

# YUBRAJ ACHARYA, PH.D.

Department of Health Policy and Administration  
The Pennsylvania State University  
601L Ford Building  
University Park, PA 16802

email: yua36@psu.edu  
phone: (814) 865 - 6898

## Academic Employment

2017-present Assistant Professor of Health Policy & Administration, and Demography  
The Pennsylvania State University (PSU)

## Education

2017 Ph.D., University of Michigan, Health Services Organization and Policy  
2008 MPA, Syracuse University, Public Administration  
2005 B.A. (with honors), Swarthmore College, Economics & Public Policy

## Other Academic Affiliations

2018-present (Courtesy appointment) Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences, PSU  
2017-present Research Affiliate. Center for Health Care and Policy Research, PSU  
2017-present Research Affiliate. Population Research Institute, PSU  
2016-present Research Affiliate. Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal.

## Research Interests

Health and health behavior in low-income countries, program evaluation

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Yang D, Acharya Y, Liu X. Social Health Insurance Consolidation and Urban-Rural Inequality in Utilization and Financial Risk Protection in China. Social Science & Medicine 2022, 308:1-11. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115200>
2. Acharya Y, Kim J. Targeting Using Differential Incentives: Evidence from a Field Experiment. Economic Development and Cultural Change 2022, 17(2):763-790. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/713883>
3. Acharya Y, Yang D. The Effect of Disability on Educational, Labor Market, and Marital Outcomes in a Low-Income Context. Social Science and Medicine-Population Health 2022. 19:101155. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101155>
4. Eze P, Aniebo CL, Agu UJ, Agu SA, Acharya Y. Validity of Maternal Recall for Estimating Childhood Vaccination Coverage – Evidence from Nigeria. Vaccine 2022, 40:28-36. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.11.060>

5. James N, **Acharya Y**. Increasing Health Insurance Enrolment in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: What Works, What Does Not, and Research Gaps – A Scoping Review. INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing 2022, 59:1-18. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00469580221090396>
6. Eze P, Lawani LO, Agu UJ, **Acharya Y**. Catastrophic Health Expenditure in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Population-Based Studies, 2000-2021. Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2022, 100(5):337-351. DOI: 10.2471/BLT.21.287673
7. Joshi S, **Acharya Y**. Women's Extreme Seclusion during Menstruation and Children's Health in Nepal. PLoS Global Public Health 2022, 2(7):e000355. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000355>
8. Ssentongo P, Oh J, Amponsah F, Wong W, Candela X, **Acharya Y**, Ssentongo A, Sani AB, Dodge D. Breast Cancer Survival in Eastern Region of Ghana. Frontiers in Public Health 2022, 10:880789. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.880789>
9. Naz S, **Acharya Y**. The Effect of Reframing the Goals of Family Planning Programs from Limiting Fertility to Birth Spacing: Evidence from Pakistan. Studies in Family Planning 2021, 52(2):125-142. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/sifp.12155>
10. James N, **Acharya Y**. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness Strategy in Zimbabwe: An Evaluation. PLoS Global Public Health 2021, 1(11): e0000046. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000046>
11. Eze P, Agu SA, Agu UJ, **Acharya Y**. Acceptability of Mobile-Phone Reminders for Routine Childhood Vaccination Appointments in Nigeria: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. BMC Health Services Research 2021, 21(1276): 1-15. DOI: 10.1186/s12913-021-07296-1
12. Eze P, Lawani LO, **Acharya Y**. Short Message Service (SMS) Reminders for Childhood Immunization in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. BMJ Global Health 2021, 6:e005035. DOI:10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005035
13. Eze P, Agu UJ, Aniebo CL, Agu SA, Lawani LO, **Acharya Y**. Factors Associated with Incomplete Immunization in Children Aged 12-23 Months at Subnational Level, Nigeria: a Cross-Sectional Study. BMJ Open 2021, 11:e047445. DOI:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-047445
14. **Acharya Y**, James N, Thapa R, Naz S, Shrestha R, Tamang S. Content of Antenatal Care and Perceptions about Services Provided by Primary Hospitals in Nepal: A Convergent Mixed Methods Study. International Journal for Quality in Health Care 2021, 33(2): 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/intqhc/mzab049>
15. **Acharya Y**, Nepal P, Yang D, Karki K, Bajracharya D, Prentis T, Davis S, Kaljee L. Economic and Social Drivers of Antibiotic Dispensing Practices among Community Pharmacies in Nepal. Tropical Medicine and International Health 2021, 26(5): 557-571. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13555>
16. James N, Lawson K, **Acharya Y**. Evidence on Result-Based Financing in Maternal and Child Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review. Global Health Research and Policy 2020, 5(31). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41256-020-00158-z>

