

# Nishank Varshney

6400 Barrie Road, Edina, MN 55435  
+1-651-442-9454 | [varsh011@umn.edu](mailto:varsh011@umn.edu)  
Website: [z.umn.edu/nishank](http://z.umn.edu/nishank)

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, *Ongoing*  
*Areas of Focus:* Early Childhood Education, Program Evaluation, Benefit-Cost Analysis, Social Impact Financing
- M.P.P. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 2018  
Certificate in Early Childhood Policy  
*Minor:* Program Evaluation  
*Concentration:* Advanced Policy Analysis Methods
- M.Sc. (Hons.) Mathematics, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, India, 2009
- B.E. (Hons.) Electronics & Instrumentation, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, India, 2009

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2022 **Research Contractor**, Metrics Development and Impact Team,  
The Constellation Fund, Minneapolis, MN
- 2015-2016 **Research Associate**, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- 2014-2015 **Business Analyst**, Dell International Services, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017-Present **Research Assistant.** Human Capital Research Collaborative,  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs & Institute of Child Development, University of  
Minnesota. Supervisors: Prof. Judy Temple & Prof. Arthur Reynolds
- 2017 **Urban Scholar.** City of Minneapolis, Department of Finance  
Supervisor: Tony DiPietrantonio
- 2013 **Master's Thesis Research.** Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Gujarat,  
India. Supervisor: Dr. Ankur Sarin
- 2013 **Summer Research Internship.** Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore,  
Karnataka, India. Supervisor: Prof. Trilochan Sastry.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Instructor

- Spring 2023 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**  
(Scheduled) PA 5011: Program Evaluation  
3 Credits, In-person  
35 students

- Summer 2022 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**  
 Junior Summer Institute, In-person  
 Applied Statistics  
 20 students
- Fall 2020 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
- Spring 2021 PA 3003: Public/Non-Profit Financial Management and Budgeting  
 3 Credits, Synchronous Online  
 Fall 2020: 38 students  
 Spring 2021: 28 students  
 Link to [Student Evaluations](https://z.umn.edu/nv-3003): z.umn.edu/nv-3003

### Teaching Assistant

- Summer 2020 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**  
 Junior Summer Institute, Hybrid, Online,  
 Applied Statistics  
 Led the STATA lab instruction, 21 students  
 Link to [Student Evaluations](https://z.umn.edu/nv-jsi): z.umn.edu/nv-jsi
- Fall 2017 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**  
 PA 5151: Organizational Perspectives on Global Development  
 3 Credits, In-person  
 40 students

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Temple, J. A., & Reynolds, A. J. (2022). “Early Education and Adult Health: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Preschool Program.” *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis* 13: 57–90, <https://doi.org/10.1017/bca.2022.4>
- 2020 **Varshney, N.**, Lee, S., Temple, J. A., & Reynolds, A. J. (2020). “Does early childhood education enhance parental school involvement in second grade?: Evidence from Midwest Child-Parent Center Program”. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 117, 105317. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105317>
- 2018 Sarin, A., Dongre, A., Khanghta, P., **Varshney, N.**, Gaur, A., & Sengai, A. (2018). “Implementation of section 12 (1)(C) of the Right to Education Act”. *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.53(8), P. 31-38. <http://hdl.handle.net/11718/20428>

### Under Review

- Temple, J.A., & **Varshney, N.** “Using prevention research to reduce racial disparities in health through innovative funding strategies: the case of doula care”. *Prevention Science*
- Englund, M.M., Lee, S., **Varshney, N.**, Hayakawa, M., & Reynolds, A.J. “The Child-Parent Center Model: Strengthening Engagement for All Families”. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*

## Book Chapters

- 2022 Reynolds, A. J., Lee, S., Eales, L., **Varshney, N.**, & Smerillo, N. (2022). “Parental Involvement and Engagement in Early Education Contribute to Children’s Success and Well-Being”. In *Family-School Partnerships During the Early School Years* (pp. 91-111). Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74617-9\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74617-9_6)

