

Nishank Varshney

nvarshney@unmc.edu | www.nishankvarshney.com

AFFILIATION

2023- Present Assistant Professor, Department of Education and Child Development,
Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **Public Affairs**, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
2018-2023 *Dissertation*: Three Essays on Using Economic Evaluations for Scaling up Early
Childhood Education and Development Programs
Minor: Program Evaluation
Certificate in Early Childhood Policy

M.P.P. **Public Policy**, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
2016-2018 *MPP Concentration*: Advanced Policy Analysis Methods

M.Sc. (Hons.) **Mathematics**
B.E. (Hons.) **Electronics & Instrumentation**
2009-2014 Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, India

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-2022 **Research Contractor**, The Constellation Fund, Minneapolis, MN

2017-2023 **Research Assistant**, Human Capital Research Collaborative, University of Minnesota.

2015-2016 **Research Associate**, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

2014-2015 **Business Analyst**, Dell International Services, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2023 Reynolds, A. J., Smerillo, N. E., Ou, S. R., Loveman-Brown, M., & **Varshney, N.** (2023). School Performance in Third Grade After a Full-Day vs Part-Day Preschool Program. *JAMA*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2023.20010>

2023 Reynolds, A. J., **Varshney, N.**, Ou, S. R., Kritzik, R., & Loveman-Brown, M. (2023). Early Childhood Education and Midlife Ideal Cardiovascular Health in a Prospective Urban Cohort. *JAMA Pediatrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2023.4010>

2023 Temple, J.A., & **Varshney, N.** (2023). “Using Prevention Research to Reduce Racial Disparities in Health Through Innovative Funding Strategies: The Case of Doula Care.” *Prevention Science*, 1- 11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-023-01497-2>

2022 **Varshney, N.**, Temple, J. A., & Reynolds, A. J. (2022). “Early Education and Adult Health: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Preschool Program.” *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis* 13: 57–90, <https://doi.org/10.1017/bca.2022.4>
Selected as the “Article of the month – July 2022”

- 2020 **Varshney, N.**, Lee, S., Temple, J. A., & Reynolds, A. J. (2020). "Does early childhood education enhance parental school involvement in second grade?: Evidence from Midwest Child-Parent Center Program." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 117, 105317. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105317>
- 2018 Sarin, A., Dongre, A., Khanghta, P., **Varshney, N.**, Gaur, A., & Sengai, A. (2018). "Implementation of section 12 (1)(C) of the Right to Education Act." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.53(8), P. 31-38. <http://hdl.handle.net/11718/20428>

Book Chapters

- 2022 Reynolds, A. J., Lee, S., Eales, L., **Varshney, N.**, & Smerillo, N. (2022). "Parental Involvement and Engagement in Early Education Contribute to Children's Success and Well-Being." In *Family-School Partnerships During the Early School Years* (pp. 91-111). Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74617-9_6

Evaluation Reports

- 2023 **Varshney, N.**, & Fritz, L. "Communities for Kids (C4K): 2023 Focus Group Report". December 2023.
- 2023 Miller, K., Alvarez, L., Baird, S., **Varshney, N.**, & Spencer, S. "Sixpence Early Learning Fund: 2022-2023 Annual Report". November 2023.
- 2023 **Varshney, N.**, & Tourek, K. "Community Collaboratives: Annual Report 2022-23". October 2023.
- 2023 Johnson, J., Fritz, L., Tourek, K., **Varshney, N.**, Snyder, K., & Miller, K. "Tracking Systems Change: Nebraska Preschool Development Grant". September 2023.
- 2020 **Varshney, N.** (2020). "Analyzing the Delhi Model of Doorstep Delivery of Public Services". *Humphrey Public Affairs Review*, Vol. 6, P. 43-47. <https://humphreyreview.umn.edu/>
- 2018 Kadam, A., Swanson, J., Kretschmann, K., Lee, M., & **Varshney, N.** (2018). "Pay for Success: A Roadmap for Implementation in Minnesota". Retrieved from the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy, <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/206731>
- 2016 "State of the Nation: RTE Section 12 (1) (C) 2015 Provisional". Co-Authoring Chapters 2, 5, and 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18109.33768>

Opinion and Guest Articles

- 2018 "RTE instrumental in developing an educated India" (Originally published in Hindi). May 5, 2018. *Dainik Jagran*, National Edition. Available on - https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TOIhjADxW_0m4F36xc3IWPpWXmEM3q3
- 2017 "Demonetization not a 'war on black money' unless finances of political parties made accountable". *Kafila*. Jan 2017. Available on - <https://kafila.online/2016/12/30/demonetization-not-a-war-on-black-money-unless-finances-of-political-parties-made-accountable-nishank-varshney/>
- 2016 "Why demonetisation is bound to fail unless this loophole is covered". Nov 2016. *YourStory*. Available on - <https://yourstory.com/2016/11/demonetisation-loophole/>

