

# Payal Hathi

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- CONTACT INFORMATION** Graduate Group in Sociology and Demography  
University of California, Berkeley  
Room 310 Social Science Building, Berkeley, CA 94720  
✉ [phathi@berkeley.edu](mailto:phathi@berkeley.edu)  
🌐 <https://payalhathi.com>
- EDUCATION** **PhD candidate in Demography and Sociology, In Progress**  
University of California, Berkeley  
Dissertation: Patriarchy and population science: the neglect of stillbirth in the demographic measurement of fertility and mortality.  
Dissertation committee: Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (co-chair), Raka Ray (co-chair), Dennis Feehan, Mara Loveman  
Qualifying exams: Demography, Sociological Theory, Gender, Mortality measurement
- M.A. in Sociology, 2021**  
University of California, Berkeley
- M.A. in Demography, 2019**  
University of California, Berkeley
- M.P.A. in Development Studies and Public Policy, 2011**  
School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton University
- B.A. in Economics and Political Economy, 2005**  
University of California, Berkeley  
Distinction in General Scholarship
- INTERESTS** Demography, gender, social inequality, health, environment, development, quantitative methods, qualitative methods.
- PUBLICATIONS** **Journal articles** (\* indicates all student co-authors)
17. \* Vyas, Sangita, **Payal Hathi**, and Aashish Gupta. 2022. [Social disadvantage, economic inequality, and life expectancy in nine Indian states](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 119(10), e2109226119.  
**Recognition: Winner of PAA's 2021 Dorothy S. Thomas Award.**  
**Media: BBC, Hindustan Times, Deccan Herald, The Print, Telegraph India, and others.**
  16. **Hathi, Payal**, Diane Coffey, Amit Thorat, and Nazar Khalid. 2021. [When women eat last: discrimination at home and women's mental health](#). *PLOS One*.
  15. Coffey, Diane, **Payal Hathi**, Nazar Khalid, and Amit Thorat. 2021. [Measurement of population mental health: Evidence from a mobile phone survey in India](#). *Health Policy and Planning*. 36(5):606-619.
  14. Thorat, Amit, Nazar Khalid, Nikhil Srivastav, **Payal Hathi**, Dean Spears, and Diane Coffey. 2020. [Persisting prejudice: Measuring attitudes and out-](#)

- comes by caste, religion, gender. *CASTE, A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*. 1(2), 1-16.
13. Gupta, Aashish, Sangita Vyas, **Payal Hathi**, Nazar Khalid, Nikhil Srivastav, Dean Spears, and Diane Coffey. 2020. [Persistence of solid fuel use in rural north India](#). *Economic & Political Weekly*. 55(3): 55-62.  
**Media:** *Times of India, The Hindu, LiveMint, IndiaSpend, Counterview*, and others.
  12. Gupta, Aashish, Nazar Khalid, Devashish Deshpande, **Payal Hathi**, Avani Kapur, Nikhil Srivastav, Sangita Vyas, Dean Spears, and Diane Coffey. 2020. [Revisiting open defecation: Evidence from a panel survey in rural north India, 2014–18](#). *Economic & Political Weekly*. 55(21).  
**Media:** *Hindustan Times, The Hindu, The Business Standard, LiveMint, IndiaSpend, Scroll.in, The Wire, First Post, Swaraj Magazine, Counterview*.
  11. Coffey, Diane, **Payal Hathi**, and Dean Spears. 2020. [Assessing high-profile public messaging for sanitation behaviour change: evidence from a mobile phone survey in India](#). *Waterlines*. 39(4).
  10. \* **Hathi, Payal** and Nikhil Srivastav. 2020. [Caste prejudice and infection why a dangerous lack of hygiene persists in government hospitals](#). *Economic & Political Weekly*. 55(16).
  9. Broussard, Kathleen, **Payal Hathi**, and Diane Coffey. 2019. [Assessing public awareness and use of medical abortion via mobile phone survey in India](#). *Contraception*. 2019. 100(6): 457-463.
  8. Coffey, Diane, **Payal Hathi**, Nidhi Khurana, and Amit Thorat. 2018. [Explicit prejudice: Evidence from a new survey of social attitudes](#). *Economic & Political Weekly*. 53(1): 46-54.
  7. **Hathi, Payal**, Sabrina Haque, Lovey Pant, Diane Coffey, and Dean Spears. 2017. [Place and Child Health: The Interaction of Population Density and Sanitation in Developing Countries](#). *Demography*. 54:337-360.
  6. Coffey, Diane, Aashish Gupta, **Payal Hathi**, Dean Spears, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas. 2017. [Understanding open defecation in rural India: Pollution, latrine pits, and untouchability](#). *Economic & Political Weekly (special article in Review of Rural Affairs)*. 52(1):59-66.  
**Media:** *The Economist*, major English-language Indian newspapers.
  5. Coffey, Diane and **Payal Hathi**. 2016. [Underweight and pregnant: Maternity entitlements and weight gain during pregnancy](#). *Indian Journal of Human Development*. 10(2):1-15.
  4. **Hathi, Payal**, Diane Coffey, and Dean Spears. 2016. [Can collective action strategies motivate behavior change to reduce open defecation in rural India?](#). *Waterlines*. 35(2).  
**Recognition:** Winner of Waterlines' 2016 Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize.

