

MAITHREYI GOPALAN

Department of Education Policy Studies
Social Science Research Institute Co-fund
The Pennsylvania State University
302B, Rackley Building, University Park, PA 16802

[Google Scholar](#)
[Website](#)

APPOINTMENTS

Inaugural CRDC Data Science Impact Fellow	Nov 2023 – Aug 2024
US Department of Education (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR)	
Impact Fellow	May 2023 – Present
Federation of American Scientists	
Assistant Professor , Department of Education Policy Studies	Aug 2018 – Present
The Pennsylvania State University (On leave: AY 2023-24)	
Co-Funded Faculty , Social Science Research Institute	Aug 2018 – Present
The Pennsylvania State University	
Assistant Professor (By courtesy), School of Public Policy	Jan 2019 – Present
The Pennsylvania State University	
Faculty Affiliate , Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center	Nov 2022 – Present
The Pennsylvania State University	
Faculty Associate , Population Research Institute	Aug 2018 – Present
The Pennsylvania State University	

EDUCATION

PhD , Public Affairs	2018
O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	
Major Fields: Policy Analysis and Public Finance; Minor: Psychology	
MA , Economics	2004
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, India	
BA , Economics	2002
University of Madras, Chennai, India	

PUBLICATIONS

† Indicates equal authorship; Graduate student co-authors underlined

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Jung, J. & **Gopalan, M.** (2023) The Stubborn Unresponsiveness of Youth Voter Turnout to Civic Education: Quasi-experimental Evidence from State-Mandated Civics Tests.

Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.

<https://www.doi.org/10.3102/01623737231195887>.

Ungated working Paper Available here: <https://edworkingpapers.org/sites/default/files/ai22-668.pdf>

Gopalan, M., & Edara, R. (2023). Health Policies as Education Policies? A Review of Causal Evidence and Mechanisms. *AERA Open*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584231177616>

Yang, L.K.. & **Gopalan, M.** (2023). The Effect of School Shootings on School District Finance and Staffing Decisions. *Education Finance and Policy*, 18 (2).

<https://direct.mit.edu/edfp/article-abstract/18/2/277/100732>

Walton, G. M., Murphy, M. M., Logel, C., Yeager, D. S., Goyer, J. S., Brady, S. T., Emerson, K. T. U., Paunesku, D., Fotuhi, O., Blodorn, A., Boucher, K. L., Carter, E., **Gopalan, M.**, Henderson, A., Kroeper, K. M., Murdock-Perriera, L. A., Reeves, S. L., Ablorh, T. T., Ansari, S., Chen, S., Fisher, P., Galvan, M., Gilbertson, M. K., Hulleman, C. S., Le Forestier, J. M., Lok, C., Mathias, K., Muragishi, G. A., Netter, M., Ozier, E., Smith, E. N., Thoman, D. B., Williams, H. E., Wilmot, M. O., Hartzog, C., Li, X. A., & Krol, N. (2023). Where and with whom does a brief social-belonging intervention promote progress in college? *Science*. 380 (6644). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.ade4420>

Bullinger, L.[†], **Gopalan, M.**[†], & Lombardi, C.[†] (2023) Impacts of Publicly Funded Health Insurance for Adults on Children's Academic Achievement. *Southern Economic Journal*, 89(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/soej.12614>

Ungated working Paper Available here: <https://edworkingpapers.org/sites/default/files/ai21-406.pdf>

Lombardi, C.[†] & Bullinger, L.[†] & **Gopalan, M.**[†] (2022) Better Late than Never: Effects of Late ACA Medicaid Expansions for Parents on Family Health-related Financial Well-being. *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00469580221133215>

Ungated preprint available here: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/q7csj/download>

Gopalan, M.[†] & Lewis, M.[†] (2022). K-12 Civil Rights Complaints in the US: A Nationwide Analysis. *Educational Researcher*. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X221130056>

Data available here: <https://www.openicpsr.org/openicpsr/project/176682/view>

Gopalan, M.[†], Lombardi, C. M.[†], & Bullinger, L. R.[†] (2022). Effects of parental public health insurance eligibility on parent and child health outcomes. *Economics & Human Biology*, 44, 101098. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2021.101098>

Gopalan, M., Linden-Carmichael, A., & Lanza, S. (2022). College Students' Sense of Belonging and Mental Health Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 70(2), 228-233. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.10.010>

Murphy, M.C., **Gopalan, M.**, Carter, E., Emerson, K., Bottoms, B., Walton, G. (2020). Effects of a social-psychological intervention on persistence and academic achievement of freshmen students in a large public university. *Science Advances*, 6(29), eaba4677.

