

# ALISHA GIRI, PhD, MPH

(703) 638-0795 | girialisha8@gmail.com | alishagiri.com

## SUMMARY

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Research professional with expertise in medical anthropology, global health, and nonprofit development. Brings 5+ years of mixed-methods research experience and 3+ years managing international programs and partnerships in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Passionate about community-centered, policy-relevant research that generates measurable global health impact.

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. Medical Anthropology**, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Aug 2018 – Aug 2024

*Dissertation: "Success" and Livelihood Outcomes among Transnational Labor Migrant Returnee Networks in Rural Nepal*

**Select Courses:** Anthropological Research Design; Applying Anthropological Research Methods; Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Methods; Maternal Health: Anthropological Perspectives on Reproductive Practices and Health Policy; Medical Anthropology and Global Health I & II

**M.P.H. Population and Quantitative Health Sciences**, CWRU Aug 2020 – May 2022

*Capstone: Nutrition Incentive Programs in Grocery Retail: Core Elements for Implementation Based on a Statewide Approach in Ohio*

**Select Courses:** Introduction to GIS in Health and Social Sciences; Comparative and Cost Effectiveness Research; Public Health Management and Policy; Secondary Analysis of Large Health Care Databases; Statistical Methods I & II (R); Statistical Methods in Public Health (SPSS)

**M.A. Medical Anthropology, Global Health**, CWRU Aug 2018 – May 2020

**B.A. Cultural Anthropology**, Wake Forest University Aug 2011 – May 2015

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Social Science Research Professional I**, *Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics*

Sept 2024 – Present

- Manage eight research projects with varying focus on the ethical, legal, and social implications of genomics research, spanning rare diseases and social and behavioral genomics. Work with two PIs to build out research teams, develop study designs and protocols, oversee recruitment and sampling, data collection and analysis, ensure IRB compliance, and draft peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- Supervise and provide guidance for up to four undergraduate and graduate research assistants, meeting on a weekly and bi-weekly basis to ensure research projects remain on track and maintain high standards of data quality.
- Contribute to grant writing and budgeting for seed funding proposals (Stanford Maternal and Child Health Institute, Stanford Clinical and Translational Research), including a successful application to the Stanford Institute for Advancing Just Societies.
- Co-developed and submitted a Wellcome Trust Genomics in Context application with an international research team spanning institutions across Africa, the United Kingdom, and United States.

**Doctoral Researcher, Case Western Reserve University**

Aug 2018 – Aug 2024

- Designed and developed a fully funded NSF mixed-methods research study exploring local perceptions of “success” among traditionally agricultural households and the relationship between success, structural determinants of health, and livelihood outcomes of labor migrant returnees in rural Nepal.
- Supervised a team of four research assistants and international collaborators to execute funded NSF proposal; managed budget, timeline, training, data quality systems, and consistent protocol execution across multiple village sites in accordance with international and local regulatory standards and IRB policies.
- Built and led field operations including local staffing, recruitment and sampling strategy, survey instrument design, survey data collection, semi-structured interviews, and network data collection across geographically dispersed sites.
- Collaborated with local community stakeholders and government agencies to establish a weekly community-based farmers market, translating research findings into a tangible, community-driven intervention.

**Qualitative Researcher, Swetland Center for Environmental Health**

Oct 2019 – Dec 2022

- Evaluated state-wide implementation and utilization of a federally funded (USDA) healthy nutrition incentive program for SNAP beneficiaries using focus groups and semi-structured interviews guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) across the state of Ohio.
- Contributed to program improvements that increased total households utilizing the program by 11%.
- Conducted qualitative data analysis and synthesized findings for diverse audiences and policymakers, and co-authored manuscript currently under review; disseminated research findings through research briefs and stakeholder presentations with best practices and policy recommendations to tackle food insecurity in low-resource settings.

**Strategy Officer, Human Rights Foundation**

Aug 2017 – Aug 2019

- Collaborated cross-functionally across research, finance, development, legal, events, and design to identify organizational needs, strategize grantmaking, and design programs aligned with mission.
- Worked directly with Chief Strategy Officer to develop and submit grant proposals totaling \$6.7 million USD and strengthen the foundation’s strategic partnerships and relationships with donor organizations.
- Increased individual donor revenue by 9.4% through media engagement efforts and organized donor events across New York City, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Austin.
- Led the development and fundraising strategy for the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York City and Oslo.
- Represented the foundation to promote, develop, and sustain coordination and collaboration with donor organizations, multilateral organizations, host country governments, and private entities.

