsistence Communities.” *Marketing to the Base of the Pyramid*, edited by Ramendra Singh and Tahir Ahmad Wani, Springer Nature (2025): Chapter 2

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 [193,000+ Downloads](#)

Pingali, Prabhu, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Policy: Looking Ahead to 2050.” *Agriculture and Food Systems to 2050*, edited by Prabhu Pinagli & 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 (Revise and Resubmit)*

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), (*Under Review*)

Food Insecurity in the Wake of COVID-19: The Protective Role of Vaccination *Dennis Wesselbaum, Michael D Smith, David Leblang (Under Review)*

Traditional- and Modern-Medicine: From Epistemic Dichotomy to Duality, (with Athi Karthick V, Srinivas Venugopal, Suruchi Singh, Arun Sreekumar, Vidya Vemireddy)

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)

Re-negotiating conservation and consumption among Indigenous Communities, (*with Divya Vasudev, Varun Goswami, Ezra Rynjah, Biang Syiem, Bhavendu Joshi, and Srinivas Venugopal*)

Vermont farmers’ market manager perspectives on Crop Cash (*with Jana Murphy, David Conner, Travis Reynolds*)

Impact and Implications of Broadband Access on Health Outcomes Among Rural Vermonters (*with Veronika Scavacini*)

(Papers can be made available on request)

WORK IN PROGRESS

When Opportunity Becomes Necessity: the effects of Health Shocks, and Food Insecurity, on Migration Intentions (with David LeBlang, Rebecca Mitchell, Maya Moore, Meredith Niles, Michael Smith and Dennis Wesselbaum)

Improving Material and Psychological Well-Being: Impacts of an Entrepreneurial Training Program on Women living in Subsistence Contexts (with Srinivas Venugopal and Madhubalan Viswanathan)

RESEARCH GRANTS

Completed

Rooted in Well-Being The Social, Psychological, and Physical Health Value of Local Food Engagement, Food Systems Research Center (July 1, 2025 - Aug 30, 2025), (\$3000), PI- Anaka Aiyar & Emily Belarmino

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**

“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

Rooted in Well-Being: The Social, Psychological, and Physical Health Value of Local Food Engagement, (Food Systems Research Institute, July 1, 2026 – June 30th, 2029), (\$653,600), PI- Emily Belarmino, co-PI – Anaka Aiyar, Rachelle Gould, Christine Skiltkotch, Maire Folan

Community-Based Perennial-dominant Urban Agrosystems for Sustainable and Resilient Development (November 1 2025 to 30th October 2026), (\$25,000), Good Ideas Grant: Food Systems Research Institute, PI- Joshua Farley, Co-PI - Salim Uddin, Co-I - Fortino Acosta, Anaka Aiyar, Eric Bishop Von Wettberg, Sam Bliss, Matt Burke, Yolanda Chen, David Conner, Ben Dangl, Dan Erickson, Victor Izzo, Myles Jewell, Kate Mays, Travis Reynolds, Josiah Taylor

Home and Wild Food Procurement Impacts on Food Security, Nutrition, And Chronic Disease Health Outcomes. USDA NIFA Foundational Program. PI - Niles, M.T., Co-PI - Laurent, J., Malacarne, J., Belarmino, E., Heleba, D., Aiyar, A., (\$1,084,000)

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**

Plant-based Proteins as Part of Sustainable Food Systems in the Northeast, RFP 04: Sustainability Metrics Full Grant (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026), (\$599,705), **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

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars:

2024: Food Systems Research Center (UVM), Institute for Agro-ecology (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:

2025: American Agricultural Economics Associate Annual Meetings (Kansas City), Southern Economics Associations (Houston, TX)
2024: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA); 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; Southern Economic Association's Annual Conference
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 Consortium
2015: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference

Invited Classroom Talks:

Data for Program Evaluation, FS 6250: Research Design and Methodology, University of Vermont, (Fall 2025)
Conducting evaluations and lessons for fund-raising in global health: George Washington University: Global Health Praxis Course (Spring 2025)
Program Evaluation for Nutrition Interventions, FS Nutrition for Global Health, University of Vermont, (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
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

Associate Professor:

University of Vermont, Burlington - FS 2010/ NFS 2113 US Food Policy and Politics; CDAE 2660 Introduction to Community Entrepreneurship; CDAE 6990: Economics of Health Care and Health policy; PA 6110: Policy Analysis and Impact Evaluation.