<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/29/eaba4677>

Recognized by IES What Works Clearinghouse as meets evidence "standards without reservations"

Gopalan, M., Rosinger, K. & Ahn, J. (2020) Use of Quasi-Experimental Research Designs in Educational Research: Growth, Promise, and Challenges. *Review of Research in Education*, 44(1). <https://doi.org/10.3102/0091732X20903302>

Gopalan, M.,[†] & Brady, S. T.[†] (2020). College students' sense of belonging: A national perspective. *Educational Researcher*, 49(2). <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X19897622>

#5 among most cited articles by Educational Researcher between 2019 and 2022

Gopalan, M. (2019). Understanding the Linkages between Racial/Ethnic Discipline gaps and Racial/Ethnic Achievement Gaps in the US. *Educational Policy Analysis Archives*, 27, 154. <https://doi.org/10.14507/epaa.27.4469>

Yeager, D. S., Hanselman, P., Walton, G. M., Murray, J. S., Crosnoe, R., Muller, C., ...**Gopalan, M.**,...Dweck, C. S. (2019). A national experiment reveals where a growth mindset improves achievement. *Nature*, 573 (7774). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1466-y>

Awarded Best Publication in 2019 by Behavioral Science and Policy Association

Gopalan, M., & Nelson, A. A. (2019). Understanding the Racial Discipline Gap in Schools. *AERA Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332858419844613>

Among top-10 most read articles in AERA Open in the first quarter of 2020

Gopalan, M. & Pirog, M. (2017). Applying Behavioral Insights in Policy Analysis: Recent Trends in the United States. *Policy Studies Journal*, 45: S82–S114. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12202>

Publications Under-Review or Revision

Gopalan, M., Jung, J., Chiang, S., Linden-Carmichael, A. & Lanza, S. College Students' Sense of Belonging and Alcohol Use amidst COVID: Evidence from a 21-day Daily Diary Study (Under review).

Stubblebine, A., **Gopalan, M.**, & Brady, S. Who Feels Like They Belong? Personality and Belonging in Students' First Year of College (Invited Revisions at *PLOS One*).

Works in Progress (Selected)

Gopalan, M. & Jung, J. Demographic Transitions among School-age and Working-age Population in the US: Evidence from Decennial Population Censuses (2010-2020) with specific focus on Teacher Demographics (Invited submission to *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*)

Kroeper, K., **Gopalan, M.**, Emerson, K.T.U.E & Walton, G.M., Who gets to belong in College

(Invited submission to *Educational Psychology Review*)?

Brady, S. T., Allen, Kelly-Ann, **Gopalan, M.**, Meyer, K., Reschly, A. & Anderman, L. (2023). Measuring Up: An Integrative Review of Measures of School Belonging (Invited submission to *Educational Psychology Review*).

Gopalan, M. & **Edara, R.**, Teacher Mindsets to promote Deep Learning in High Schools: A propensity score matching analysis.

Tipton, E., Hedges, L., Yeager, D., Murray, J. & **Gopalan, M.** Building a Global Study: Research Infrastructure and Study Design Considerations (Invited Book Chapter; Working paper available here: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3911643).

Other Publications (Book Reviews, Research Briefs, Policy Writing, Reports, Preprints, and Permanent Working Papers)

Gopalan, M. (2023). Healthy Kids, High Grades: Using Data To Evaluate Health And Education Policy. *Federation of American Scientists Blog*.
<https://fas.org/publication/healthy-kids-high-grades/>

Jung, J. & **Gopalan, M.** (2023). State-Mandated Civics Test Policy Does Not Improve Youth Voter Turnout. *Scholars Strategy Network Research Brief*.
<https://scholars.org/contribution/state-mandated-civics-test-policy-does-not>

Gopalan, M. (2023) More than 1.5 million Americans lost Medicaid coverage in the spring of 2023 due to the end of pandemic policies – and paperwork problems, *The Conversation*.
<https://theconversation.com/more-than-1-5-million-americans-lost-medicaid-coverage-in-the-spring-of-2023-due-to-the-end-of-pandemic-policies-and-paperwork-problems-208146>

Gopalan, M. (2022) When parents get Medicaid, it can benefit the health of their kids too, *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/when-parents-get-medicaid-it-can-benefit-the-health-of-their-kids-too-176777>

Gopalan, M., & Brady, S. T. (2022). Assessments for Students' Sense of Belonging in College: Invited Expert Review Submitted for EdInstruments–An IES-funded Initiative of Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University.