17. **Acharya Y**, Hillemeier MM, Sznajder K, Kjerulff K. Out-of-pocket Medical Bills from First Childbirth and Subsequent Childbearing. Women's Health Issues 2021, 31(1): 17-23. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.whi.2020.07.007>
18. **Acharya Y**, Yang D, Jones A. Livestock Ownership and Anemia in Sub-Saharan African Households. Public Health Nutrition 2021, 24(12): 3698-3709. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1368980020002827>
19. Nepal P, Schwarz R, Citrin D, Thapa A, Acharya B, **Acharya Y**, Aryal A, Aryal A, Baum A, Bhandari V, Bhatt L, Bhattarai D, Choudhury N, Dangal B, Dhimal M, Dhungana SK, Gauchan B, Halliday S, Kalaunee SP, Kunwar LB, Maru D, Nirola I, Paudel R, Raut A, Rayamazi HJ, Sapkota S, Schwarz D, Thapa P, Thapa P, Tiwari A, Tuitui R, Walter E, Maru S. Costing Analysis of a Pilot Community Health Worker Program in Rural Nepal. Global Health: Science & Practice 2020, 8(2): 239-255. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9745/GHSP-D-19-00393>
20. **Acharya Y**, Luke N, Naz S, Sharma D. Exposure to Conflict-related Violence and Nutritional Status of Children in Iraq. Social Science and Medicine-Population Health 2020, 11:100585. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2020.100585>
21. **Acharya Y**, Naz S, Galway LP, Jones AD. Deforestation and Household- and Individual-Level Double Burden of Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems 2020, 4:33. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2020.00033>
22. Peiffer S, Pelton M, Keeney L, Kwon EG, Ofosu-Okormah R, **Acharya Y**, Chinchilli, VM, Soybel DI, Oh JS, Ssentongo P. Risk Factors of Perioperative Mortality from Complicated Peptic Ulcer Disease in Africa: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. BMJ Open Gastroenterology 2020: e000350. DOI:10.1136/bmjgast-2019-000350
23. Adhikari SR, Sapkota VP, Thapa AK, **Acharya Y**. Understanding Challenges to Localized Malaria Elimination in Nepal: A Qualitative Study with an Embedded Capacity-Building Exercise. Malaria Journal 2019, 18: 437. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-019-3081-7>
24. Ghattas H, **Acharya Y**, Jamaluddine Z, Assi M, El Asmar K, Jones AD. Child-level Double Burden of Malnutrition in MENA and LAC Regions—Prevalence and Social Determinants. Maternal & Child Nutrition 2020, 16: e12923. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12923>
25. **Acharya Y**, Luke N, Haro MF, Rose W, Russell PSS, Oommen AM, Minz S. Nutritional Status, Cognitive Achievement, and Educational Attainment of Children aged 8-11 in Rural South India. PLoS ONE 2019, 14(10): e0223001. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223001>
26. **Acharya Y**, Ghimire DJ, Bhandari P, Ghimire R, Jones AD. Household Migration and Children's Diet in Nepal: An Exploratory Study. BMC Research Notes 2019, 12(390): 1-6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-019-4430-x>
27. **Acharya Y**, Schilling AL, Hollenbeak CS. Readmissions Attributable to Skilled Nursing Facility Use after a Colectomy: Evidence Using Propensity Scores Matching. PLoS ONE 2019, 14(4): e0215245. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0215245>
28. Hirth RA, **Acharya Y**, Levy HG, Langa KM. Does Home Equity Affect Decisions on Long-term Care Insurance Purchases? Evidence from the United States. Research on Aging 2019, 41(6): 602-628. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0164027519830078>