3. Comfort, Alison, Slavea Chankova, Randall Juras, C. Natasha Hsi, Lauren Peterson, and **Payal Hathi**. 2016. [Providing free pregnancy test kits to community health workers increases distribution of contraceptives: results from an impact evaluation in Madagascar](#). *Contraception*. 93(1): 44-51.
2. Coffey, Diane, Aashish Gupta, **Payal Hathi**, Nidhi Khurana, Dean Spears, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas. 2014. [Revealed preference for open defecation: Evidence from a new survey in rural north India](#). *Economic & Political Weekly (special article section)*. 49(38). Reprinted in *Social Policy*, ed. Jean Drèze. 2016.  
**Media:** *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, *Voice of America*, major English-language Indian newspapers.
1. Comfort, Alison, Janneke van Dijk, Sungano Mharakurwa, Kathryn Stillman, Benjamin Johns, **Payal Hathi**, Sonali Korde, Allen Craig, Nancy Nachbar, Yann Derriennic, Rose Gabert, and Philip Thuma. 2014. [Association between malaria control and paediatric blood transfusions in rural Zambia: an interrupted time-series analysis](#). *Malaria Journal*. 13(1), 1-17.

### Book chapters

1. ★ **Hathi, Payal** and Nikhil Srivastav. 2022. [The Role of Caste Prejudice in Hampering Infection Control Efforts in Government Hospitals..](#) *Caste, COVID-19, and Inequalities of Care: Lessons from South Asia*. Sanghmitra S. Acharya and Stephen Christopher (Eds.), Indian Institute for Advanced Studies.

### Technical reports

1. **Hathi, Payal**, Amit Thorat, Nazar Khalid, Nidhi Khurana, and Diane Coffey. 2020. [Mobile Phone Survey Methods for Measuring Social Discrimination](#). Technical Report prepared for the National Centre for Data Innovation at the National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, India.

### Works in progress

14. **Hathi, Payal**. [Population science implications of the inclusion of stillbirths in demographic estimates of child mortality](#). Currently under review at *Demography*.
13. **Hathi, Payal**. Quantifying pregnancy and pregnancy loss in the demographic study of population health.
12. **Hathi, Payal**. Examining the changing relationship between stillbirth and early neonatal mortality.
11. **Hathi, Payal**. The relationship between heat, humidity, and the prevalence of stillbirth in India.

10. ★ **Hathi, Payal**, Aashish Gupta, Vipul Paikra, Aditi Priya, and Kanika Sharma. The state of stillbirth statistics in India.
9. Gupta, Aashish, **Payal Hathi**, Murad Banaji, Prankur Gupta, Ridhi Kashyap, Vipul Paikra, Kanika Sharma, Anmol Somanchi, Nikkil Sudharsanan, and Sangita Vyas. [Large and unequal life expectancy declines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in India in 2020](#). Currently under review at *Science Advances*.
8. Vyas, Sangita, **Payal Hathi**, and Aashish Gupta. Maternal mortality disparities in India.
7. Khalid, Nazar, **Payal Hathi**, Aashish Gupta, and Sangita Vyas. Hindu-Muslim mortality differences in India: 1990-2016.
6. Paikra, Vipul, Apurva Bamezai, Murad Banaji, **Payal Hathi**, Aditi Priya, MR Sharan, Kanika Sharma, Chanchal Kumar Singh, Harsha Thirumurthy, Sangita Vyas, and Aashish Gupta. Pandemic excess deaths in rural Bihar.
5. Feehan, Dennis, **Payal Hathi**, Moinuddin Haider, Mamun Al Basher, and Nurul Alam. Death by network: Novel approaches to data collection for estimating adult mortality on a survey.
4. **Hathi, Payal**, Diane Coffey, and Amit Thorat. Interviewer gender effects on social attitudes and survey outcomes in a mobile phone survey in India.
3. **Hathi, Payal** and Diane Coffey. Open defecation: Manual scavenging's legacy in rural India. *The scourge of scavenging and the scavenger: The making of the polluted sweeper*. Ravichandran Bathran (Ed.), Indian Institute for Advanced Studies.
2. Spears, Dean, **Payal Hathi**, and Diane Coffey. [Willingness to sacrifice for climate mitigation in representative samples of Indian adults](#). *IZA Policy Paper No. 147*.
1. **Hathi, Payal**. Can more education address the social inequality behind opposition to intermarriage? Comparing India and the U.S..