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

Post Doctoral Advisor: Emma Tracy

Graduate (PHD) Thesis Committee Advisor: Veronika Scavacini, Julia Esposito, Daniel Muhwezi

Graduate (MS) Thesis Committee Advisor: Veronika Scavacini

Graduate Dissertation / Thesis Committee Member: Hakan Unveren, Lizah Makombore, Cat Mawn, Pindar Mbaya, Torie Snyder, Saadata Abdul-Rahaman, Sevda Alvirdizadeh, Quinn Herbine

Undergraduate Thesis Research Advisor: Jana Murphy, Ben Gamper

Undergraduate Thesis Research Chair: Seraphina Fecher

Undergraduate Thesis Research Committee: Katharyn Hassan, Emily Jones

University of Nevada, Reno

Dissertation Committee Member: Aina Katsikas, Rachel Flanagan, Daniyal Butt, Urjaswi Mukherjee

SERVICE

University of Vermont, Burlington (UVM)

Department level:

Committee Member: Search Committee for MPP Lecturer Search 2025- 2026

Developed RPT Guidelines for CDAE 2025

Committee Member: SDPEG Graduate Admissions Committee 2025 - Current

Committee Member: M.S Graduate Admissions Committee (CDAE) 2024, 2025

Committee Member: Search Committee for Department Chair 2023- 2024

College level:

Committee Member: Food Systems Steering Committee 2024- current

Committee Member: Food Systems Advisory Committee 2023- 2024

University level:

Committee Member: Food Systems PhD Graduate Admissions Committee 2025

Faculty Member: Food Systems Graduate Program 2023- current

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

Department level:

Seminar Committee Member: Department of Economics 2021 - 2023

College level:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Member: College of Business 2022 - 2023

University level:

Awards Committee Judge, GSA's Spring 2023 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award Spring 2023

Discipline Level

Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE)

- Chair 2026 - 2027

- Chair-Elect 2025 - 2026
- CWAE Discipline Level Awards Committee:
 - Sub-Committee Chair 2023 - 2026
 - Sub-Committee Member 2021 - 2023

Grant & Fellowship Reviewer:

Swiss NSF (2024), USDA - NIFA A1661 (2023), India Nehru-Fulbright Fellowship (2022)

Journal Reviewer (55 articles):

Agricultural Economics; Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health; Applied Economics Letters; Applied Economics Perspectives & Policy; Applied Geography; Biological Conservation; Data-in-Brief; Business Ethics, the Environment & Responsibility; Economics and Human Biology; Economic Modeling; Economic Analysis & Policy; Food Policy; Food Security; Global Food Security; Health Economics; Journal of Asian & African Studies; Journal of Consumer Affairs; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Economic, Race & Policy; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Labor Research; Journal of Macromarketing; Regional Statistics; Socio-Economic Planning Services; Sustainability Science; World Development; World Bank Economic Review, BMC-Public Health; Food Policy

Conference Reviewer:

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference (AAEA 2024), American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference (AshEcon, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), North East Universities Development Conference (2018)

Conference Session Organizer:

Southern Economics Association (SEA, 2021,2022), AAEA 2022, AAEA 2026

Conference Session Chair:

Transformative Consumer Research 2023 (London, UK), AshEcon (2023) , SEA (2021,2022), AshEcon (2021), AAEA (2020), 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference (WEAI, 2015)

Conference Discussant:

SEA (2023) , AshEcon (2021, 2023) , SEA (2015, 2022) , Eastern Economic Association Conference (2018), North Eastern Universities Development Consortium - Tufts University (2017), WEAI (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

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, Southern Economic Association Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Teaching & Learning (UVM): BrightSpace Course Design (2025), Metacognition (2024), Equity Minded Syllabus (2024), Setting up your Gradebook (2024)
 First Year Faculty Experience Workshop (UVM), 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

Echoes in the Emerald: Exploring the Intertwined Lives of People, Forests, and Primates in Northeast India's Biodiversity Hotspot	Read Here
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

MEDIA MENTIONS

How migration to urban areas is expanding waistlines in India	Read Here
CDAE Welcomes New Faculty	Read Here
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
Up Goes the Economy, Down Slips Healthcare, Special Correspondent	Read Here