

## SASWATHI NATTA, PhD

3513 Carnaby St,  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Cell Phone: 732-763-5918  
Email: [saswathinatta@gmail.com](mailto:saswathinatta@gmail.com);  
Website: [saswathinatta.com](http://saswathinatta.com)

### EDUCATION

- PhD / 2025**    **PhD. Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD**  
*Dissertation:* “Experiencing caste: Social Distance is Distinct from Economic Distance”; Focuses on how caste influences children’s educational outcomes, women’s labor force participation and conflict at the local level.  
Fulbright grant funded field work. Defended on Nov 18th, 2024. Advised by Dr. Sonalde Desai. Member of India Human Development Survey research team; Curriculum development, Teaching.
- M.A / 2017**    **M.A. Sociology, (Ph.D. in progress) University of Maryland, College Park, MD**  
*Second Year Paper:* Disparities in Financial Inclusion in India; Paper identifies financial exclusion patterns across caste and religious divides in modern India.  
*Coursework:* Demographic Methods; Migration; Logic & Methods; Statistical Methods; Survey Methodology, Social Psychology; Gender, work & Family; Social Stratification; Psychology of Teaching; Qualitative Methods.
- B.S.E / 2013**    **Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**  
*Final Engineering Independent work:* “Design of Spiral Loop Antennas Interfacing with Thin Film Circuitry”  
*Junior Semester Project:* Automated car with camera sensor & shape recognition  
**Certificate in South Asian Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**  
*Final Research Paper:* “Analysis of MSMEs in India to Identify Trends in SC (Scheduled caste/ex-untouchables) Representation across Companies, Income group, Industries and States”
- HSD/ 2009**    **Middlesex County Academy of Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technologies, Edison, NJ**  
*Salutatorian*, GPA: 5.175/5.175; Debate Team President, Yearbook Head Editor;  
*Final Senior Project:* “Locator: Satellite GPS receiver & perimeter alert system”
- Other Relevant Trainings**
- July 2016**    **Univ of Michigan Summer Research Institute Course:** Survey Research techniques, Week-long intensive course on survey research methods

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **2025-Present Co-Founder & Head of Research, SpendMatch**

Directed strategic program development to advance financial inclusion through innovation in the FinTech and EdTech space. Led user needs assessments, and pilot testing to build user-informed financial planning tools. The resulting flagship product is a Neurofinance-enabled, AI platform for college-going users, aimed at streamlining scholarship and external funding searches (Aid, grants or loans) for students ineligible for FAFSA funding or newly impacted by lapses in federal funding to higher education. Led the team in conducting market segmentation research, including interviews, focus groups and surveys. Oversaw the design and distribution of the product to provide equitable access to underrepresented communities in Maryland.

### **2022-2025 Survey Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau, International Programs Center**

Developed and piloted a community resilience assessment framework, localized to the state and county level in Malawi and Senegal to evaluate a community's climate disaster preparedness using demographic indicators. Led international program design and implementation of Statistical Capacity Building initiatives funded by USAID/PRH within the UN's Africa Big Data Hub. Managed cross-national teams and partnerships with government agencies and research institutions to strengthen data infrastructure and evidence-based policymaking. Authored methodological briefs on demographic trends and managed long-range population projections through the DAPPS platform to inform strategic planning across multiple countries.

### **2021 Cultural Consultant, Horowitz Research; New Rochelle, NY**

Recruited participants for research and provided cultural insight based on respondent data on lived experiences of children in South Asian American households for a large TV network's upcoming children's show. Weekly data analysis for 8 weeks and monthly check-ins about data for the following 10 months.

### **2020-2021 Public Health Analyst, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS-CDC); Hyattsville, MD**

Conducting in-depth cognitive Interviews on topics ranging from COVID-19 health care, alternative medicines, children's school readiness, transcription & analysis to revise the NCHS survey instruments; Analysis and creation of a coding scheme for open-ended responses within RANDS data.