## Other Publications and Reports

- 2020 **Varshney, N.** (2020). “Analyzing the Delhi Model of Doorstep Delivery of Public Services”. *Humphrey Public Affairs Review*, Vol. 6, P. 43-47. <https://humphreyreview.umn.edu/>
- 2018 Kadam, A., Swanson, J., Kretschmann, K., Lee, M., & **Varshney, N.** (2018). “Pay for Success: A Roadmap for Implementation in Minnesota”. Retrieved from the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy, <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/206731>
- 2016 “State of the Nation: RTE Section 12 (1) (C) 2015 Provisional”. Co-Authored Chapters 2, 5, and 6 <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18109.33768>

## Opinion and Guest Articles

- 2018 “RTE instrumental in developing an educated India” (Originally published in Hindi). May 5, 2018. Dainik Jagran, National Edition. Available on - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TOIhjADxW\\_0m4F36xc3IWPswXmEM3q3](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TOIhjADxW_0m4F36xc3IWPswXmEM3q3)
- 2017 “Demonetization not a ‘war on black money’ unless finances of political parties made accountable”. *Kafila*. Jan 2017. Available on - <https://kafila.online/2016/12/30/demonetization-not-a-war-on-black-money-unless-finances-of-political-parties-made-accountable-nishank-varshney/>
- 2016 “Why demonetisation is not a war on black money”. Dec 2016. *The Indian Economist*. Available on - <https://qrius.com/demonetisation-war-black-money/>
- 2016 “Why demonetisation is bound to fail unless this loophole is covered”. Nov 2016. *YourStory*. Available on - <https://yourstory.com/2016/11/demonetisation-loophole/>

## Popular Press

- 2018 “UMN research aims to improve social programs in the state”. July 03, 2018. *Minnesota Daily*. Available on - <https://mndaily.com/239146/news/acpay/>
- 2015 “Not one RTE quota admission in 264 Pune, Mumbai schools”. June 27, 2015. *Times of India*. Available on - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/not-one-rte-quota-admission-in-264-pune-mumbai-schools/articleshow/47837726.cms>
- 2015 “Ambiguity over reimbursement hampering RTE implementation”. May 13, 2015. *Times of India*. Available on - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/ambiguity-over-reimbursement-hampering-rte-implementation/articleshow/47257532.cms>
- 2015 “4 Mumbai schools set 1-day age window to qualify for RTE quota”. March 24, 2015. *DNA India*. Available on - <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-4-mumbai-schools-set-1-day-age-window-to-qualify-for-rte-quota-2071488>

- 2015 “Ahmedabad's lesson for city: RTE success story at IIM resource centre”. March 22, 2015. DNA India. Available on - <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-ahmedabad-s-lesson-for-city-rte-success-story-at-iim-resource-centre-2070928>

## GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2021 Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Mini Grant (\$500). Hennepin County, Minnesota. June 2021 (with Pooja Hegde, Vidya Chhabria & Siddhee Sahasrabudhe)
- 2020 Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Mini Grant (\$500). Hennepin County, Minnesota. August 2020 (with Pooja Hegde & Siddhee Sahasrabudhe)
- 2020 Conference Travel Grant for Summer 2020 (\$900), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. June 2020.
- 2020 Conference Travel Grant for Spring 2020 (\$366), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. March 2020.
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant for Summer 2019 (\$233), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. June 2019.
- 2018 Professional Development Grant 2018 (\$200), Professional Student Government, University of Minnesota. Feb 2018.
- 2017 Professional Development Grant 2017 (\$200), Professional Student Government, University of Minnesota. Feb 2017.

## INVITED SPEAKER TALKS

- 2022 **Varshney, N.** “Benefit-Cost Analysis of an Early Childhood Education Program in Mid-Adulthood”, EDUC 772 Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. April 05, 2022.
- 2015 **Varshney, N.** “Role of Academic Institutions in Child Protection: Need and Opportunity”, National Conference on Child Protection: Challenges and Opportunities, Rajasthan Police Academy, India. December 03, 2015.

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

### Workshops

- 2019 **Varshney, N.**, Sarode, T., & Thompson, C. “Role of Positionality in Program Evaluation”. Spring Training Workshop, Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. March 14, 2019.