#### News publications, commentaries, and other media

16. [What Prevents Indian Public Hospitals from Being Hygienic?](#) March 1, 2021. *Research Radio EPW*, with Nikhil Srivastav.
15. [Our Essential Workers Need Essential Care](#). August 1, 2020. *Economic & Political Weekly (Commentary)*. with Nikhil Srivastav and Aditi Priya.
14. [The precarious condition of hospital cleaning staff](#). July 3, 2020. *The Hindu*, with Nikhil Srivastav.
13. [Protecting health workers: Protective gear is not enough, infection control practices are critical](#). April 18, 2020. *Times of India*, with Nikhil Srivastav.

12. [Coercion, construction, and ‘ODF paper pe’: Swachh Bharat according to local officials.](#) March 5, 2019. *India Forum* with Aashish Gupta, Sangita Vyas, Nazar Khalid, Nikhil Srivastav, and Diane Coffey.
11. [Using mobile phones to measure discrimination.](#) January 9, 2019. *Ideas for India*, with Diane Coffey, Nazar Khalid, Nidhi Khurana, and Amit Thorat.
10. [Experiences and Perceptions of Discrimination among Dalits and Muslims.](#) October 20, 2018. *Economic & Political Weekly (Commentary)*, with Diane Coffey, Nazar Khalid, Nidhi Khurana, and Amit Thorat.
9. [Why we still need to measure open defecation in rural India.](#) Oct. 1, 2018. *Ideas for India*, with Nikhil Srivastav.
8. [A lose-lose proposition.](#) January 10, 2018. *Indian Express*.
7. [Population density interacts with sanitation to predict child health.](#) May 22, 2017. *N-IUSSP*, with Diane Coffey.
6. [Maternity entitlements for healthier babies.](#) July 7, 2016. *Ideas for India*, with Diane Coffey.
5. [The case for going universal.](#) January 21, 2016. *The Hindu*, with Diane Coffey.
4. [A sanitation sena for India.](#) October 3, 2014. *The Indian Express*, with Aashish Gupta.
3. [Why community toilets won’t reduce open defecation in rural India.](#) October 2, 2014. *Scroll*.
2. [PM must say ‘open defecation’ and ‘latrine use’ out loud!](#) October 1, 2014. *LiveMint*.
1. [Toilets are urgently needed in rural India, but don’t imagine they’ll reduce rape.](#) June 7, 2014. *Scroll*, with Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Dean Spears, and Sangita Vyas.

ACADEMIC  
PRESENTATIONS

“Quantifying pregnancy and pregnancy loss in the demographic study of population health.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Session: Population Processes. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. August 2023.

“The state of stillbirth statistics in India.” Stillbirth Association of India National Conference. Chandigarh, India. August 2023.

“Quantifying pregnancy and pregnancy loss in the demographic study of population health.” All-University of California Demography Conference (poster). Irvine, California. May 2023.

“Examining the changing relationship between stillbirth and early neonatal mortality.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting (poster). New Orleans, Georgia. April 2023.

“Quantifying pregnancy and pregnancy loss in the demographic study of population health.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting (poster). New Orleans, Georgia. April 2023.

“Population science implications of the inclusion of stillbirths in demographic estimates of child mortality.” British Society of Population Studies Conference, Session: Early life health and mortality. Winchester, United Kingdom. September 2022.

