Riya Shrestha

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EDUCATION

Master of Information and Data Science | *University of California, Berkeley*   Aug 2022 – Dec 2023

B.S. Molecular Environmental Biology (Focus: Human Health) | *University of California, Berkeley*   Aug 2018 – May 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Research Methods: Survey design (Qualtrics, Alchemer, Decipher/Forsta), qualitative interviews, focus groups, mixed-methods research, community-engaged research
Programming: Python (Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow), R, SQL, Java, SAS, bash/Linux
Competencies: Tableau, Git,, Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, SharePoint), Statistical modeling, machine learning, research design, causal inference, data ethics, stakeholder communication, project management

RESEARCH & INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Analyst | *BetaHat*   Feb 2024 – Mar 2026

- Lead end-to-end market and user experience research projects for major clients (Microsoft, Riot, Zynga, 2K, Blizzard, Bungie) independently managing timelines, deliverables, and stakeholder relationships across multiple concurrent studies
- Design and execute mixed-methods research protocols (surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups) across diverse international populations, ensuring methodological rigor and data quality
- Synthesize quantitative and qualitative data into comprehensive reports and presentations that inform strategic decision-making for both technical and non-technical stakeholders
- Serve as primary client liaison throughout the full study lifecycle from start-up through close-out, coordinating logistics across teams and time zones
- Mentor junior analysts on research design and analytical methodologies while implementing process improvements including LLM tool integration

Student Researcher – East Bay COVID-19 Surveillance Study | *UC Berkeley School of Public Health*   *Jan 2021 – Sep 2021*

- Supported operations of a large-scale community-based public health surveillance study with thousands of participants across the East Bay Area
- Served as primary point of contact for study participants via email and phone, maintaining clear communication and protocol compliance
- Performed statistical analyses in R on survey datasets on household size, and COVID-19 prevalence
- Generated publication-ready charts, tables, and figures using R and Microsoft Word; conducted literature reviews on emerging public health research
- Recommended improvements to study protocols, participant-facing materials, and communications based on ongoing participant feedback

Data Science Intern – Product Analytics | *Birth By Us (Maternal Health App for Black Mothers)*   *Jun 2023 – Aug 2023*

- Analyzed maternal health app data using Python, R, and Tableau to identify patterns in user engagement and health outcomes for a platform serving Black mothers
- Conducted desk research on maternal health disparities and monitored user demographics for an underrepresented community
- Designed and built a Tableau dashboard to track user demographics and KPIs for executive leadership, supporting data-informed product and outreach decisions
- Conducted exploratory data analysis and delivered insights supporting feature development and product improvements

Medical Assistant & Front Desk Receptionist | *Dr. Diane Lee, Neurologist*   May 2021 – Feb 2022

- Assisted in administration of neurological assessments (EEG, MOCA, EMG) for elderly and cognitively impaired patients
- Maintained electronic health records, verified insurance eligibility, and coordinated specialist referrals
- Served as primary point of contact, communicating directly with patients, caregivers, and families from diverse backgrounds in compliance with HIPAA
- Managed sensitive patient documentation and clinical workflows in a high-volume neurology practice

PROJECT & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Project Manager | *ScienceCorps (PhD Teaching Fellowship Non-Profit)*   Jan 2022 – Jan 2023

- Led all program operations for a nonprofit coordinating PhD fellows teaching in under-resourced communities globally; served as primary liaison between fellows, executive board, and external partners

- Managed team task allocation, milestone tracking, and project timelines using Trello, Zoom, and Slack
- Drove outreach and recruitment campaigns resulting in a 150% increase in qualified applicants, achieving the organization's largest cohort
- Coordinated communications across fellows, executive board, and alumni to ensure timely deliverables

IT Project Management Intern | *Covered California*   May 2022 – Sep 2022
- Partnered with project management office to deliver remote work infrastructure initiative, tracking milestones and facilitating stakeholder check-ins
- Created SharePoint/PowerPoint dashboards providing executive stakeholders with visibility on project progress and outcomes
- Served as acting project manager for a high-visibility 10-year anniversary organizational event, coordinating tasks and deliverables with C-suite executives

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor – DATA 104: Human Contexts and Ethics of Data | *UC Berkeley*   *Jan 2023 – Dec 2023*
- Led two 35-person discussion sections on algorithmic bias, fairness, responsible AI systems, and ethics of data science in healthcare and human contexts for Berkeley's largest data ethics course
- Created original discussion activities and graded coursework on applied historical thinking and Science, Technology, and Society (STS) frameworks

Graduate Student Instructor – PSYCH 101: Research and Data Analysis in Psychology | *UC Berkeley*   *Jun 2023 – Aug 2023*
- Guided students in R programming for statistical analysis including linear regression, ANOVA, and hypothesis testing
- Taught curriculum, assisted with coding exercises and debugging, and supported conceptual understanding of research design and methodology

LEADERSHIP

President & Vice President | *Kappa Gamma Delta, UC Berkeley (Pre-Health Professional Organization)*   *May 2020 – May 2022*
- Led executive board and oversaw strategic direction, operations, and programming for a pre-health professional organization
- Facilitated weekly meetings to align goals, ensure accountability, and coordinate professional, social, and recruitment events

PROJECTS

AudioAid – AI Fall Detection System | *UC Berkeley MIDS Capstone*   *Aug – Dec 2023*
- Developed an edge-deployed AI product for real-time fall detection in elderly care using audio classification; awarded 2nd place at UC Berkeley MIDS Capstone Showcase
- Designed, trained, and evaluated a custom CNN using TensorFlow/TensorFlow Lite to classify fall events from ambient audio using Mel Spectrograms and MFCCs (96% test accuracy)
- Created and labeled high-quality training dataset; experimented with model architectures including transfer learning approaches
- Deployed model on Raspberry Pi enabling offline, real-time monitoring via edge computing
- Applied human-centered, equity-focused design principles for a vulnerable population; conducted literature review on fall detection technologies and user privacy considerations

Information Retention Across Different Mediums | *UC Berkeley MIDS* | *Tools: R, Qualtrics*   Sep – Dec 2023
- Conducted a within-subjects randomized controlled trial (n=50) to evaluate retention of academic material across four media conditions (text, audio, text+audio, ADHD-focused extension)
- Used Qualtrics for survey design and data collection; used R for data cleaning, visualization, and inferential analysis including ANOVA modeling and participant attrition adjustment

Cancer Trends in the United States | *Tools: Tableau, Python* Feb – Apr 2023
- Developed an interactive website with heatmap and bar chart race dashboard to visualize cancer incidence and mortality rates across U.S. states over time

Maternal Mortality Rates and Correlation to Food Deserts | *UC Berkeley ULAB* | *Tools: R, Python*   *Feb 2021 – May 2022*
- Led a group of undergraduate students through a year-long public health research project and poster on maternal mortality rates and their correlation to food deserts in the Bay Area
- Conducted independent statistical analysis and data visualization in R; synthesized findings for community and scientific audiences

Ethnic Media NLP Analysis | *UC Berkeley Research Project* | *Tools: Python, NLP*   *Dec 2021 - May 2022*
- Analyzed ethnic media articles using natural language processing and word embeddings to examine how perceptions of Muslims in ethnic media shifted pre- and post-9/11
- Applied NLP techniques including sentiment analysis and topic modeling; created a research poster presenting findings