### **2018 - 2019 Principal Investigator, Fulbright Grant; Multiple Fieldwork Sites, India**

Led multi-site, data collection across four Indian states (AP, UP, WB, KA) as part of a doctoral project on gender, education, and social mobility. Managed different stakeholders in the academic world, including NGO partners, local research institutions as well as field staff, and translators to ensure culturally responsive and rigorous data collection. Conducted over 100 semi-structured interviews and four focus groups to generate hypotheses, which were subsequently tested using quantitative analysis of the India Human Development Survey, producing a robust mixed-methods approach resulting in a dissertation with actionable insights. The dissertation examines neighborhood level impacts of the social distance between castes and the economic distance between castes on the life course of caste-oppressed people, outcomes being

children's education, women's workforce participation/empowerment, and experience of conflict at the neighborhood level.

- 2018**      **International Contractor, United Nations - DPA, New York, NY**  
 Evaluated the Gender/WPS training for DPA staff. Evaluations included a focus group, individual phone calls to UN Staff posted across the globe, and an online survey instrument. Research results focused on how the learning has been applied, which sessions of the training were most and least useful and how the training may be improved.
- 2014 - 2015**      **Research Associate, Lok Foundation; New Delhi, India**  
 Designed and implemented survey instruments to assess program impact and monitor shifts in social and political norms. Ran pilot surveys on social and political issues for impact assessment and changing social norms, and analyzed survey data to present at conferences and to inform funders' strategic program planning.
- 2013 - 2014**      **Financial Analyst, Lok Capital Fellowship; New Delhi, India**  
 Managed national level program evaluation at Ujjivan Microfinance on behalf of Lok Capital, an impact investment fund supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Bank. Led development of Pan-India internal management information systems to monitor credit performance and operational effectiveness. Conducted field visits to branches and clients nationwide, assessing program quality, gathering stakeholder feedback, and translating insights into actionable recommendations for senior leadership.
- 2013**      **Research Assistant, Department of Politics, Princeton University; Princeton, NJ**  
 Research assistant with Professor Rahul Sager, Conducted a content analysis of archived Indian Lok Sabha records in ReCAP to identify discussions pertinent to the Indian constitution
- 2012 – 2014**      **Research Assistant, Upenn Center for Advanced Study of India(CASI); Philadelphia, PA**  
 Research Assistant with Dr.Devesh Kapur, Conducted Semi-structured Interviews for Dr.Kapur's book on the Indian Diaspora. Analyzed data on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises from the Third Indian National Census.
- 2008 – 2012**      **Research Assistant, Princeton Plasma Physics lab (PPPL), Princeton, NJ**  
 Updated software for the Arc Experiment in the Plasma Based Nano Laboratory using labview and updated safety guides. Research & Aspen modeling on the LIFE reactor Fuel Recovery System. Contributed to a Research paper on cryogenic distillation methods. Analyzed flow rates for the Fuel Recovery System of an IFE reactor model.

### **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2025 (Fall)**      NSF iCorps Ancendus (national) at Princeton University
- 2025 (Summer)**      NSF iCorps Propelus (regional) at Temple University
- 2021(summer)**      William H Form Summer Fellowship

- 2018 – 2019** Fulbright US Student Grant to India
- 2017 (summer)** Sociology 2017 Summer Research Grant
- 2016 (summer)** University of Maryland Dean’s Fellow
- 2013 – 2014** Lok Capital fellowship
- 2008** Best Design Award, RoboRocks- NJCate Robotics Competition