**Program Coordinator, One Heart World-Wide**

Jul 2015 – Jul 2018

- Partnered with the Chief Operations Officer to develop and nurture international program partnerships, identify new funding opportunities, prepare year-end financials, complete grant proposals and donor reporting, and liaise between funders and program teams to develop program-level budgets, milestones, and deliverables.
- Helped secure and manage grants from major foundations including Jasmine Social Investments, Mulago Foundation, and Skoll Foundation; monitored partner performance and ensured alignment with both funder expectations and community stakeholder needs through regular communication and reporting.
- Increased the annual organizational budget by 32% over three years by streamlining grant writing and reporting workflows, organizing fundraising events including an annual gala with silent auction, year-end appeals, and expanding donor outreach.

- Conducted field research to identify barriers to emergency maternal and neonatal health in disaster relief settings in underserved areas of Nepal and developed practical solutions to address them.

**Research Intern, Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute** Dec 2015 – Jun 2016

- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data from focus groups and interviews among pre-diabetic adolescents and their families to identify key themes around health behavior, beliefs, and behavior change.
- Created updated Group Lifestyle Balance Program modules specifically for the adolescent population focused on preventing diabetes.

**Medical Anthropology Research Intern, Family and Community Medicine, Wake Forest University** Aug 2014 – Dec 2014

- Collected and processed health data from migrant farmworkers using REDCap.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Martschenko, D. O., & Giri, A. (2025). A Qualitative Study of the Roles and Responsibilities of Academic and Journalistic Publishing in Social and Behavioral Genomics. *Behavior Genetics*, 10.1007/s10519-025-10245-x.

Nguyen, M. M., Mahfoozi, S., Bonner, D., Martschenko, D. O., Giri, A., Tang, C., Undiagnosed Diseases Network, Bernstein, J. A., Wheeler, M. T., & Halley, M. C. (2025). “Nobody listened to us for years”: Parents’ experiences of provider communication in the diagnostic odyssey. *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism*, 146(4), 109283.

## EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING & AWARDS

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NSF Cultural Anthropology – Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant	2022 – 2023
CWRU Social Justice Institute Fellowship	2022 – 2023
CWRU Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship	2019 – 2020
Stanford Prevention Research Center Health for All Fellow	2015 – 2016
Institute of Public Engagement Nonprofit Immersion Scholar	2014 – 2015
ACC-IAC Creativity and Innovation Fellowship Scholar	2014 – 2015

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Case Western Reserve University, Department of Anthropology	
<i>Medical Anthropology and Global Health II Recitation</i>	Spring 2021
<i>Medical Anthropology and Global Health I Recitation</i>	Fall 2020
<i>Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i>	Spring 2020
<i>Beyond Words: Language, Culture &amp; Society</i>	Fall 2019, 2020, 2021
<i>Being Human: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology</i>	Spring 2019, 2020, 2021
<i>Health, Culture, and Disease: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology</i>	Fall 2018, Spring 2019
Case Western Reserve University, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences	
<i>Women’s Public Health</i>	Spring 2021

## SERVICE & VOLUNTEER WORK

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**Founding Board Member**, *Women's Equity International* May 2023 – Present

- Lead research, strategy, grant writing, and development efforts for sustainable organizational growth.

**Mentor**, *Bhutanese Refugee Youth* Sept 2019 – Dec 2022

- Provided academic support for two Bhutanese refugee students across multiple subjects, helping them navigate middle and high school, cultural differences, and improve language skills.

**Professional Development Chair**, *Graduate Student Association, CWRU* Aug 2019 – May 2022

- Coordinated seminars, workshops, and professional development opportunities for graduate students.

## LANGUAGES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Languages:** English (Bilingual/Native); Nepali (Bilingual/Native); Hindi (Beginner); Spanish (Beginner)

**Statistical & Geospatial Software:** R, SPSS, ArcGIS

**Qualitative & Research Tools:** NVivo, Dedoose, REDCap, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, KoboToolbox

**Productivity & Communication:** Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Cloud, Salesforce, Mailchimp, Constant Contact, WordPress