### Paper Presentations

- 2021 Anigbogu, R.N., Partridge, R., **Varshney, N.**, Sahasrabudhe S., & Schernbeck, K.J. “Putting Communities in the Driver Seat”. Minnesota Public Health Association, Annual Conference. April 29-30, 2021
- 2021 Temple, J. A., **Varshney, N.**, Reynolds, A. J., Ou, S., & Smerillo, N. “Age 37 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Child-Parent Center Childhood Program”. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual Biennial Meeting. April 7-9, 2021.

- 2020 Temple, J. A., **Varshney, N.**, & Reynolds, A. J. “Mental Health and Early Education: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Intervention”. 28th Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research. Online Conference. July 21-23, 2020.
- 2020 Rahl-Brigman, H.A., **Varshney, N.**, & Gewirtz, A.H. “Benefit-Cost Analysis of the PMTO-ADAPT Program for Military Families with Deployed Parents”. 28th Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research. Online Conference. July 21-23, 2020.
- 2019 **Varshney, N.** “Effect of Crime on Legislative Performance: Evidence from National and State Legislatures in India”. Annual International Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Barcelona, Spain. July 29-30, 2019.
- 2019 Temple, J. A., & **Varshney, N.** “Using Pay for Success to Improve Birth Outcomes”. Annual International Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Barcelona, Spain. July 29-30, 2019.
- 2018 Temple, J. A., & **Varshney, N.** “The Role of Evaluation Costs in Social Impact Financing through Pay for Success Models”. Annual Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Washington DC. November 8-10, 2018.
- 2018 **Varshney, N.** “Role of Organizational Positionality in Program Evaluation”. 32nd Annual Conference on Evaluation, American Evaluation Association, Cleveland, Ohio. October 28 – November 03, 2018.
- 2016 **Varshney, N.** “Right to Education Section 12 1(c) Implementation: A comparative analysis across three states.” 2nd International Conference on Contemporary Debates in Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India. January 15-17, 2016.

### **Selected Posters**

- 2019 Temple, J. A., Reynolds, A. J., **Varshney, N.**, Ou, S., Eales, L., & Smerillo, N. “Adult Health and Early Education: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Intervention”. Annual Meeting, American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada. April 5-9, 2019.

### **Demonstration Session**

- 2019 **Varshney, N.**, Sarode, T., Thompson, C., & LaVelle, J. “Positionality in Evaluation”. 33rd Annual Conference on Evaluation, American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota. November 11-16, 2019.

### **TRAINING**

- 2017 Propensity Score Analysis by Dr. Shenyang Guo, Statistical Horizons, Chicago. November 10-11, 2017.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2019 Minnesota International NGO Network (MINN) Fellow.
- 2019 Babak Armajani Prize, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

- 2018 President's Student Leadership and Service Award, University of Minnesota.
- 2016-2018 International Student Scholarship Award, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.
- 2015 BITSAA 30 under 30 Award – for 'Social Entrepreneurship and Community Building', Birla Institute of Technology & Science Alumni Association.
- 2009-2014 INSPIRE Scholarship for Higher Education, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- 2012 Jagriti Yatra - selected with sponsorship for a 15-day entrepreneurial train journey through 10 states of India

## **VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

### **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management**

2022-Current Member, Student Activities Committee

### **BITSAA International Inc. (pro-bono)**

2020-Current Chief Financial Officer & Member, Board of Trustees

2018-2020 Director, People Strategy Team, BITSAA International Inc.

2015-2018 Volunteer, People Strategy Team, BITSAA International Inc.

### **Chateau Housing Cooperative, Minneapolis, MN**

2020-2021 Treasurer

2019-2020 President, Board of Directors

2018-2019 Vice-President, Board of Directors

2017-2018 Member, Board of Directors

### **Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota**

2020-2021 Director of Programming

2018-2020 Associate Director of Programming

### **Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota**

2017-2018 President, Humphrey International Students Association

2016-2017 Representative to Professional Student Government

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

2021-Present Society for Research in Child Development

2018-Present Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2020-2021 Society for Prevention Research

2019-2021 Society for Benefit Cost Analysis

2019 American Educational Research Association

2018-2021 American Evaluation Association

2017-2018 Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute

2016-2018 Minnesota Evaluation Association