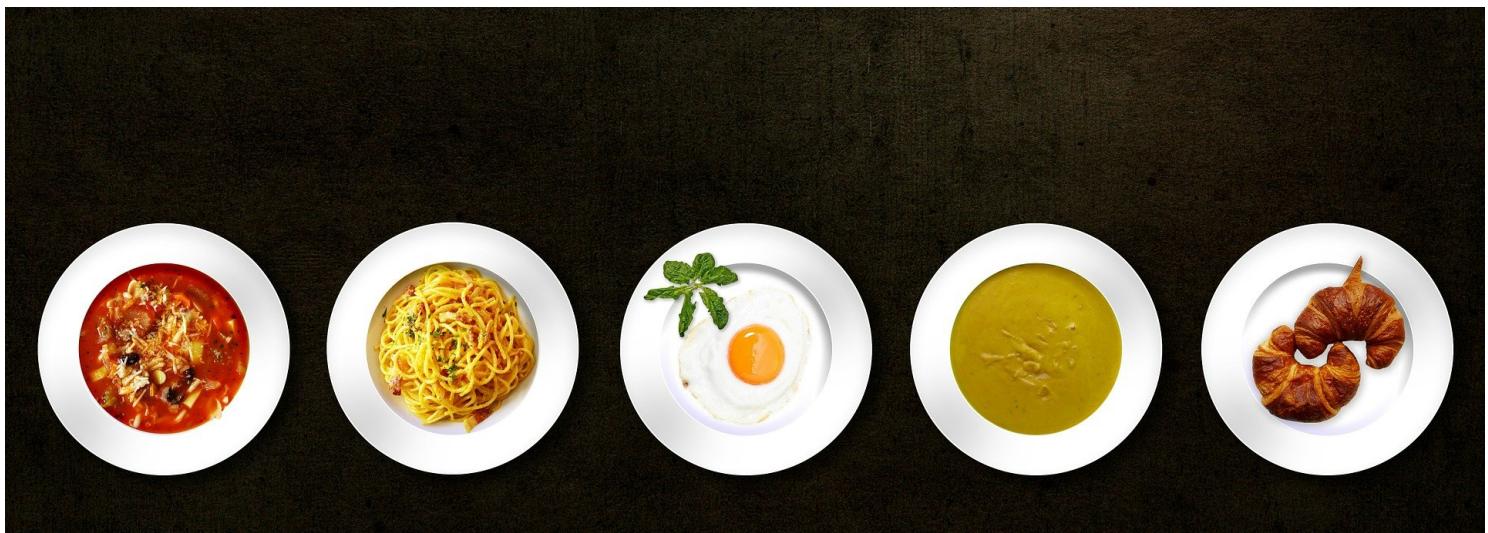




# FOOD SECURITY FOR EQUITABLE FUTURES

## Project Newsletter



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## PRESENTATION AT ISER

On 23rd February, our own Dr. Jasmine Fledderjohann presented project findings on food insecurity and educational outcomes in India (learn about these findings on p. 3 of this newsletter!) via Zoom as part of the External Seminar Series at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Essex. The talk was a helpful opportunity for knowledge exchange with other academics working in the social sciences. It generated a fruitful discussion about why food insecurity might matter for educational outcomes, and also generated some ideas about how different family members might perceive the household's food situation.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

- Project website: [wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/](http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/)
- Project Twitter: [@Food\\_Equity](https://twitter.com/Food_Equity)
- Project YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCjG5jahIepbJI4C\\_RuDsqOQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjG5jahIepbJI4C_RuDsqOQ)
- Project email: [foodequity@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:foodequity@lancaster.ac.uk)



# CHANGES TO THE TEAM



Our Project Administrator, **Saadia Shah**, is currently on maternity leave. Congratulations on your new little one, Saadia! We look forward to welcoming Saadia back to the team in future, but we hope to appoint a new Project Administrator to fill in for Saadia soon. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, please do direct any project inquiries to our project e-mail (foodequity@lancaster.ac.uk) rather than to Saadia so that we can ensure we receive and respond to your messages.

We are also thrilled to **welcome Mohammad Mahbub Rahman** (pictured below) to the team! Mahbub joined the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University in October as a PhD student working with Drs. Jasmine Fledderjohann and Luke Parry. Mahbub summarises his research background and thesis topic below:



**My research concentrates principally on how global climate change influences human well-being, socioeconomic factors, and the environment and how people respond to adaptation and mitigation measures to tackle sustainability challenges at the local, national, and global levels. My current research interests include climate change, agriculture and food security, environmental policy and governance, and social and interdisciplinary research.**

**My PhD thesis explores the connection between economic and socio-political factors, the natural and physical environment, and food insecurity, especially in Global Majority countries. I will focus particularly on Bangladesh, India, and Brazil.**

**In my thesis, I will explore which people or communities and geographical regions are more vulnerable or resilient to food insecurity in these countries and whether/how this has changed over time. I will also identify which socioeconomic, political, and environmental factors increase food insecurity risks.**

## NCRM WAYFINDER GUIDE PUBLISHED

Working with collaborators from Global Majority countries and several other UKRI Future Leaders Fellows, Dr. Fledderjohann and colleagues recently published a Wayfinder Guide for the UK National Centre for Research Methods. The guide is a follow-up from workshop discussions and a literature, and focuses on how more equitable research practices can be established following from drastic shifts in the structure of research collaborations during the pandemic. **Download for free** at: <https://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/id/eprint/4561/>

## CALL FOR PAPERS ON FOOD INSECURITY AT BSPS

Last year, Dr. Fledderjohann hosted a very successful new strand at the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference focusing specifically on food insecurity and encouraging particular attention to Global Majority countries.

Following on from the success of last year's strand, Dr. Fledderjohann will again be organising a food insecurity strand this year. The conference will be 5-7 September 2022 at the University of Winchester.

The call for papers is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/foodequityFLF>

**Submission deadline 24th April 2022.**

# FOOD INSECURITY AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Working with clinical and activist scholars at Lancaster University and York University Toronto, Dr. Fledderjohann recently drafted a research paper examining the links between food insecurity and Reproductive Justice globally.

Developed by Black intersectional feminist activists in the United States and rooted in international human rights, the Reproductive Justice framework asserts that all people everywhere have three core reproductive rights: 1) the right to not have a child; 2) the right to have a child; and 3) the right to parent children with dignity in safe and healthy environments.

In their paper, Dr. Fledderjohann and her colleagues outline the a range of ways that food insecurity can threaten each of these rights. They highlight, for example, how food insecurity can push women to make difficult decisions between spending money on food versus on reproductive healthcare. This can impact on both the right to have a child and the right not to have a child. As another example, they explain that food insecurity can lead to stigma, social exclusion, malnutrition, and other negative outcomes for both parents and children, infringing on the right to parent children with dignity in safe and healthy environments.

Dr. Fledderjohann will be presenting this work at ReproFest, a community engagement and reproductive rights event to be held in Preston, England on 29th April 2022. (Full details at: <https://tinyurl.com/ytdsnu7f>)



# FOOD INSECURITY AND EDUCATION IN INDIA

Food insecurity is a global challenge with negative consequences for children's health, psychosocial well-being, and cognitive development. However, there is limited evidence from India on the consequences of persistent and severe food insecurity on children's educational outcomes. We examined links between food insecurity and educational outcomes using the Young Lives dataset for Indian children and adolescents in 2009, 2013, and 2016. We found less than one-third (28.38%) of households were food secure in 2009, rising to 48.35% in 2013 before falling to 43.92% in 2016. After accounting for other important household and child characteristics that could potentially explain these links, we found that persistence of food insecurity--how long children spend in any state of food insecurity--was linked to children completing fewer years of education and having lower maths and vocabulary test scores. More severe food insecurity was similarly associated with poorer educational outcomes for children.



## YOUNG LIVES RASCH MODELS

Measurement of food insecurity is a key challenge in survey research. Experiential scales, which ask a series of questions about households' experiences of consistently accessing enough safe and nutritious food, are a widely used option. However, these tools present challenges when comparing across contexts. This limitation has recently been addressed by scholars at the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, who developed the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). The FIES estimates food insecurity prevalence against a standard reference scale, ensuring comparability and consistent estimates across contexts. The responses to the FIES questions can also generate information required to construct a model commonly known as a Rasch model, which can be applied to other experiential scales to improve their comparability and consistency. Using this methodology, project postdoc Dr. Thomas Argaw is leading our work on ensuring the consistency and comparability of our work estimating food insecurity across India, Ethiopia, Peru, and Vietnam when working with the Young Lives data.