

SWATI RAYASAM, MSc

(510) 621-7592 · swati@swatirayasam.com · www.swatirayasam.com
Berkeley, CA

EXPERTISE

Interests: Epidemiology; Reproductive Health; Infectious Disease; WASH; Health Policy; Toxics; International Development
Skills: Quantitative Research; Qualitative Research; Research Translation; Project Management; Policy Evaluation; Strategic Leadership; Grant Writing; Classroom Management; Communications Management

Software
Statistical: STATA; R; SQL; SAS
Data Visualization: ArcGIS; QGIS
Other: Zotero; Mendeley; EndNote; Adobe Suite; Microsoft Office; Final Cut Pro X; Canva

EDUCATION

University of California at Berkeley
School of Public Health
Berkeley, CA
M.Sc. in Global Health and the Environment (2017)

Honors: Reshetko Family Scholar (Environmental Health Sciences)
Coursework: Advanced Epidemiologic Methods; Impact Evaluation; Social Epidemiology; Health Policy Advocacy; Law, Politics, and Policy-Making

The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
B.S. in Biology, Minors in Chemistry and Journalism & Mass Communication (2013)

Honors: Buckley Public Service Scholar
Coursework: AIDS Principles and Policies; Applied Microbiological Methods; Bioethics; Electronic Journalism

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Science Associate, Science & Policy
UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment
San Francisco, CA, **Mar. 2019 – Present**
Conduct policy research to draft comments to federal and state level agencies. draft manuscripts on chemicals policy, systematic review, occupational health, and environmental justice. Manage a network of experts and relationships with external contractors and stakeholders.

Health and Economic Consultant
Berkeley Economic Advising and Research LLC/UC Berkeley Dept. of Agricultural Resource Economics,
Berkeley, CA, **Dec. 2018 – June 2019**
Researched and gathered opportunities around environmental economics and international development, crafted proposals on public and environmental health projects.

Science and Policy Associate
Green Science Policy Institute, Berkeley, CA, **Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2018**
Led and managed workgroups for policy projects around flame retardant chemicals in buildings. Reviewed and translated scientific research for regulators and other relevant stakeholders. Maintained strategic relationships with other non-profits, governmental bodies, and private industry.

Research Technician

Duke Human Vaccine Institute, Durham, NC, **Nov. 2013 – June 2015**

Managed project protocols and conducted rigorous quality-controlled research to identify vaccine candidates in a BSL-2+ environment. Presented data to the larger research group and funders.

Undergraduate Researcher

UNC Chapel Hill Department of Pharmacology, Chapel Hill, NC, **Jan. 2010 – Aug. 2013**

Conducted a variety of BSL-2 assays to test protein substitution between *N. gonorrhoeae* resistant to antimicrobial agents and *E. coli*. Wrote and edited a capstone paper summarizing results.

Undergraduate Researcher and Analyst

UNC Chapel Hill Division of Infectious Disease, Chapel Hill, NC, **Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2012**

Developed and evaluated survey instruments for physicians regarding their HIV testing recommendation habits. Conducted interviews alongside principal investigator. Analyzed interview results and contributed to final publication.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-Teacher, Research Methods

Prison University Project, *English 204 Research Methods*, San Quentin State Prison, CA, **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**

Teach collaborative research skills to inmates housed at San Quentin State Prison with the assistance of a co-teacher. Help students refine skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking, as well as skills in research and argumentation across the disciplines.

Graduate Student Instructor

UC Berkeley School of Public Health, *Introduction to Advanced Epidemiology & Introduction to Environmental Health*, Berkeley, CA, **Fall 2016 – Spring 2017**

Presented weekly lecture and discussion materials for a class of ~200 students. Built and operated the educational website to provide lectures. Created and graded homework, exams, and papers.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Public Health Association, 2021 – Present

Environment and Epidemiology Sections

LEADERSHIP

Advisory Committee Member

Young Climate Leaders of Color, **March 2022 – Present**

Provide program design input to for the project Youth Climate Leaders of Color to build the leadership capacity and inform ways to equitably include and center the voices of youth of color to advocate for and transform their communities with access to support, resources, and funding while transforming the broader climate movement.