Meyer, K., Allen, Kelly-Ann, Anderman, L., Brady, S. T., **Gopalan, M.**, Reschly, A. (2023). Considerations for Use of School Belonging Assessments: EdInstruments–An IES-funded Initiative of Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University.
<https://edstruments.org/resources/considerations-use-school-belonging-assessments>

Gopalan, M. (2020) Review of Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side by Eve L. Ewing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. *American*

Gopalan, M., & Tipton, E. (2018) Is the National Study of Learning Mindsets Nationally Representative? <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/dvmr7> (Preprint)

Gopalan, M., Yeager, D., How does adopting a Growth Mindset Improve Academic Performance? Probing the Underlying Mechanisms in a Nationally- Representative Sample. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/h2bzs> (Preprint)

Lozano, F.,[†] **Gopalan, M.,[†]** Pirog, M. Expanding Access to Underrepresented Students in Universities: The Impact of a Subsidized Student Loan Program in Colombia (Working Paper Available on request).

Nelson, A.A, **Gopalan, M.,** Farnworth, M (2017). Disproportionality in Indiana: Racial and Special Education Disparities in Student Disciplinary Outcomes. A report submitted to the Indiana Department of Education.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS & AWARDS*

Funded (External)

Student Experience Research Network (SERN) 2023-2024

Centering Civil Rights Protections to Support Equitable Student Experiences: An Agenda-setting and Research Prioritization Proposal to Advance Equity-focused Student Experiences in the United States (\$199,726)

American Educational Research Association – Study of Deeper Learning (AERA-SDL Fellowship) 2020-2021

Teacher Mindsets and Instructional Practices for Supporting Deeper Learning in High School Students (\$24,997)

Additional Funding Agency: William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Spencer Foundation 2020-2021

The Effect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansions on Children's Development (\$41,650)

Obermann Center for Advanced Studies at University of Iowa May-June 2021
Structural Determinants of Adolescent Mental health: A Life-course Approach (\$6,000)

National Study of Learning Mindsets Early Career Fellow 2018-2019

Exploring Treatment Compliance and Effects of Mediating Processes of Growth Mindset Interventions on Student Achievement (\$8,000)

Funding Agency: Bezos Family Foundation; Support from Mindset Scholars Network and the University of Texas at Austin's Population Research Center

National Academy of Education Dissertation Fellowship 2017-2018
Examining Disparities in Non-Cognitive Educational Outcomes in the United States
(\$27,500)
Funding Agency: National Academy of Education and Spencer Foundation

Russell Sage Foundation and William T Grant Foundation Jan-May 2017
Understanding the Linkages between Racial Achievement Gap and Racial Disciplinary Gap in the U.S (\$6,086)

Character Lab 2016-2019
Re-thinking Discipline in “no-excuses” charter schools: A randomized intervention to decrease adverse disciplinary outcomes (\$348,000)
PI: Mary Murphy
Role: Co-author of grant proposal

Funded (Internal)

Social Science Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University 2023-2025
Transforming Education by developing a Robust Translational Education Science Field (\$20,000)
PI: Francesca Lopez
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Social Science Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University 2021-2022
Faculty Fellows Program-Mentored Fellowship: “Impact of Adolescent Mental Health on Education and Wellbeing in the Transition to Adulthood – A life course approach” (\$15,000)

Population Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University 2019-2020
Seed Grant for The Effect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansions on Child Health and Development (\$7,500 Seed Grant)

Under Review

Spencer Foundation Vision Grant 2024-2025
Connecting Interdisciplinary Experts: A Strategic Network Alliance to Leverage Countermeasures to Misinformation in Education (\$75,000)
PI: Francesca Lopez
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

American Education Research Association (AERA)

Centering Civil Rights Protections to Support Equitable Student Experiences: An Agenda-setting and Research Prioritization Conference to Advance Equity-focused Student Experiences in the United States (\$35,000) [Funded; Renegotiating No-cost Extensions]
PI: Erica Frankenberg
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Unfunded (Selected External only)

National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) K01

Impact of Adolescent Mental Health on Life Course Outcomes in the Transition to Adulthood: A Biopsychosocial Perspective (\$646,152)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) R21

Coordinated Data Analysis to Assess Short- and Long-Term Changes in College Student Alcohol Use Patterns Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic (\$441,379)

