

SARAH NOLAN

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Multi-method researcher interested in how individuals navigate school and work, with an eye for social class inequality. Experienced in quantitative and qualitative research in academic and professional settings. Data visualization enthusiast

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Public Policy,

Duke University

Dissertation: Upward Mobility in Times of Change

Expected 2022

B.A. in Public Policy

Duke University

Honors Thesis: Pathways to University in the U.S. and India

May 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher

Duke University, Durham, NC and India

August 2016-Present

- Designed and implemented a survey of engineering students across India, over 10,000 quality responses
- Generated a typology of students' socio-economic origins using Latent Class Analysis, in R and SAS
- Conducted in-depth interviews with respondents (abridged due to Covid 19)
- Conducted participant observation and benchmarking analyses at 10+ non-profits in Bangalore, Mumbai, and New Delhi, India and facilitated conference for 10+ non-profits which promote social mobility across India
- Analyzed multi-wave, multi-level panel dataset in Indonesia to estimate population patterns, in R
- Secured over \$60,000 in fellowships and grants for dissertation research.

Project Manager

The Graduate School at Duke University,

Summer 2021

- Managed cleaning, analyzing, and design of interactive dashboard for survey data on doctoral student's experiences and career outcomes
- Led user needs and user feedback sessions with academic leaders across university departments
- Managed and trained two undergraduates in R, Shiny, data science, and user testing

Research Collaborator

Talent Pipeline Book Project, Durham, NC and Tallinn, Estonia

Spring 2019-2021

- Investigated Estonia's tech talent development pipeline through expert interviews and observation
- Authored book chapter on Estonia's technology talent development case for popular press

Project Lead

Social Mobility and Data Visualization Interdisciplinary Team, Durham NC

Fall 2016-Spring 2018

- Developed syllabus, recruited participants, lead collaboration sessions, mentored undergraduates

Research Collaborator

Durham, NC

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

- Coded 30+ interviews with low-income mothers and child-care staff on resources and social ties using NVivo software, published academic article with co-author

Program Analyst

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco

Sept 2014-June 2016

- Developed new processes to measure beneficiary experience, including regular net promoter checks, 200+ household homeowner census, and focus groups
- Built knowledge about measurement among beneficiaries, program staff, and board members.
- Migrated previous program data from MS Access to Salesforce, designed workflow for program staff.

Business Development Associate

Maria Yee, Inc., San Jose CA

Sept 2013- June 2014

- Managed relationships with partners, including high end furniture retailers, manufacturers, real estate developers, interior designers, and property managers in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and U.S.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Data Organizer

City of Durham, NC

- Prototyped Economic Recovery data dashboard prototype for City of Durham Covid 19 Task Force
- Developed visualizations for citizen responses to Covid-19 participatory budgeting

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2021, 2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
2021 Population Association of America
2019 International Sociological Association RC 28 Social Stratification and Mobility
2019 UNU-WIDER Social Mobility in Developing Countries Workshop

PUBLICATIONS

Barnes, C. and **S. Nolan**, *Professionals, friends, and confidants: After-school staff as social support to low-income parents*. Children and Youth Services Review, 2019. **98**: p. 238-251.

Krishna, A. and **S. Nolan**, *Synthetic Fathers and Real Consequences: Social Mobility Research in Transition*. The Journal of Development Studies, 2019. 55(4): p. 737-742.

SKILLS

Statistical Software: R (Advanced), SAS (Basic)

Research Software: Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, NVivo

Visualization Software: GGplot2 (Advanced), Tableau (Intermediate)

Language: Hindi (Basic to Intermediate)