“The relationship between heat, humidity, and the prevalence of stillbirth in India.” British Society of Population Studies Conference, Session: Demographic consequences of environment risks. Winchester, United Kingdom. September 2022.

“Population science implications of the inclusion of stillbirths in demographic estimates of child mortality.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Session: Morbidity and mortality. Los Angeles, California. August 2022.

“The inclusion of stillbirths in demographic estimates of child mortality.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Flash Session - Pathways to Infant and Child Health and Mortality. Atlanta, Georgia. April 2022.

“Interviewer gender effects on social attitudes and survey outcomes in a mobile phone survey in India.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Flash Session - Measurement of Concepts in Demographic Studies. Atlanta, Georgia. April 2022.

“The impact of heat and humidity on the prevalence of stillbirth in India.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting (poster). Atlanta, Georgia. April 2022.

Discussant for Session: Family Planning Policies and Politics. Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. April 2022.

“Estimating stillbirth and stillbirth-adjusted infant mortality: modeled and empirical evidence.” IUSSP International Population Conference, Session: Creating and using international or historical datasets. Virtual. November 2021.

“Social disadvantage, economic inequality, and life expectancy in nine Indian states.” British Society for Population Studies Conference, Session: Social inequalities & mortality. Virtual. September 2021.

“Estimating Stillbirth and Stillbirth-Adjusted Infant Mortality: How Ignoring the Burden of Stillbirth Mischaracterizes Child Health Challenges in Low and Middle-Income Countries.” Sociology of Development Annual Conference, Session: Global Health and Pandemics. Virtual. June 2021.

“Social disadvantage, economic inequality, and life expectancy in nine Indian states.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Roundtable: Health and Well-Being Across the Life Course. Virtual. August 2020.

“When women eat last: Discrimination and women’s mental health.” r.i.c.e.

& IGC webinar on Gender and mental health in Bihar and India: Developing tools for effective measurement. Virtual. July 2020.

“Measurement of population mental health: Evidence from a mobile phone survey in India.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting (poster). Virtual. April 2020.

“Can more education reduce opposition to intermarriage? Comparing India and the U.S.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting (poster). Austin, Texas. April 2019.

“Population density and the effect of sanitation on early-life health.” Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. October 2014.

“Confronting the challenge: latrines and latrine use in India.” Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. October 2014.

“What’s so communal about communities in rural India? Social distance, village conflict, and open defecation.” Water and Health Conference (poster), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. October 2014.

“What doesn’t kill you makes you shorter: Evidence from two decades of improving sanitation and infant mortality in Bangladesh.” Delhi School of Economics Conference on Sanitation, Delhi, India. August 2013.

“Using willingness to pay data to inform the design of health insurance for the poor: evidence from micro-lending clients in Lagos, Nigeria.” Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Beijing, China. November 2012.

#### AWARDS

First place in graduate student poster competition, 2023  
All - University of California Demography Conference  
For poster “Quantifying pregnancy and pregnancy loss in the demographic study of population health”

Best Poster Award, 2023  
Population Association of America (PAA)  
For poster “Examining the changing relationship between stillbirth and early neonatal mortality”

Dorothy S. Thomas Award for the best graduate student paper on the interrelationships among social, economic, and demographic variables, 2021  
Population Association of America (PAA)  
Shared with Sangita Vyas and Aashish Gupta, for our co-authored paper, “[Social disadvantage, economic inequality, and life expectancy in nine Indian states](#)”

Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize for an original paper submitted by early career researcher, 2016  
*Waterlines* journal  
Shared with Dean Spears and Diane Coffey, for our co-authored paper, “[Can collective action strategies motivate behavior change to reduce open defecation](#)”

in rural India?"

GRANTS

Dissertation Research Grant, 2022-2023  
University of California, Berkeley, Center on Contemporary India

Junior Research Fellowship, 2022  
American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)

David and Aileen Wang Family Fellowship, 2021-2022  
University of California, Berkeley

Catherine and William L. Magistretti Graduate Fellowship, 2020-2021  
University of California, Berkeley

National Institute on Child Health and Human Development Training Grant, 2018-2023  
Department of Demography, University of California, Berkeley

Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, 2020  
Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Maharaj Kaul Memorial Grant, 2020  
The Institute of South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Regents Scholar, 2001-2005  
University of California, Berkeley

TEACHING

DEMOG 110 Introduction to Population Analysis (Prof. Ayesha Mahmud). Graduate Student Instructor. University of California, Berkeley. Fall 2021.