Popular Press

- 2018 “UMN research aims to improve social programs in the state”. July 03, 2018. Minnesota Daily. Available on - <https://mndaily.com/239146/news/acpay/>
- 2015 “Not one RTE quota admission in 264 Pune, Mumbai schools”. June 27, 2015. Times of India. Available on - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/not-one-rte-quota-admission-in-264-pune-mumbai-schools/articleshow/47837726.cms>
- 2015 “Ambiguity over reimbursement hampering RTE implementation”. May 13, 2015. Times of India. Available on - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/ambiguity-over-reimbursement-hampering-rte-implementation/articleshow/47257532.cms>
- 2015 “4 Mumbai schools set 1-day age window to qualify for RTE quota”. March 24, 2015. DNA India. Available on - <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-4-mumbai-schools-set-1-day-age-window-to-qualify-for-rte-quota-2071488>
- 2015 “Ahmedabad’s lesson for city: RTE success story at IIM resource centre”. March 22, 2015. DNA India. Available on - <https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-ahmedabad-s-lesson-for-city-rte-success-story-at-iim-resource-centre-2070928>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- Spring 2023 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
PA 5011: Program Evaluation, 3 Credits, In-person, 14 students
- Summer 2022 **University of Minnesota, Junior Summer Institute**
Applied Statistics, In-person, 20 students
- Spring 2021 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
PA 3003: Public/Non-Profit Financial Management and Budgeting
3 Credits, Synchronous Online, 28 students
- Fall 2020 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
PA 3003: Public/Non-Profit Financial Management and Budgeting
3 Credits, Synchronous Online, 38 students

Teaching Assistant

- Fall 2022 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
PA 5011: Program Evaluation, 3 Credits, In-person, 40 students
- Summer 2020 **University of Minnesota, Junior Summer Institute**
Applied Statistics, Remote, 20 students
- Fall 2017 **University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
PA 5151: Organizational Perspectives on Global Development

EVALUATION CONTRACTS

- 2023-Present “Evaluation of Community Well-Being (CWB) Program in Nebraska.”
Role: Principal Investigator
Amount: \$34,420; Dates: 07/01/2023 – 09/30/2023
Amount: \$129,483; Dates: 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024
Sponsor: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- 2023-Present “Evaluation of the Communities for Kids (C4K) Program.”
Role: Principal Investigator
Amount: \$10,553; Dates: 09/01/2023 – 08/31/2024
Sponsor: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2022 Career Development Grant for Summer 2022 (\$900), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. August 2022.
- 2022 Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Mini Grant (\$530). Hennepin County, Minnesota. July 2022 (with Aarushi Rastogi & Rajaram Tangirala)
- 2021 Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Mini Grant (\$500). Hennepin County, Minnesota. June 2021 (with Pooja Hegde, Vidya Chhabria & Siddhee Sahasrabudhe)
- 2020 Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Mini Grant (\$500). Hennepin County, Minnesota. August 2020 (with Pooja Hegde & Siddhee Sahasrabudhe)
- 2020 Conference Travel Grant for Summer 2020 (\$900), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. June 2020.
- 2020 Conference Travel Grant for Spring 2020 (\$366), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. March 2020.
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant for Summer 2019 (\$233), Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota. June 2019.
- 2018 Professional Development Grant 2018 (\$200), Professional Student Government, University of Minnesota. Feb 2018.
- 2017 Professional Development Grant 2017 (\$200), Professional Student Government, University of Minnesota. Feb 2017.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Minnesota International NGO Network (MINN) Fellow.
- 2019 Babak Armajani Prize, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.
- 2018 President’s Student Leadership and Service Award, University of Minnesota.
- 2016-2018 International Student Scholarship Award, Humphrey School of Public Affairs.
- 2015 BITSAA 30 under 30 Award – for ‘Social Entrepreneurship and Community Building’, Birla Institute of Technology & Science Alumni Association.

- 2009-2014 INSPIRE Scholarship for Higher Education, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- 2012 Jagriti Yatra - selected with sponsorship for a 15-day entrepreneurial train journey through 10 states of India

INVITED SPEAKER TALKS

- 2022 **Varshney, N.** “Benefit-Cost Analysis of an Early Childhood Education Program in Mid-Adulthood”, EDUC 772 Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. April 05, 2022.
- 2015 **Varshney, N.** “Role of Academic Institutions in Child Protection: Need and Opportunity”, National Conference on Child Protection: Challenges and Opportunities, Rajasthan Police Academy, India. December 03, 2015.

TRAININGS

- 2022 Methods Training in Economic Evaluation, Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. July 11-15, 2022.
- 2017 Propensity Score Analysis by Dr. Shenyang Guo, Statistical Horizons, Chicago. November 10-11, 2017.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Workshops

- 2019 **Varshney, N.**, Sarode, T., & Thompson, C. “Role of Positionality in Program Evaluation”. Spring Training Workshop, Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. March 14, 2019.