29. **Acharya Y.** The Impact of Vitamin A Supplementation in Childhood on Adult Outcomes: An Exploration of Mechanisms, Timing of Exposure, and Heterogeneous Effects. *Social Science & Medicine* 2018 March; 201: 95-102. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.02.003
30. **Acharya Y.** Effects of a Community-Based Neonatal Care Package Program. *Health Policy and Planning* 2018 May, 33(4): 592-601. DOI: 10.1093/heapol/czy021
31. Galway LP, **Acharya Y**, Jones AD. Deforestation and Child Diet Diversity: A Geospatial Analysis of 15 Sub-Saharan African Countries. *Health & Place* 2018 May; 51: 78-88. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2018.03.002>. (Winner of the Elsevier Atlas Award, October 2018: <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/atlas/nominations>)
32. Chen LM, **Acharya Y**, Norton EC, Banerjee M, Birkmeyer JD. Readmission Rates and Skilled Nursing Facility Utilization after Major Inpatient Surgery. *Medical Care* 2018 August; 56(8):679-685. DOI: 10.1097/MLR.0000000000000941
33. Kullgren JT, Krupka E, Schachter A, Linden A, Miller J, **Acharya Y**, Alford J, Duffy R, Adler-Milstein J. Precommitting to Choose Wisely about Low-Value Services: A Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Trial. *BMJ Quality & Safety* 2018, 0: 1-10. DOI: 10.1136/bmjqs-2017-006699.
34. **Acharya Y**, Norton EC, Lumeng JC. The Effect of Financial Compensation on Willingness to Supply a Child's Blood Sample: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Evaluation & the Health Professions* 2017, 40 (3): 359-371. DOI: 10.1177/0163278717709563
35. Jones AD, **Acharya Y**, Galway LP. Urbanicity Gradients Are Associated with the Household- and Individual-Level Double Burden of Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Nutrition* 2016 June; 146: 1257-67. DOI: 10.3945/jn.115.226654
36. **Acharya Y.** Women's Education and Inter-Household Autonomy: Evidence from Nepal. *Journal of Development and Social Transformation* 2008; 5: 4-12.

### Other Publications

1. Estrada G, **Acharya Y**, Batten A, Brimble P, Doung P, Gulamov MI, Hossain MZ, Mellor D, Park D, Rahman S. The service sector in lower-income Asian economies, *ADB Economics Working Paper Series*, 2013; 347: 1–25.
2. **Acharya Y**, Dhakal S. Political Economy of Rural Finance Reform in Nepal: ADB's Experience. *South Asia Working Paper Series* 2012, 11: 1-54.

### Research Grants (Under Review)

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|-----------|---|
| 2023-2025 | National Cancer Institute (PI: Acharya)<br><i>Testing Approaches to Promote Breast Cancer Screening in Rural Ghana</i><br>R21 CA280183-01<br>Role: Principal Investigator |
| 2022-2024 | Merck Investigator Studies Program (PI: Acharya)  |

*Community Education and Surveillance on Antibiotics Use Among Young Children in Nepal: A Randomized Controlled Trial*

Role: Principal Investigator

### **Research Grants (Funded)**

- 2021-2022 Pfizer Foundation (PI: Kaljee/Acharya)  
*A Pharmacy Antimicrobial Stewardship and Economic Program (PhASE) for Community Pharmacists in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal*  
Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- 2022 College of Health and Human Development, PSU (PI: Acharya)  
*Testing Approaches to Reduce Antibiotics Overuse in Pediatric Patients*  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2021-2022 World Health Organization (PI: Adhikari)  
*Political Economy of Health Tax Reform: An Analytical Case Study of Nepal*  
Role: Investigator
- 2020-2022 Population Research Institute & Social Science Research Institute, PSU (PI: Luke)  
*Gender Attitudes and Persistent Gender Inequality in India*  
Role: Investigator
- 2020-2022 Human Health and the Environment Seed Grant Program, PSU (PI: Luke)  
*Community-level Sanitation and Child Malnutrition Puzzles in Rural India*  
Role: Investigator
- 2020-2021 Social Science Research Institute, PSU (PI: Acharya)  
*Integrating Tradition with Modern Technology for Breast Cancer Screening in Ghana*  
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2018-2019 Merck Company Foundation (PI: Kaljee/Acharya)  
*Adaptation and evaluation of a community pharmacist stewardship program to optimize antibiotic use and reduce risks for community-acquired multi-drug resistant pathogens*  
Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- 2014-2017 Walter J. McNerney Award, University of Michigan (PI: Acharya)  
*Estimating Health Workers' Supply Response to Financial Incentives*  
Role: Principal Investigator

