

# Shriya Rangarajan

**SOCIAL SCIENTIST • SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE • CLIMATE RESILIENCE • QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS**  
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## Profile

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Applied researcher with 8+ years of experience translating complex findings in agricultural systems, environmental policy, and climate resilience into accessible content for diverse audiences. Demonstrated ability to synthesize qualitative and quantitative research into policy reports and public communications for academic, nonprofit, and practitioner contexts.

## Skills

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### Software and Methods

Survey research (Qualtrics), R, Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDa), Social Network Analysis, Statistics, Econometrics

### Technical Skills

Participatory research, Governance consulting, Project management, Community outreach, Grant writing, Public communications

### Languages

English, Hindi, Tamil

## Professional Experience

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### ◆ Researcher - Public Impact, Innovative Genomics Institute, University of California, Berkeley

Jan 2025 — Present

- Led research and stakeholder engagement to inform development and deployment strategies for climate-resilient crops in Indian agriculture.
- Facilitated advisory panels bridging farmers, scientists, policymakers, and practitioners to guide project priorities.
- Translated field insights from 40+ participants across the rice value chain to inform scientific development and project dissemination strategies.

### ◆ Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California Organic Agriculture Institute, Davis

Sep 2022 — Dec 2024

- Managed a statewide needs assessment of organic agriculture (65+ interviews, 400+ farmers surveyed) to inform institutional priorities of UC OAI.
- Cultivated partnerships with key organic stakeholders across the state and informed the development of an organic agriculture knowledge network for information exchange.
- Co-authored policy-relevant reports and three academic papers (two under review) on the environmental, economic, and social impacts of organic agriculture farming practices and policy.

### ◆ Instructor and Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, Ithaca

Jan 2018 — May 2022

- Course instructor for an introductory World Geography class for incarcerated students in Cornell's Prison Education Program.
- Teaching assistant for courses in quantitative planning methods, urban and planning theory, science and technology studies.

### ◆ Project Manager (consultant) for Digital Village, Harisal, Government of Maharashtra and Microsoft, India

Aug 2016 — Jan 2018

- Liaised between State Government of Maharashtra, local government and 12 government, non-profit, and corporate stakeholders investing in digital education, healthcare delivery, agriculture, and governance.
- Organized 21 microfinance groups of 200+ women, connected 60+ farmers to infrastructure schemes, enabled rollout of telemedicine and coordinated the digitization of public distribution impacting 10,000+ people.
- Managed project budgets, timelines, monitoring and evaluation of project deliverables.

### ◆ Senior Analyst, Samagra Governance, New Delhi

Sep 2015 — Aug 2016

- Advised government and non-profit clients investing in education, Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH), and environment.
- Conducted large-scale needs assessment for primary education reform in Himachal Pradesh targeting 500,000+ students.
- Recommended changes for training of teaching staff and the review and monitoring system for primary education across 10,000+ schools in the state.
- Reviewed and contextualized best practices in deploying sanitation infrastructure for two industry leaders in WASH.

### ◆ Fellow at SBI Youth for India, Jawhar

Sep 2014 — Sep 2015

- Worked with NGO, BAIF Development Research Foundation on community surveys across the district.
- Conducted skills training and financial education for women's microfinance groups in 2 villages.

## Education

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### Ph.D. in Regional Science, Cornell University, Ithaca

January 2018 — August 2022

Dissertation: 'Studies on regional food systems: Refining measures of spatial access and evaluating the role of social capital in farming resilience'.

### Master of Urban Planning, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

August 2012 — August 2014

### Bachelor of Technology in Biotechnology, National Institute of Technology, Warangal

July 2008 — May 2012

## Grants and Awards

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- Northeast SARE Graduate Student Research Grant Program, 2021
- Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Research Grant, 2021
- Department of City and Regional Planning Graduate Student Community Service Award, 2021
- Einaudi-SSRC Dissertation Development Program, 2019

## Professional service

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- Applied and Extension Research Interest Group of the Rural Sociological Society, Chair elect and co-chair, 2023-25
- Planning committee for the Northeast Regional Science Association (NERSA) and NERSA Summer School, 2022
- Center for Teaching Innovation's GET SET Workshops, Facilitator, 2021-22
- Diversity and inclusion analysis, Global Planning Education Committee, ACSP, 2021
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee, College of Art, Architecture and Planning, 2020

## Conference Presentations

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- Rural Sociological Society, 2025, 2023, 2022
- North American Regional Science Conference, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 2021, 2022
- Association of American Geographers, 2026, 2022
- Deconstruction + Reuse, 2021

## Publications, Reports and Science Communications

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### ♦ Working papers

- Rangarajan, S., Allred, S., Biasillo, L., Higgins, E., Thurston, M. Influence of social capital on marketing strategies of vegetable growers: Implications for community resilience

### ♦ Published papers

- (accepted) Rangarajan, S., Wilson, H., Lubell, M., Lloyd, M., Structural contradictions in organic agriculture: a DPSIR analysis of California production. *Agriculture and Human Values*
- Shriya, Wilson, H., & Lubell, M. (2026). Agronomic and systemic challenges in organic agriculture exhibit asymmetric economies of scale. *Agricultural Systems*, 234, 104645. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2026.104645>
- Rangarajan, S.; Minner, J.; Wang, Y.; Heisel, F. Incremental Urbanism and the Circular City: Analyzing Spatial Patterns in Permits, Land Use, and Heritage Regulations. *Sustainability* 2025, 17.
- Rangarajan, S., Lubell, M., Muramoto, J., & Wilson, H. (2024). Challenges in organic agriculture in California: Summary of findings from a statewide needs assessment. *University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources*. (not peer reviewed)
- Rangarajan, S. (2023). Refining large-scale spatial metrics of food access. *Applied Geography*, 159, 103084.
- A. Bhaskar, S. Rangarajan, V. Shree, M. Campbell and F. Parise, "Accelerated consensus in multi-agent networks via memory of local averages," 2021 60th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), Austin, TX, USA, 2021.

### ♦ Science outreach and communications

- Seminar on stakeholder engagement for climate resilient agriculture at the Innovative Genomics Institute, University of California, Berkeley, March 2026
- Interview on the MyAgLife podcast on challenges in California organic, July 2024
- Preliminary Findings from the UC OAI Statewide Needs Assessment for Organic Agriculture on the California Certified Organic Farmers blog, April 2024
- Invited panel on Cultivating Farmer-Researcher Collaborations in Organic Agriculture by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). *Ecological Farming Association 2024, Monterey, California*
- Invited panel on Understanding Evolving Production Challenges for Organic Growers by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). *Organic Growers Summit 2023, Monterey, California*