Paper/Panel Presentations

- 2023 **Varshney, N.** “Revolutionizing Program Evaluation: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence tools”. Annual Research Conference, American Evaluation Association, Indianapolis, IN. October 9-14, 2023
- 2023 **Varshney, N.** “Whose Benefits Matter?: Case of Cost-Benefit Analysis of Home Visiting Programs”. Annual Research Conference, American Evaluation Association, Indianapolis, IN. October 9-14, 2023
- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Temple, J.A., & Reynolds, A. J. “Evaluating the Costs of Scaling up a High-Quality Early Childhood Program”. Annual Research Conference, American Evaluation Association, New Orleans, LA. November 7-12, 2022
- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Sahasrabudhe S., & Hegde P. “Equitable Methods to Engage Communities in Programs to Increase Wellbeing and Health Outcomes”. Annual Research Conference, American Evaluation Association, New Orleans, LA. November 7-12, 2022
- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Temple, J.A., & Reynolds, A. J. “Estimating the Costs of Scaling up a High-Quality Early Childhood Program: A Case of the Midwest Child-Parent Center Program”. Annual Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Washington DC. November 17-19, 2022

- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Sahasrabudhe S., & Hegde P. “Using Mini-Grants as a Tool to Improve Community Mental Wellbeing and Housing Stability: A Review of an Innovative County Program”. Annual Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Washington DC. November 17-19, 2022
- 2022 **Varshney, N.**, Temple, J.A., & Reynolds, A. J. “Long-term impacts of a high-quality early childhood program on Cardiovascular health”. Annual Research Conference, American Psychological Association, Minneapolis. August 4-6, 2022
- 2021 Anigbogu, R.N., Partridge, R., **Varshney, N.**, Sahasrabudhe S., & Schernbeck, K.J. “Putting Communities in the Driver Seat”. Minnesota Public Health Association, Annual Conference. April 29-30, 2021
- 2021 Temple, J. A., **Varshney, N.**, Reynolds, A. J., Ou, S., & Smerillo, N. “Age 37 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Child-Parent Center Childhood Program”. Society for Research in Child Development, Virtual Biennial Meeting. April 7-9, 2021.
- 2020 Temple, J. A., **Varshney, N.**, & Reynolds, A. J. “Mental Health and Early Education: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Intervention”. 28th Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research. Online Conference. July 21-23, 2020.
- 2020 Rahl-Brigman, H.A., **Varshney, N.**, & Gewirtz, A.H. “Benefit-Cost Analysis of the PMTO-ADAPT Program for Military Families with Deployed Parents”. 28th Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research. Online Conference. July 21-23, 2020.
- 2019 **Varshney, N.** “Effect of Crime on Legislative Performance: Evidence from National and State Legislatures in India”. Annual International Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Barcelona, Spain. July 29-30, 2019.
- 2019 Temple, J. A., & **Varshney, N.** “Using Pay for Success to Improve Birth Outcomes”. Annual International Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Barcelona, Spain. July 29-30, 2019.
- 2018 Temple, J. A., & **Varshney, N.** “The Role of Evaluation Costs in Social Impact Financing through Pay for Success Models”. Annual Fall Research Conference, Association for Public Policy and Management, Washington DC. Nov. 8-10, 2018.
- 2018 **Varshney, N.** “Role of Organizational Positionality in Program Evaluation”. 32nd Annual Conference on Evaluation, American Evaluation Association, Cleveland, Ohio. October 28 – November 03, 2018.
- 2016 **Varshney, N.** “Right to Education Section 12 1(c) Implementation: A comparative analysis across three states.” 2nd International Conference on Contemporary Debates in Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India. January 15-17, 2016.

Selected Posters

- 2019 Temple, J. A., Reynolds, A. J., **Varshney, N.**, Ou, S., Eales, L., & Smerillo, N. “Adult Health and Early Education: Age 37 Impacts and Economic Benefits of the Child-Parent Center Intervention”. Annual Meeting, American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada. April 5-9, 2019.

Demonstration Session

2019 **Varshney, N.**, Sarode, T., Thompson, C., & LaVelle, J. “Positionality in Evaluation”.
33rd Annual Conference on Evaluation, American Evaluation Association,
Minneapolis, Minnesota. November 11-16, 2019.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Prevention Science Journal

2022-Present Member, Editorial Board (Prevention Science Early Career Reviewer Program)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

2022-2023 Member, Student Activities Committee

BITSAA International Inc. (pro-bono)

2023-Present Member, Board of Trustees

2020-2023 Chief Financial Officer & Member, Board of Trustees

2018-2020 Director, People Strategy Team, BITSAA International Inc.

2015-2018 Volunteer, People Strategy Team, BITSAA International Inc.

Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota

2020-2021 Director of Programming

2018-2020 Associate Director of Programming

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

2017-2018 President, Humphrey International Students Association

2016-2017 Representative to Professional Student Government

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2017-Present Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

2018-Present American Evaluation Association (AEA)

2019-Present Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis (SBCA)

2020-Present Society for Prevention Research (SPR)

2021-Present Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

2022-2023 American Psychological Association (APA)

2019-2020 American Educational Research Association (AERA)

2017-2018 Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute (MESI)

2016-2018 Minnesota Evaluation Association (MNEA)