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2021 & 2025 Instructor, Montgomery College, Sociology; Silver Spring, MD**  
Independently designed and taught Introduction to sociology courses with 72 lecture hours each as part-time faculty in Fall 2021 & Fall 2025
- 2022(Spring) Instructor, University of Maryland, Sociology; Hybrid Class Spring 2022; College park MD**  
Independently taught SOCY100 - Introduction to sociology for a full 90 student class and supervised two Teaching Assistants. Lecture twice a week for 1.5 hours each.
- 2019-2020 Educational Program Development, NGO: Friends of Children’s Village; Bapatla, India**  
Led a teacher training program in 2019 & refresher in Jan 2020 in order to facilitate student centric teaching, promote student led activities and create a healthy support network for students in the Elizabeth Berry High school, which primarily serves orphaned children living in the Christiana Children’s home.
- 2018 & 2014 English Teaching Volunteer, NGO: UDYAM; New Delhi, India**  
Developed English curriculum tailored to students’ needs. Taught English grammar and conversational skills to Hindi speaking fifth and sixth grade students in underprivileged parts of New Delhi. Started in 2014, follow up in 2018
- 2016 - 2021 Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, Sociology; College Park, MD**  
Eleven semesters of teaching experience. Assisted in course development, student assessment, gave lectures, led discussions for: SOCY100: Intro to sociology; SOCY200: Human Societies; SOCY201&202: Statistical analysis for Undergraduates; SOCY601&602 Statistical Analysis & research methods for graduate students.

### **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

- 2025 - Now HoA President, Gateway West Community, Hyattsville, MD**  
Served as a link between City/County representatives and the community. Overseeing all community activities, budget approval, co-leading the neighborhood watch in response to violent crime and thefts in the community. Reduced the incidence of violent crime with preventative measures.

- 2025 - Now Board Member & Social Chair, Silver Spring Nursery School, Silver Spring, MD**  
Facilitating all social events at the co-op nursery. Discussing important school-wide procedural decisions as a voting member of the board
- 2025 - Now Board Member, Healthy People Rwanda (HPR), Kigali, Rwanda**  
Provide strategic guidance and governance oversight for community health and road safety initiatives. Support program evaluation, partnership development, and organizational growth alongside a network of Rwandan medical professionals.
- 2022 - Now Regional Co-Chair, Princeton Prize in Race Relations – Maryland; Baltimore, MD**  
Facilitating the application intake, applicant vetting and committee discussing high school students doing exceptional work in furthering race relations to select a regional Princeton Prize recipient and certificate winners each year.
- 2016 - 2017 Facilitator, Sexual Assault Prevention, UMD Campus Fraternities; College Park, MD**  
Leading weekly discussions with undergraduate fraternity members about bystander intervention, and the harmful effects of gender stereotypes, masculinity, female objectification and hookup culture
- 2013 - 2024 Regional Co-Chair & Interviewer, Princeton Alumni Schools Committee; Maryland & India**  
Served as a link between the Admissions Committee and applicants to Princeton by interviewing applicants to Princeton's undergraduate classes and by assigning Princeton applicants to alumni interviewers in Maryland
- 2012 Intern, National Human rights Commission, Delhi, India**  
Learned firsthand accounts of work in law, the Indian administrative service and Criminal investigators. Read and analyzed causes & credibility of human rights violations cases being processed. Wrote a final analysis paper on current standing of Human Rights Cases related to Dalits & Caste violence
- 2010 – 2011 Board Member, Chair of Industry Outreach, Society of Women Engineers (SWS), Princeton, NJ**  
Led the effort to reach out to industries and companies and plan exposure trips for female engineering students from Princeton campus to different company offices and meet with female engineers working in those offices for mentorship.
- 2009 – 2013 Vice President, Sustained Dialogue at Princeton, Princeton, NJ**  
Organized and Moderated dialogue groups that consisted of students with different views and identities, addressing social issues and campus stereotypes such as divisions in friend groups and feelings of exclusion based on race, class, income background, major choices, gender, religion, etc. Led positive change campaigns on Princeton's such as "De-Stereotype Day" and "Mental Health Awareness week,"

## **PUBLICATIONS**

1. **Natta, S.** (2024). *Experiencing Caste: Social Distance Is Distinct from Economic Distance* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Maryland, College Park).
2. Bradatan, C., **Natta, S.**, (2024) *Measuring Subnational Resilience in Low-and-Middle-Income Countries* International programs Center, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.  
<<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs/technical-documentation/methodology/measuring-subnational-resilience.html>>
3. **Natta, S.**, Goodkind, D. (2024) *The Components of Demographic Change: When Does Each Matter Most?* Select Topics in International Population and Health, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.  
<<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/international-programs/events/stiph/components-of-demographic-change.pdf>>
4. Rusatira, J. C., Uwimana, J. B., Rutagumba, D., Byiringiro, **S.**, **Natta, S.**, Espmark, J., ... & Ndoli, A. D. (2025). Investigating the mental health burden amongst breast and cervical cancer patients in Rwanda using a modified self-reported questionnaire for mental health screening (SRQ-20): A validation study. *BMC Women's Health*. *Under review*