PI: Ashley Linden-Carmichael

Role: Co-Investigator

* Role: Principal Investigator unless otherwise specified

OTHER HONORS AND AWARDS

Inaugural EdResearch for Action Writers Fellow 2023-24
Results for America and Annenberg Institute, Brown University

Finalist – Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Award Mar 2022
Institute for Citizens & Scholars

National Study of Learning Mindsets Visiting Fellow Jan 2020 – Mar 2020
Population Research Center, University of Texas, Austin

School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University May 2017-Aug 2017
Merit-based Fellowship Award (\$3,000)

Educational Pioneers Graduate Fellow June 2013 – Aug 2013
Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

National and International

- 2023: Spencer Foundation Measurement Convening, Chicago, May 2023
MIT Teaching + Learning Lab Seminar, Virtual, Feb 2023
Pennsylvania Psychologists Association Keynote, June 2023 (Declined due to travel conflicts)
Russell Sage Foundation, New York, June 2023
- 2021: School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, December 2021
School of Education, University of Colorado, Boulder, November 2021
- 2020: International Conference of Experimental Public Management Research,
Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management, Virtual
December 2020
- 2019: International Conference of Experimental Public Management Research,

- Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, December 2019
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Mindset Scholars Network, Seattle, October 2019
- 2018: University of Texas, Austin Population Research Center, September 2018.
- Pre-2018: MDRC, New York. November 2017;
- Russell Sage Foundation and WT Grant Foundation Meeting on Improving Education and Reducing Inequality in the United States: Obtaining New Insights from Population-Based Academic Performance Data, New York, September 2017

Local

- 2023: Penn State Demography Graduate Students Annual Workshop, May 2023
- Penn State Social Science Research Institute Speaker series, Feb 2023
- 2022: Keynote Speaker “Fostering a sense of belonging in college” at Penn State 2022 Conference on Academic Advising, Sep 2022
- Penn State Schreyer Honors College, April 2022
- Penn State Social Science Research Institute, May 2022
- 2021: School of Public Policy Seminar Series and PRI Education and Inequality Working Group, The Pennsylvania State University, December 2021
- Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center Seminar, The Pennsylvania State University, February 2021

Conference (Selected – Only Lead Presentations)

- 2023: Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference - *“Impact of Adolescent Mental Health on Course-taking Trajectories in High School: A Biopsychosocial Perspective”*
- 2022: AEFP Annual Conference - *“K-12 Civil Rights Complaints in the US: A Nationwide Analysis”*
- American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference - *“Teacher Mindsets and Instructional Practices for Supporting Deeper Learning in High School Students”*
- 2021: AEFP Annual Conference - *“Teacher Mindsets and Instructional Practices for Supporting Deeper Learning in High School Students”*
- 2020: AEFP Annual Conference - *“Impacts of Publicly Funded Health Insurance for Adults on Children’s Academic Achievement”*
- AERA Annual Conference (Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Conference - *“Impacts of Publicly Funded Health Insurance for Adults on Children’s Academic Achievement”*
- 2019: Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Conference - *“Does Being a Learner Really Matter? Estimating Impacts of Learning-Oriented Behaviors on Adolescent Achievement Using Data from a Multisite Randomized Control Trial”*

- APPAM Fall Conference – *“Does Being a Learner Really Matter? Estimating Impacts of Learning-Oriented Behaviors on Adolescent Achievement Using Data from a Multisite Randomized Control Trial”*
- 2018: APPAM Fall Conference - *“Understanding the Linkages between Racial/Ethnic Discipline gaps and Racial/Ethnic Achievement Gaps in the US.”*
AERA Annual Conference – *“Understanding the Linkages between Racial/Ethnic Discipline gaps and Racial/Ethnic Achievement Gaps in the US.”*
- 2017: APPAM Annual Conference - *“Effects of a social-psychological intervention on persistence and academic achievement of freshmen students in a large public university.”*
Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Conference - *“Effects of a social-psychological intervention on persistence and academic achievement of freshmen students in a large public university.”*
- 2016: APPAM Annual Conference – *“Applying Behavioral Insights in Policy Analysis: Recent Trends in the United States.”*
AEEP Annual Conference – *“Understanding the Racial Discipline Gap in Schools”*
- 2015: APPAM Annual Conference - *“Understanding the Racial Discipline Gap in Schools”*
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) - *“Effects of a social-psychological intervention on persistence and academic achievement of freshmen students in a large public university.”*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Summer Institute on Biological Approaches in the Social Sciences** June 2022
Selected Participant- Russell Sage Foundation; Northwestern University
- Institute for Research on Innovation & Science Summer Institute** June 2020
Selected Participant- Big Data in Social and Education Sciences at University of Michigan
- Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Summer Institute** July 2019
Selected Participant- IES Cluster Randomized Training at Northwestern University
- Columbia Population Research Center Workshop** June 2016
Selected Participant- Fragile Families Summer Data Workshop at Columbia University
- Harvard Kennedy School Behavioral Insights Workshop** June 2017
Selected Participant- Behavioral Insights Group Doctoral Workshop at Harvard Business School

