

VIVEK NEMANA

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PROFILE

Ph.D. sociologist with 8+ years of experience leading field-based studies on international development, social policy and inequality. Expert in qualitative research, mixed-methods inquiry & behavioral analysis in developing societies. Seeking research-relevant roles in applied user and social policy settings.

CORE SKILLS

Mixed-Methods Research Agendas | Interviews | Ethnography | Text Analysis | Causal Inference | Impact Evaluations | International Field Studies | Evidence-Based Policymaking | Research Synthesis | NVivo | R | Data Visualization | Project Management | Writing | Teaching | Storytelling | Scientific Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Princeton University, Ph.D. Program in Sociology & Social Policy

Princeton, NJ

Doctoral Researcher

Sep 2016 – May 2025

- Investigated the impacts of universal schooling on labor markets in India, leveraging a rigorous mixed-methods research plan to uncover local meanings & behaviors driving unexpected national outcomes; developed a generalizable theory of ‘predatory development’ in book-length dissertation.
- Designed and conducted 4+ year longitudinal ethnographic study of how 45 individuals across 6 archetypes in urbanizing Indian communities navigate overwhelming odds to secure a formal job.
- Conducted 100+ in-depth interviews and focus groups across India and the U.S. for new insights into how social barriers like caste correspond to the educational aspirations of first-generation students.
- Hand-coded corpus of 3,121 documents about India’s National Policy on Skill Development to identify implicit social barriers codified in workforce development program designs; substantiated hypotheses with quantitative analysis of 800,000+ rows of official employment data & global development indices.
- Designed & performed fixed-effects regression on 75,000+ rows and 40+ dimensions of WIA data in R to study unintended impacts of workforce training programs on U.S. occupational segregation.
- Presented research at 12+ high-impact meetings & conferences in 5 countries, engaging directly with leading researchers, business people & policymakers including senior Government of India officials.

ABC Funding

Avenel, NJ

UXR Consultant

Feb 2025 – May 2025

- Led end-to-end design and execution of a pilot user research study to uncover the financing needs, cash flow challenges, and decision-making behaviors of small healthcare staffing agencies.
- Developed research plan grounded in stakeholder goals & industry analysis; conducted semi-structured interviews with agency leaders; synthesized findings into 4 key personas & journey maps.

Princeton University, M.S. Chadha Center for Global India

Princeton, NJ

On-Site Program Coordinator & Communications Lead

Jun 2023 – Nov 2024

- Led program design and launch of Princeton’s Startup Immersion Program in Bengaluru, traveling on site to coordinate 10-week experiential placements with leading Indian startups.
- Managed on-site operations for two student cohorts (18 students across 9 firms), overseeing a \$250K annual budget for programming, including educational visits to promote socio-cultural immersion.
- Curated a weekly speaker series with 15+ Indian founders, VCs, and social impact leaders to deepen understanding & exposure to India’s cutting-edge innovative and entrepreneurial landscape.
- Coordinated 44 speakers and 275+ participants for 1st annual Global India Frontiers Conference, leading stakeholder engagement & providing key support to programming, design and logistics.

Princeton University, Department of Sociology

Assistant Instructor

Princeton, NJ

Sep 2017 – May 2019

- Taught and facilitated 7 discussion sections with 90+ total undergraduates; advised 28 term papers.
- Developed curricula, materials, lesson plans & grading strategies in collaboration with co-teachers.
- Courses taught: *Hustles and Hustlers; Money, Work and Social Life; Western Way of War*

Independent Multimedia Journalist

Investigative Reporter & International Correspondent

Hyderabad, IN

Jan 2012 – Jul 2016

- Wrote and reported 50+ articles on social movements, development and inequality across India for The New York Times, Scroll.in, GQ, Al Jazeera, AFP, Caravan, Foreign Policy and other leading outlets.
- Led multi-year investigation into systematic corruption & underreporting in World Bank anti-malaria programs; won national awards for stories on climate change adaptation and Indian politics.

New York University, Development Research Institute

Digital Projects Associate

New York, NY

Aug 2010 – Jan 2012

- Synthesized latest development economics research & debates for our popular blog “Aidwatchers.”
- Maintained social media & analytics on public outreach to inform grant writing and funder engagement.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology & Social Policy • *Princeton University* (2025)

M.A., Economics • *New York University* (2012)

B.A., Journalism & Economics • *New York University* (2010)

Professional Certificate, Google UX Design (2025)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Fundraising Director • Tribal Education & Rural Development Society • *Araku, IN*

Development Advisor • Health and Education for the Least Privileged (H.E.L.P.) • *Holmdel, NJ*

Committee Chair • Graduate Student Advisory Council, Sociology • *Princeton, NJ*

English Teacher • Prison Teaching Initiative • *Ft. Dix, NJ*

HONORS & GRANTS

Center for International Security Studies Dissertation Grant | RedInk Awards for Excellence in Indian Journalism | Fund for Investigative Journalism Grant | Merage Foundation American Dream Award

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & TALKS

- “The Sun Always Rises: Caste, Predatory Development and the Struggle for Self-Worth in India’s Araku Valley,” *Proquest (Ph.D. Dissertation)*, 2025
- "From Trials to Election Promises: The Politics of Basic Income in India," *Palgrave Macmillan*, 2020
- "Those Were the Days: The Latin American Economic and Cultural Boom vs. the Spanish Miracle," *Cambridge University Press*, 2019
- Speaker, American Sociological Association; Annual Conference on South Asia; Society for Social Studies of Science; Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics; Global India Frontiers