

Sukanya Das

(she/her/hers)

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107 Burchfiel Geography Building | Knoxville, TN USA 37996

EDUCATION

University of Tennessee, United States

Ph.D. Geography and Sustainability (Scheduled Date: April 2026)

Dissertation: Integrating Women's Agency into Maternal Healthcare Utilization in India: A Mathematical Modeling Approach

Advisor: Dr Madhuri Sharma

Committee: Dr Courtney Cronley, Dr Nicholas Nagle, Dr Laurie Meschke, Dr Jack Swab

University of Tennessee, United States

Minor: Statistics, anticipated April 2026

Visva Bharati University Santiniketan, India

M.S. Geography, August 2020

Thesis: Statistical Modeling of Urban Growth and Environmental Transformation in Assam Wetland Region and its Impact on Mental Health of Peri Urban Women

Advisor: Dr Manjari Bhattacharjee

Visva Bharati University Santiniketan, India

B.A. Geography, 2018

Minor: Modern History; Western & Indian Ethical Philosophy

Undergraduate Project: Social Health Disparity Amongst Adivasi Indigenous Population Communities in Rural West Bengal

Advisor: Dr Bhairu Lal Yadav

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Health Equity, Psychosocial Health, and Social Determinants of Wellbeing:** Social isolation, loneliness, and empowerment as behavioral and psychosocial determinants of health; intersections of gender, income, and social support in shaping physical and mental health outcomes; quality of life and survivorship among marginalized population.
- **Quantitative Demography and Mixed-Methods Health Research:** Longitudinal and multilevel modeling of population health outcomes; integration of large-scale national health surveys with qualitative data; pathway analysis of psychosocial and physiological mechanisms; translational and community-informed health equity research.
- **Women's Health Disparities and Global Health Inequalities:** Determinants of maternal, reproductive, and mental health among women in low-resource

settings; cross-national and regional analyses of health utilization, mortality, and wellbeing; empowerment, awareness, and access as pathways to health equity.

- **Data Science and Health Informatics:**
Application of advanced statistical programming (SPSS, R, SAS) and spatial analysis (GIS, GeoDa) to large datasets such as NFHS, DHS, and U.S. population health surveys; visualization and predictive modeling for identifying high-risk and underserved populations.
- **Qualitative and Community-Engaged Health Research:**
Ethnographic and participatory research on gender, health, and social behavior in low-resource settings; grounded theory and thematic analysis of lived experiences in maternal, reproductive, and mental health contexts; community partnership and stakeholder collaboration to co-produce culturally relevant interventions and promote health equity.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee, United States — Graduate Teaching Associate

- GEOG 121 Sustainable Practices & Human Geography (Online / Asynchronous) — Instructor of Record, Fall 2025
- GEOG 101 World Regional Geography — Instructor of Record, Spring 2025
- GEOG 101 World Regional Geography — Instructor of Record, Fall 2024

University of Tennessee, United States — Graduate Teaching Assistant

- GEOG 206 Sustainable Principles and Practices — Spring 2024
- GEOG 101 World Regional Geography — Spring 2024
- GEOG 101 World Regional Geography (Online / Asynchronous) — Fall 2023
- GEOG 344 Population Geography — Fall 2023
- GEOG 121 Human Geography: People/Places — Spring 2023
- GEOG 374: Geography of Asia — Spring 2023
- GEOG 111: Our Digital Earth and GIS — Fall 2022
- GEOG 101 World Regional Geography — Fall 2022

Birla Group of Schools, India — Post Graduate Teacher (PGT)

- Sociology — 2021
- Geography — 2021
- Economics — 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lead Project Researcher

Psychological Wellbeing, Empowerment, and Depression among Indigenous Women in Coastal India

Birati Glove Vision Society, India — 2021

Research Analyst

Social Determinants of Health, Stress, and Community Resilience among Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) Women in Coastal Populations of India

Birati Glove Vision Society, India — 2021

Ethnographic Field Researcher

Ethnographic Study on Health and Gender Dynamics among Women Domestic Helpers

Guwahati, Assam, India — 2020

Summer Researcher

Cyber Shakti: Empowering Women in the Digital Economy

North East Development Foundation, India — 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Published

2023 **Das, S. & Sharma, M. 2023.** Unveiling Shadows: Exploring the Nexus of Informal Economy, Gender Dynamics, and Health Struggles among Women Domestic Helpers in Guwahati, India

Indian Journal of Spatial Science.14(4):6-14, Winter Issue, DOI:

<https://www.indiansss.org>

In Progress Publications

2025 [Minor revisions] **Das S.** *Empowerment Capability Utilization: Theory of Power, Awareness, and Informed Utilization*

Submitted to Springer Nature: Theory and Society

2025 [Minor revisions] **Das S. & Sharma M. 2025.** *Digital Divides in Maternal Health: Readiness for Hybrid Pregnancy Care in India*

Submitted to BMC, Springer Nature, Hybrid Pregnancy Issue

2025 [Minor revisions] **Das S. & Sharma M. 2025.** *Between Tradition and Modernity: Negotiating Maternal Health among Tribal Women in Northeast India*

Submitted to Sage Journals, AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples

2025 [Submitted] **Das S. & Sharma M. 2025.** *Gendered Pathways to Survival: Modeling Social Determinants of Maternal and Population Health in India*

Submitted to PLOS ONE

CONFERENCES, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Conference Paper Presentations

2025 (Ongoing) **Das, S. & Sharma, M. 2024.** Empowerment Capability Utilization: Theory of Power, Awareness, and Informed Utilization

Race and Ethnicity (REP) Conference, Annual Meeting, 2025, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