Board Member, Advocacy Co-Chair

South Asian Public Health Association, **January 2022 – Present**

Draft and finalize a strategic advocacy plan, attend monthly board meetings and committee meetings, Manage committee members work, maintain relationships with advocacy partners, and draft communications to various stakeholders (congressional, healthcare, or community).

Board Member

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, **January 2021 – Present**

Review all scholarship applications and conduct a series of in-depth interviews. Discuss applicants and make final scholarship decisions based on a set criteria during a two-day meeting, support logistics for annual meeting planning, annual give, and other projects as needed.

Co-Coordinator

Alliance of South Asians Taking Action, **March 2020 – Present**

Co-lead and represent an internationalist grassroots organization of South Asians. Creating political education materials and holding workshops on racial justice, incarceration and militarism, and labor exploitation.

Public Health Co-Leader and Strategy Team

Stop San Quentin Outbreak Coalition – Ella Baker Center, **June 2020 – January 2022**

Lead public health practitioners committed to health equity and abolition. Draft and determine public health strategy, present to stakeholders, create communications materials, and interpret policy documents.

Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Services Ambassador

UC Berkeley School of Public Health, **August 2015 – May 2017**

Attended events to represent Berkeley and interacted with prospective students. Regularly communicated with upwards of 20 prospective students per year to foster diversity.

Fall Break Coordinator

UNC Young Democrats, **October 2012**

Managed group of 30 students. Drafted programs, policy briefs, and memos on green infrastructure and migrant farmworker rights. Held workshops to train lobbying, communication, and advocacy skills.

Annual Retreat Co-Founder and Coordinator, Program Chair

UNC Sexuality and Gender Alliance, **Spring 2010 – Spring 2013**

Co-founded and coordinated an annual retreat attended by queer students across North Carolina that strives to empower students and to build a more effective network, develop shared strategy, and create lasting change. Lead SAGA's program and education strategy.

Editor-in-Chief

UNC Sexuality and Gender Alliance - LAMBDA Magazine, **Spring 2011 – Spring 2013**

Directed strategy and managed a team of writers and graphic designers develop a publication providing progressive analysis, opinion, and dialogue about queer issues in the South and facing students.

AWARDS

People's Life Fund, Northern California War Tax Resistance (2022)

Creative Work Fund, Walter and Elise Haas Fund/William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (2021)

Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, UC Berkeley Institute of South Asian Studies (2016)

Reshetko Family Scholar, UC Berkeley School of Public Health (2015)

Davis Putter Scholarship Fund, Davis Putter Scholarship Fund (2015)

LGBTIQ Advocacy Award, UNC Chapel Hill LGBTQ Center (2013)

Kenan-Biddle Grant, Duke University & UNC Chapel Hill (2012)

PUBLICATIONS

I have first-authored 20 public comments, primarily to EPA and around TSCA, as a part of my role at PRHE. These comments can be found at: <https://prhe.ucsf.edu/chemical-policy>

Rayasam SDG, Koman PD, Axelrad DA, Woodruff TJ, Chartres N. (2022). Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Implementation: How the amended law has failed to protect vulnerable populations from toxic chemicals in the U.S. *Environmental Science and Technology*. 2022, 56, 17, 11969–11982. doi:10.1021/acs.est.2c02079

Rayasam SDG, Aung MT, Cooper C, Kwiatkowski C, Germolec DR, Rooney AA, Walker VR, Forte C, Woodruff TJ, & Chartres N. (2022). Identifying environmental factors that influence immune response to SARS-COV-2: Systematic evidence map protocol. *Environment International*, 107230. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2022.107230

Woodruff TJ, **Rayasam SDG** ... Zeise L. (2021). Setting a Health-Protective, Scientific Agenda for Chemical Policy: Overview and Consensus Statement. *Environmental Health*. **Accepted**.