## **PROFESSIONAL PAPERS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025**      **International Population Conference 2025; Brisbane, Australia**  
Abstract: “iCRE: Identifying Disadvantaged Communities in Low- and Middle- Income Countries. How to Co-produce Quality Resilience Indexes at Subnational Level”  
International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau
- 2024**      **Population Association of America Conference 2024; Columbus, OH**  
Poster: “Measuring Subnational Resilience in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”  
International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau
- 2022**      **Population Association of America Conference 2022; Atlanta, GA**  
Flash Presentation: “Caste & Community Conflict in India: Is Untouchability still a Factor?”  
Poster: “Dalit Women and Work behavior if SES increases: Does "Sanskritization" theory hold up?”
- 2021**      **Population Association of America Conference 2021; Virtual**  
Poster: “Context Specific Women's Empowerment Measures: Education, Labor Force and Caste in India”
- 2020**      **Population Association of America Conference 2020; Washington DC (moved online due to COVID)**  
Flash Presentation: “Intersectionality of Women’s Empowerment: Education & Labor Force Variation across Castes”
- 2019**      **Asian & Asian American Studies 2019; Madison, WI**  
Paper: “Indian Caste Lines & Co-ethnic Divergence: Ethnic and Racial Identity

Formation in the U.S."

- 2019 Fulbright 2019 Conference, South Asian Region; Kochi, India**  
Presentation: "The Ideal Indian Woman: Family Aspirations and Implications for Women's Empowerment"
- 2018 Population Association of America Conference 2018; Denver, CO**  
Poster: "Girls more educated than boys in India: labor force access theory"
- 2018 American Sociological Association Conference 2018; Philadelphia, PA**  
Presentation: "Divergence Within? Indian Caste Lines and Immigrant Ethnic and Racial Identity Formation"
- 2017 National Academy of Sciences Workshop: The Demographic Effects of Girls' Education in Developing Countries; Irvine, CA**  
Presentation: "Life-Scripts: Education and Demographic Aspirations among Indian Girls"
- 2010 Princeton Plasma Physics Lab Conference, Princeton, NJ**  
Poster: "A Concept for a Low-Pressure Noble Gas Fill Intervention in the IFE Fusion Test Facility (FTF) Target Chamber"
- 2009 American Physical Society, Division of Plasma Physics Conference 2009; Atlanta, GA**  
Poster: Concept for a Low-Pressure Gas Fill in a Direct Drive IFE Target Chamber
- 2008 American Physical Society, Division of Plasma Physics Conference 2008; Dallas, TX**  
Poster: "Process Model of a Fusion Fuel Recovery System for a Direct Drive IFE Power Reactor"

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Programming / Statistical Skills:**

- Statistical software: STATA, R, Matlab
- Qualitative analysis software: NVIVO
- Programming software: C, C++, Java,
- Microcontroller programming: MPLAB, MicroBasic
- Circuit simulation software: PSpice
- Microsoft Office: Excel, Word, PowerPoint

### **Language Skills:**

- English: Native fluency
- Telugu: Native fluency
- Hindi: Basic fluency
- Spanish: Basic fluency

**Design/Audio/Video Skills:**

- Design software: Canva
- Video editing software: Visual cut Pro, Windows video editor
- Audio editing software: Audacity

**TRAVEL ABROAD:**

Rwanda, Canada, Mexico, Honduras, Belize, England, Italy, Malaysia, Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, India (States: AP, AS, BR, GA, GJ, HR, HP, KA, KL, MP, MH, ML, PB, RJ, SK, TN, UP, WB, CH, DL, PY)