DEMOG 210 Demographic Methods: Rates and Structures (Prof. Ayesha Mahmud). Graduate Student Tutor. University of California, Berkeley. Fall 2021.

Berkeley Formal Demography Workshop. Graduate Student Instructor. University of California, Berkeley. May 24-28, 2021.

DEMOG / ECON C175 Economic Demography (Prof. Josh Goldstein). Graduate Student Instructor. University of California, Berkeley. Spring 2021.

SERVICE

**Mentorship:** UC Berkeley Sociology Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentoring Program: Program Coordinator (2022-2023); As a Graduate Student Mentor, mentored one undergraduate each year on their senior thesis (2019-2020, 2020-2021).

UC Berkeley Social Science Research Pathways (SSRP) program: Graduate Student Mentor for two undergraduates each year (2022-2023, 2023-2024).

**Guest lectures in courses:** Researcher panel for PhD candidate Kanika Sharma's course "Gender, Society, and Health: Global Perspectives" at Emory University, November 2022.

"Mobile Phone Survey Methods for Measuring Social Discrimination" for Pro-



fessor Reetika Khara's class on research methods at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi for PhD and Master's students, September 2021.

"COVID's disproportionate effect on minority populations" for Summer Math and Science Honors (SMASH) Academy, a program engaging low-income students of color in STEM. with Vincent Fan, July 2020.

**Workshop organization:** Co-organized UC Berkeley Department of Sociology's Gender and Sexuality Workshop, 2021-2022.

**Conference organization:** Co-organized r.i.c.e. & IGC webinar on Gender and mental health in Bihar and India: Developing tools for effective measurement. July 2020.

**Journal refereeing:** Population Studies, Population Research and Policy Review, Population & Environment, PLOS One, Journal of Population Ageing, Feminist Economics, Studies in Family Planning, PLOS Global Public Health, BMC Women's Health, The Journal of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Development, Waterlines, Water Policy, Urban Studies, Indian Journal of Human Development, Institute for Development Studies, Economic & Political Weekly.

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

r.i.c.e., a research institute for compassionate economics. Research Fellow. September 2018 - present.

r.i.c.e., a research institute for compassionate economics. Managing Director, Delhi, India. April 2014 - August 2018.

World Bank Water & Sanitation Program. Knowledge Broker, South Asia Region, Delhi, India. March 2013 – April 2014.

Abt Associates. Senior Analyst, International Health Division, Cambridge, MA. February 2012 – March 2013.

Sakhi for South Asian Women, Economic Empowerment Coordinator. New York City, NY. May 2010 – September 2011.

Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Research Assistant, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. May 2006 – July 2008.

FIELD AND  
SURVEY  
EXPERIENCE

*Narratives of stillbirth and the production of stillbirth statistics in India.* 2021-present. A qualitative exploration of stillbirth experiences and measurement, unpacking how women's experiences, health worker practices, and bureaucratic decisions interact to produce India's official and administrative stillbirth statistics.

*Testing survey-based methods for estimating mortality.* 2021-present, with Professor Dennis Feehan. A pilot survey done in conjunction with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in Matlab, Bangladesh, testing network methods for mortality and stillbirth rate estimation.

*SARI (Social Attitudes Research for India).* 2015-2018, with r.i.c.e. A phone survey

tracking social attitudes over time and experiences of discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, and religion in India. Data and documentation available for download [here](#).

*Hygiene, infection, and caste in government hospitals.* 2016-2017, with r.i.c.e. A qualitative study of hygiene maintenance in maternity services in public sector hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar.

*SQUAT (Sanitation, Quality, Use, Access, and Trends).* 2013-2014, with r.i.c.e. A quantitative survey of sanitation beliefs and behaviors in 3,000 households in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar. Data and documentation available for download [here](#).

*Switching to sanitation.* 2013-2014, with r.i.c.e. A qualitative study of motivations towards latrine use and non-use in 100 households in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and southern Nepal.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	Population Association of America (PAA) 2018 – present  American Sociological Association (ASA) Sections on Population, Sex & Gender, and Environment 2019 – present
LANGUAGES	English (native); Hindi (proficient); Gujarati (proficient).
DATA ANALYSIS	Proficient in Stata, working knowledge of R.