TEACHING

The Pennsylvania State University

Research Methods Graduate Seminar	Spring 2022 – Present
Education Theory and Policy - Proseminar Graduate Seminar	Fall 2020 – Present
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Educational Inequality Graduate Seminar	Jan 2019 - Present
Economic Foundations of Education Policy Undergraduate course	Aug 2018 - Present

Indiana University[±]

Statistical Modeling and Research Methods–V370 Undergraduate course	Jan 2017 - May 2017
Macroeconomics for Public Affairs – V260 Undergraduate course	Jan 2014 - May 2015
Statistics for Research in Public Affairs-V606, V607 Doctoral course (Teaching Assistant; Lab Instructor)	Aug 2015 - May 2017

[±] Instructor of Record unless otherwise specified

Graduate Student Supervision

Chair

Rohitha Edara (PhD: In-progress)
Sijie Yu (PhD: In-progress)
Emma Thompson (MA: Graduated in 2020)
Jessica Kim-Schmid (MA: Graduated in 2020)
Samantha Koon (MA: Graduated in 2021)

Committee Member

Ruxandra Apostolescu (PhD: In-progress)
Jilli Jung (PhD: In-progress)
Elizabeth Howd (PhD: In-progress)
Celine M. Kristoff (PhD: In-progress)
Israa Samarin (PhD: Graduated in 2023)
Keiana Mayfield (PhD: Graduated in 2022)
Jee Bin Ahn (PhD: Graduated in 2020)

SERVICE

Department Service:	Graduate Admissions Committee, Education Theory and Policy Program (PhD and MA); Curricular Review Committee for Education Policy Studies
College Service:	Research Advisory Committee, Graduate Studies and Research Policy Committee, Search Committee for Grants & Contracts Manager x 2

University Service:	SSRI Faculty Burden Committee, SSRI Seed Grants Reviewer, SSRI Aging Faculty Search Committee, School of Public Policy Faculty Social Policy/Social Disparities Faculty Search committee; PRI Education and Inequality Working Group Leader (2022-23)
Other Service:	Served on the COVID-19 Health Equity Response Team, PA Department of Health, Office of Health Equity Served on program committee for AEFP annual conference (Section 11: Causes and Consequences of Racial and Other Forms of Inequity in Education); AEFP Scholars of Color Community Group Co-chair (2023-24)
Reviewer:	<i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Educational Researcher, Review of Educational Research, Psychological Science, Educational Policy Analysis Archives, Policy and Politics, American Educational Research Journal, Journal of Adolescence, American Journal of Education, AERA Open, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Education and Behavioral Statistics, Developmental Psychology, The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Economics and Human Biology, Journal of Adolescent Health, Journal of American College Health, Journal of Personality Assessment, Russell Sage Foundation Small Grants</i>
Professional Memberships:	Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management American Educational Research Association Association of Education Finance and Policy Society for Research of Educational Effectiveness
Other Affiliations:	Research Affiliate, The College Transition Collaborative Member; Invited participant at Global Mindset Initiative (OECD); Scholars Strategy Network Member, Association of SPEA Ph.D. Students Executive Board (2013-2016)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

National

Education Week ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#))

[EdSurge](#), [FutureEd](#), [Education Dive](#),

Inside Higher Ed ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))

The Chronicle of Higher Education ([here](#) and [here](#))

Diverse Issues in Higher Education ([here](#))

[AERA Press Release](#) and associated coverage [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)

Others

[74Million](#)

OTHER EXPERIENCE (Selected)

UBS AG Associate Director (Portfolio Risk Research Analyst) London, United Kingdom	Jun 2011 – Jun 2012
Moody's Analytics UK Ltd. Associate (Portfolio Advisory Services) London, United Kingdom	Dec 2008 – Jun 2011
Dun & Bradstreet Predictive Sciences & Analytics Pvt. Ltd. Manager (Analytics Sciences) Chennai, India	Nov 2006 – Nov 2008
GE Consumer Finance India - Bankcards Assistant Manager (Risk Analytics) New Delhi, India	Jun 2005 – Nov 2006