### **Travel and Teaching Grants**

- 2020 Schreyer Honors College Virtual Engagement Series Grant, PSU
- 2019 Center for Global Studies Career Development Award, PSU
- 2018 Donald M. and Virginia Miller Cook Teaching Endowment Award, PSU
- 2018 Center for Global Studies Travel Support, PSU
- 2018 Population Association of America Travel Grant, PSU

## Research Presentations and Invited Seminars

- 2022 Population Association of America Meeting, Atlanta, GA; Public Health Concerns Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal; European Health Economics Association, Oslo, Norway (cancelled due to delayed visa processing); Tribhuvan University Central Department of Economics, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2021 Population Association of America Meeting, Online; International Health Economics Association Congress, Online; University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2020 Population Research Institute, PSU
- 2019 Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua, Ghana; International Health Economics Association Meeting, Basel, Switzerland; Population Association of America Meeting, Austin, TX; Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Chicago, IL; Population Research Institute, PSU; College of Medicine, PSU; Kirtipur Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal; Group for Technical Assistance, Kathmandu, Nepal; Asian College for Advanced Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2018 College of Medicine, PSU; Kirtipur Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal; Helping Hands Community Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2017 International Health Policy Conference, London School of Economics, London; Erasmus U. Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; The Pennsylvania State U., University Park, PA; Tufts U., Boston, MA; U. of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2016 The Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, Boston, MA; 89<sup>th</sup> Health Economists' Study Group Meeting, Gran Canaria, Spain; Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI; Department of Economics, U of Michigan

## Teaching

### *Course Director*

- 2018-present HPA 600: Dissertation Research (doctoral level)
- 2018-present HPA 497: Health Policies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (undergraduate)
- 2017-present HPA 518: Basic Analytic Methods for Health Services Research (doctoral level)
- 2017 HPA 497: Comparative Health Systems (undergraduate)
- 2014-2015 Graduate Student Instructor, School of Public Health, U. of Michigan (MPH; 2 sem.)
- 2008-2012 Instructor, Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal (MBA; 6 trim.)

### *Guest lectures (PSU)*

- 2022 HPA 562: Economics Applications in Health Services Research  
HPA 497: HPA Research Seminar
- 2021 HPA 497: Research Careers in Health Policy  
Schreyer Honors College  
HPA 497: Serving Diverse Populations
- 2020 HPA 562: Economics Applications in Health Services Research  
HPA 545: Introduction to Health Economics  
HPA 301: Health Services and Policy Issues  
HPA 854: Population Health and Quality Improvement
- 2019 HPA 562: Economics Applications in Health Services Research  
Honor 301: Knowledge and Critical Thinking in Policy  
HPA 545: Introduction to Health Economics  
Global Health Exchange Program  
Health Policy and Administration Club

2018 HPA 525: Health and Health Services across the Lifecourse  
HPA 854: Population Health and Quality Improvement  
DEMOG 590: Demography Colloquium

### Graduate Advising

Saman Naz (Chair) Health Policy & Demography, Ph.D., 2021  
First placement: University of Indiana (post-doc)

Katherine Callahan (Co-chair) Health Policy & Demography, Ph.D., 2022  
First placement: Independence Blue Cross

Marco Faytong-Haro (Committee member) Sociology & Demography, Ph.D. expected 2023  
Di Yang (Chair) Health Policy, Ph.D., expected 2023  
Nigel James (Chair) Health Policy & Demography, Ph.D., expected 2024

### Academic Service – Penn State

2022- Member, Curriculum Development Committee  
2021- Faculty Coordinator, