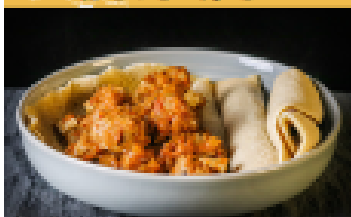




FOOD SECURITY FOR EQUITABLE FUTURES

Project Newsletter

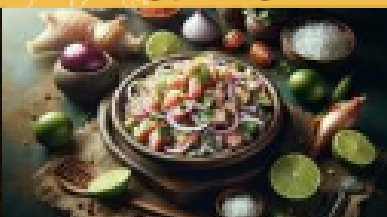
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IN THIS EDITION

- **Exciting news - project extension!**
- **UK Parliamentary Networking Event**
- **Expert Interview Series**
 - Professor Dipa Sinha
- **Climate crisis: What to consider if you're questioning whether to have children** by Dr Fledderjohann
- **Rising debt burden among Indian households** by Dr Rathi
- **Latest Conferences**
 - PAA by Dr Vasudev
 - BJS by Dr Rathi & Dr Mishra

WHERE YOU CAN FIND US



wp.lancs.ac.uk/foodequity/



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[#FoodInsecurity, FoodEquity, India, Ethiopia, Peru, Vietnam](#)

WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!!

We are thrilled to announce that our project has been extended for another three years!!

Based on the outputs the project has produced so far and the next steps planned for the project, we have received additional funding from United Kingdom Research & Innovation (UKRI). This will help us achieve our goals further and produce work that can influence lived experiences of the people.

This includes further data collection. Beginning in late August, we will be revisiting some of the families from our first round of data collection. We will then visit these families one more time in spring 2025. Speaking with the same families multiple times will allow us to understand how their experiences of food insecurity have changed across time.

A big thank you to all our stakeholders for their support and feedback at every step. This has facilitated our work to stay grounded in reality. It has been a fascinating journey - we look forward to working with you on the next steps for the project!



UK PARLIAMENTARY NETWORKING EVENT

Saadia Shah represented our Food Security for Equitable Futures project in a Parliamentary Networking Event on 22nd May 2024, which took place in the UK Parliament building (Portcullis House), London. It was a well-attended event joined by different units of the UK Parliament including MPs, UK Parliament's Knowledge Exchange Unit, Parliament's Senior Partnerships Officer, and academics, researchers, knowledge mobiliser and other experts in the field.

Saadia presented project work to key individuals to seek feedback on the policy engagement the project has been part of. She discussed future plans for policy engagement and explored different avenues to work with Parliament. These conversations also led to the possibility of a potential event involving APPGs (All-Party Parliamentary Groups) later this year. It will be hosted by Food Security for Equitable Futures project as part of the UK Parliamentary Week. Stay tuned for more on this soon!

This was a very exciting and fruitful activity for the project as we found some possibilities to enter policy circles and establish some vital networks through this event.

Saadia Shah (Impact & Engagement Lead) with Annie Waddington (Parliament's Senior Partnerships Officer)





EXPERT INTERVIEW SERIES

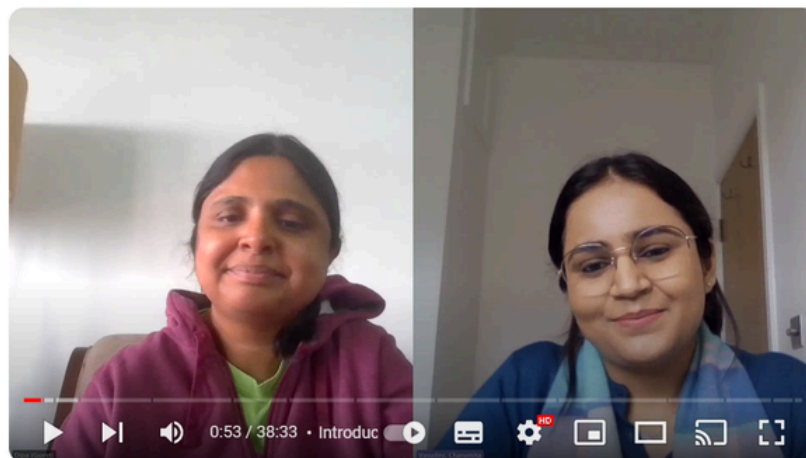


In this video, Dr Charumita Vasudev, qualitative postdoc on the project, interviews Prof Dipa Sinha on her work on food security and child malnutrition in India. Prof Dipa Sinha is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Ambedkar University, New Delhi. She has worked alongside the Office of Commissioners to the Indian Supreme Court, specifically focusing on the Right to Food, and remains actively engaged with the Right to Food Campaign in India. Her research focuses on public policy, gender, health, and nutrition.

In this interview, Prof Sinha talks about child malnutrition in India and the pressing need for ensuring dietary diversity. She emphasises the need to account for gender dynamics to understand the nutritional outcomes and food security at the household level. She further explains the importance of various welfare schemes that contribute towards ensuring food security and discusses how social and civil society movements are important for ensuring a just and equitable distribution of food.

Broadening the discussion to consider food security within a food systems framework, she questions who benefits from our economic growth model and who is left vulnerable. Drawing on her dual roles as a researcher and a food rights activist, she examines the concept of action research and identifies gaps in food security research that require attention.

You can watch the latest expert interview with Prof Sinha [here](#).



Expert Interview Series: Professor Dipa Sinha on Food Insecurity in India

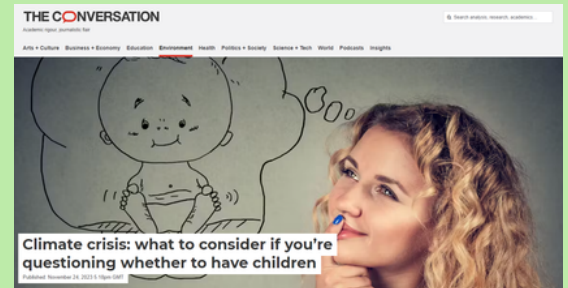
CLIMATE CRISIS: WHAT TO CONSIDER IF YOU'RE QUESTIONING WHETHER TO HAVE CHILDREN

Co-authored by Dr Jasmine Fledderjohann

The warnings about the disastrous impact we are having on our planet are becoming more dire. The UN Environment Programme's most recent [emissions gap report](#), which tracks our progress in limiting global warming, revealed that the world is on course for a "hellish" 3°C of global heating before the end of this century.

How can you plan for a family when the outlook is so bleak? Dr Fledderjohann and her co-author explore some of the key factors people say shape their childbearing decisions in the context of the climate crisis.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



This article was published in The Conversation - it has been very popular and was quoted by 30 national and international news sites. It was also picked up by Irish Examiner. This article has at least 29 social media mentions.

The analytics from The Conversation tell us that this article is read 9220 times, received 48 comments and was shared 29 times on Facebook.

As an outcome of the article in The Conversation, Dr Jasmine Fledderjohann was interviewed by John Maytham on Cape Talk South African radio channel. "A big decision: Parenthood in the face of a planet in peril" on Afternoon Drive with John Maytham on 11th Dec 2023. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

RISING DEBT BURDEN AMONG INDIAN HOUSEHOLDS

By Dr Ankita Rathi

Interviews we conducted with poor, informal labouring and migrant families in Goa and Uttar Pradesh (UP), India show debt is unavoidable and necessary for families to meet all kinds of needs. Amidst the precarity of agriculture and non-agricultural wage work across rural-urban areas, household debt is increasingly managed by women, young children, and adolescents alongside men. To replay household debt, women in our study increasingly face the burden of managing household work, caring, and financial responsibilities alongside low paid, informal, and time-consuming jobs. Indebtedness leads to physical and mental exhaustion, anxieties, and limited opportunities for decent work, especially for women. One migrant woman in Goa, for example, spoke of the mental stress, and physical exhaustion associated with inability to pay the debt that she took for her husbands' surgery. She shared:

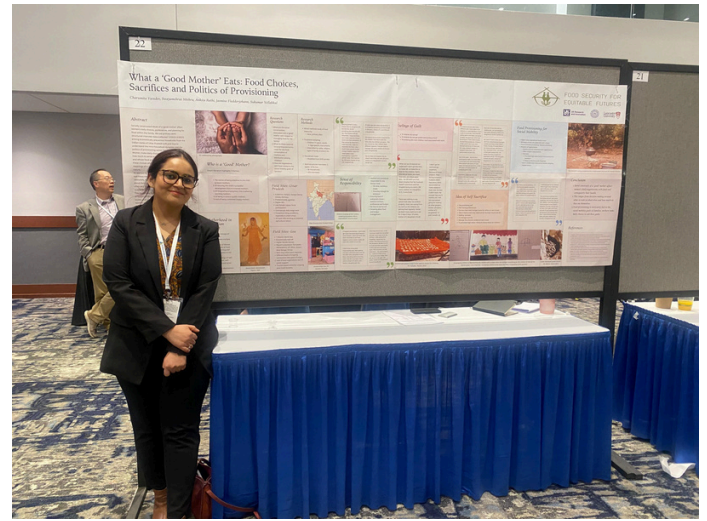
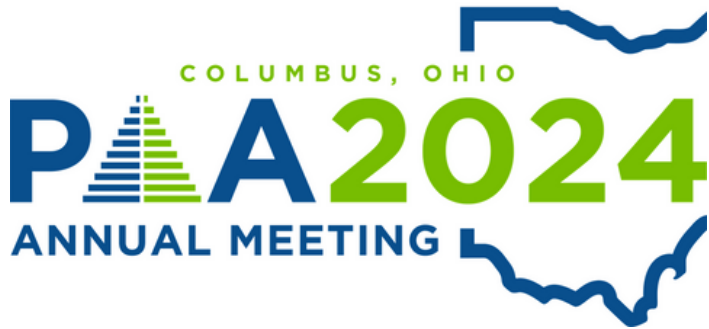
I have a lot of weight on my chest. I have taken the loan, so I have to pay the money. They come to our place and shout that, 'you have taken so much money, return the money. When will you give the money'... What can we do, it is very difficult for us. We face a lot of trouble. Because of the stress, I feel pain here. I take a lot of stress. We will see later, if my daughter grows up and finish their education and get a job somewhere. Daughters will pay is what I think, what else can I do?

We found household debt limits opportunities for decent work and education for children, especially for young girls from rural areas. These girls often withdraw from schooling or undertake marginal jobs in agriculture and beyond to support their parents to repay the household debt. One 22-year-old girl we spoke with in a village in UP manages the household work alongside casual wage work in agriculture and a brick kiln factory. When asked the reason she had to leave her schooling, she shared:

Because of work. Papa's expenditure could not be met. And in all of this, there was sadness and illness. Then my younger brother had dengue. He had typhoid. So, 10-13000 was spent on him and then on me too. So then you have debt. So slowly, slowly, we earn and pay back, and then side by side expenses are also met

Our findings illustrate that debt has increasingly become the mode of everyday living. Tackling household indebtedness is an urgent need.

POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (PAA) ANNUAL MEETING



PAA Experience - Dr Charumita Vasudev

The PAA's annual meeting was held this year at Columbus from 17-21 April, 2024. It was a packed schedule with hundreds of wonderful presentations and interesting poster sessions. I represented the project's work at the meeting with two of the papers that I am leading- one in an oral presentation and the other in a poster session.

The oral presentation was in a session on Critical Demographic Methods, where I shared the team's methodological reflections in a paper titled "A Praxis-Oriented Reflexive Approach to Demography: Lessons from Researching Food Insecurity". It was a very insightful session with discussions on how quantitative and survey methods can be made more inclusive and more representative of lived realities. I also presented a poster titled "What a 'Good Mother' Eats: Food choices, Sacrifices and Politics of Provisioning" in a session on Family Demography. It discussed daily decision making around food in families and how women, especially in their role as mothers not only felt responsible for food in families but also made daily decisions which they believed would improve the social standing of families in the longer run.

Besides these two sessions there were many more engaging sessions and plenaries on a variety of topics ranging from migration, fertility, mortality to kinship and economic policies. I especially enjoyed attending the very crucial and timely presidential plenary discussing the effects of abortion restrictions on fertility and maternal health in the US.

I will be presenting next at the [European Population Conference \(EPC\)](#) in June. You can find EPC 2024 Program Summary [here](#).

BRITISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY (BJS) CONFERENCE

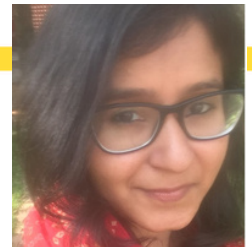


Inaugural British Journal of Sociology Conference was hosted at London School of Economics (LSE) on 15-16 April 2024. This two-day conference had an interesting line-up of talks covering varied issues of immediate and enduring interest to the discipline of Sociology. It brought in scholars across discipline conversing on aspects around methods, theories, and empirical inquiries.

Dr Ankita Rathia and Dr Swayamshree Mishra attended the conference and shared their experience with us.



BJS Experience - Dr Ankita Rathia



The talks ran across multiple parallelly running sessions and focussed on diverse regions, sociological issue and theoretical framework. Amidst this diversity of issues presented at the conference, I observed a commonality, which is the growing concern associated with increasing inequality and precarity as a response to economic slowdown, austerity, and growing authoritarianism. Thus, even as we discussed about the multiple forms and consequences of inequality and precarity, I also felt a growing sense of solidarity and hope for a better future. This feeling grew as we spoke of the localized and regional social movements, protests, and often invisible forms of care and support relationships, friendships and associations that are increasingly resisting the harms of precarity and inequality.

My panel focussed on one such aspect of inequality, i.e. consequences of rising indebtedness across the globe. I presented my ongoing work on the gendered consequences of rising indebtedness in India. I talked about the physical, mental and emotional distress caused by indebtedness on the marginalized women, as they now increasingly shoulder the burden of debt alongside household responsibilities. Other presenters too discussed the experiences of indebted individuals and the emerging social movements resisting indebtedness. We concluded our conversation with hopeful discussions on the possibility of localized responses, relationships, and movements, often invisible and informal that are emerging and can resist the harmful effects of debt crisis.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY (BJS) CONFERENCE



BJS Experience - Dr Swayamshree Mishra

The session where I presented our paper was titled “studying children,” focusing primarily on the challenges, insights, and future directions of research with children. Our paper, a methodological reflection of our fieldwork experiences with children while they participated in a study on a sensitive research domain (like food insecurity), was well-received. It sparked meaningful discussions with other papers that utilized different conceptual and methodological frameworks to reflect on the experiences of working with children across diverse age groups, geographical backgrounds, socio-economic statuses, and cultural contexts. For example, one presentation discussed how innovative methods like color-coded games could be helpful to capture the shifting attention spans of young children (in affluent schools) when addressing complex topics such as children’s perception of class inequalities. Interestingly our paper also delves into children’s attention span, but instead of focusing on methods to enhance it, we explore subjective silences and distractions. We probe why some children (our study included children largely from low-income backgrounds) diverted attention or discussed unrelated topics during our interactions with them on seemingly “adult issues.”

In the informal interaction that followed the presentations, we also shared our experiences of our encounters with parents while their children participated in the research. The discussion primarily revolved around their concerns, anxieties, level of involvement, and decision-making processes, which were often shaped by their social status and the reasons motivating their consent for the research.