Session: Planning and Empowerment

2024 **Das, S.** & Sharma, M. 2024. Charting Empowerment Pathways: A Spatial Framework for Understanding Women's Influence on Maternal Healthcare in India
Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), Annual Meeting, 2024, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Session: Health Geography by Dr. Jenna Dixon & Dr Andrea Rishworth

2023 **Das, S** & Sharma, M. 2023. Women, Healthcare and Domestic Violence: A Paradoxical Fathom?
American Association of Geographers (AAG), Annual Meeting, 2023, Denver, Colorado, United States

Session: Health Geography II

2023 **Das, S** & Sharma, M. 2023. Women and Domestic Violence in Matrilineal Tribes of Northeast India
GeoSym Annual Conference, 2023, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

Invited Guest Lectures

2024 Population Demographics (GEOG 344)
Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States

2024 Urban Spaces/Urban Society (GEOG 442)
Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States

2023 People and the Land: Intro to Cultural Geography (GEO 210)
Department of Geography, Tidewater Community College, Virginia, United States

2023 Economic Geog. In Modern World (GEOG 340)
Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States

2022 Economic Geog. In Modern World (GEOG 340)
Department of Geography, Tidewater Community College, Virginia, United States

Conference Session Organizer

2025 Spatial Data Science Symposium, 2025 (upcoming)
Session: GIS and Indigenous Health

2023 GeoSym Annual Conference, Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee
Session: Cultural Symbols and Geographies

Workshop Participation

2025 **Making AI Work for You: Encouraging Ethical AI Literacy in your Classrooms**, Teaching and Learning Innovation Workshop, University of Tennessee, United States

2025 **Teaching and Imposters Syndrome**, Teaching and Learning Innovation Workshop, University of Tennessee, United States

- 2024 **Better Teaching through Neurodiversity: Supporting Student’s Executive Functioning**, Teaching and Learning Innovation Workshop, University of Tennessee, United States
- 2024 **Title IX**, Workshop, University of Tennessee, United States
- 2023 **How to Write a Successful Research Paper for Publication**, Summer Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Tennessee, United States
- 2021 **Disaster Risk Vulnerability Assessment and Management**, Training Program, National Institute for Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, India
- 2021 **Introduction and Access to Global Air Quality Forecasting**, Advanced Webinar, National Aeronautics and Space Organization (NASA)
- 2020 **Demography and Health Research in the Era of Covid-19**, Training Program, American Association of Geographers Learning Series, Organized by Dr. Andrea Rishworth and Dr. Jenna Dixon
- 2020 **Brown Bag Panel Discussion on Social Statistics**, British Sociological Association (BSA), University of Oxford, Organized by Dr. Wendy Olsen

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fall 2025: Graduate Student Senate International Academic Travel Award	US\$1000
Spring 2025: Department of Geography and Sustainability Travel Award	US\$250
Fall 2024: Graduate Student Senate International Academic Travel Award	US\$1100
Fall 2024: College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award	US\$100
Spring 2023: Outstanding Graduate Fellowship	US\$1000
Spring 2023: Graduate Student Senate Academic Travel Award	US\$800
Spring 2023: Department of Geography and Sustainability Travel Award	US\$250
Fall 2022: Outstanding Graduate Fellowship	US\$1000
2018: Undergraduate Excellence Fellowship	₹10,000

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2024 **Lead Publication Award**
Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States
- 2024 **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award**
Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States
- 2021 **Outstanding Trained Graduate Teacher Award**
Sarala Birla Gyan Jyoti (Birla Group of Schools), India
- 2021 **Women Research Excellence Award**
Birati Glove Vision Society, India
Project: Menstrual Hygiene and Practices of Women in Marginalized Communities of Sundarbans District of India
Funded by: Government of India

- 2020 **Masters Gold Medalist and Academic Topper**
Visva Bharati University Santiniketan, India
- 2018 **Undergraduate Gold Medalist and Academic Topper**
Visva Bharati University Santiniketan, India

DISCIPLINARY SERVICES

Membership

American Sociological Association	2024
Canadian Sociological Association	2024
Canadian Anthropology Association	2024
Canadian Association of Geographers	2023
American Association of Geographers	2020
British Sociological Association	2020

Leadership Roles

Student Representative, Ethnic Geography Specialty Group American Association of Geographers (AAG)	2025
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Committee Service

Website Making Committee	2025
IMGS 2026 Toronto Conference, Canada	
Geography Awareness Group, Student Committee Vice Chair Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, United States	2023 — 2024
Student Volunteer	2015 — 2020
National Service Scheme (NSS), India	

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: English, Hindi, Bengal, Assamese

Research Methods: Ethnographic fieldwork, Participatory action research, Mixed methods design, Qualitative and Quantitative data analysis, Mathematical modeling, Decolonizing methodologies

Technical Skills: Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDA), SQL, Spatial analysis, Statistical analysis (SPSS, R, SAS), Online survey tools (Qualtrics), NVivo, ATLAS.ti

Teaching Competencies: Multimodal course delivery, Online asynchronous instruction, Inclusive pedagogy, Innovative student assessment strategies

Knowledge Mobilization: Policy brief writing, Stakeholder engagement, Community partnership facilitation, Public presentation of research

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Dr. Madhuri Sharma

Professor, Department of Geography & Sustainability
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA
Email: msharma3@utk.edu

Dr. Courtney Cronley

Professor, Department of Social Work
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA
Email: ccronle1@utk.edu

Dr. Jack Swab

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Sustainability
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA
Email: jswab@utk.edu

Dr. Tracey Norrell

Teaching Professor, Department of Geography &
Sustainability University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA
Email: thayes7@vols.utk.edu