Maffini MV, **Rayasam SDG** ... Woodruff TJ. (2021). Advancing the Science on Chemical Classes. *Environmental Health*. **Accepted**.

Vandenberg LN, **Rayasam SDG** ... Woodruff TJ. (2021) Addressing Systemic Problems with Exposure Assessments to Protect the Public's Health. *Environmental Health*. **Accepted**.

Varshavsky JR, **Rayasam SDG** ... Woodruff TJ. (2021). Current Practice and Recommendations for Advancing how Human Variability and Susceptibility are Considered in Chemical Risk Assessment. *Environmental Health*. **Accepted**.

Nielsen GH, Heiger-Bernays W... **Rayasam SDG**, Shaffer RM, Zeise L, Woodruff TJ, Ginsberg GL. Application of Probabilistic Methods to Address Variability and Uncertainty in Estimating Risks for Non-Cancer Health Effects. *Environmental Health*. **Accepted**.

Hoang A, Fagan K, Cannon DL, **Rayasam SDG**, Harrison R, Shusterman D, and Singla V. (2021). Fatalities from methylene chloride exposure in the United States, 1980-2018: A comprehensive clinical review and policy implications. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 181(6):797-805. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.1063

Sutton P, Chartres N, **Rayasam SDG**, Daniels N, Lam J, Maghrbi E, Woodruff TJ. (2021). Reviews in Environmental Health: How Systematic Are They? *Environment International*. 152:106473 doi:10.1016/j.envint.2021.106473

Rayasam SDG, Rao B, Ray I. (2020). The reality of water quality monitoring for SDG 6: A report from a small town in India. *Journal of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Development*. 10(3): 589–595. doi:10.2166/washdev.2020.131

Hyun C, Burt Z, Crider Y, Nelson KL, Prasad SCS, **Rayasam SDG**, Tarpeh W, Ray I. (2019) Sanitation for Low-Income Regions: A Cross-Disciplinary Review. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*. 44:1, 287-318. doi:10.1146/annurev-environ-101718-033327

Dessie G., Wagnew F, Mulugeta H., Amare D... **Rayasam SD**, Burrowes S. (2019). The effect of disclosure on adherence to antiretroviral therapy among adults living with HIV in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Infectious Diseases*. 19(1):528. doi:10.1186/s12879-019-4148-3

Rayasam SDG, Ray I, Smith KR, Riley LW (2019). Extraintestinal Pathogenic *Escherichia coli* and Antimicrobial-Drug Resistance in a Maharashtrian Drinking Water System. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.100(5):1101-1104. doi:10.4269/ajtmh.18-0542

Hart BE, Asrican R...**Rayasam SDG**...Lee S, Frothingham R (2015). Stable Expression of Lentiviral Antigens by Quality-Assured Recombinant BCG Vectors. *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology*. 22(7):726-741. doi:10.1128/cvi.00075-15.

White BL, Walsh J, **Rayasam S**, Pathman DE, Adimora AA, Golin CE. (2014). What Makes Me Screen for HIV? Perceived Barriers and Facilitators to Conducting Recommended Routine HIV Testing among Primary Care Physicians in the Southeastern United States. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care*.14(2):127-135. doi:10.1177/2325957414524025

PRESENTATIONS

The Power and Fragility of Coalition Politics, Health Policy Advocacy, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, Berkeley CA (2021, 2022)

Forgotten Workers from Sea to Shore: A Community Discussion on Seafarers and the Pandemic, Oakland, CA (2021)

Research in Action: The role of “experts” in creating change. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (2021)

Public Health As a Tool for Liberation, Not Detention. National Bail Fund Network. (2021)

CDCR Policy Change:Cell, Property, Body Inspections. Essie Justice Group. (2021)

Key Issues in the Implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) & Opportunities for US EPA to Address these Moving Forward to Protect the Public’s Health, Local Government TSCA Coordination Group. (2021)

Barriers to Safe Water and Who Gets Left Behind: An Evaluation of Current Monitoring Strategies, Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2018)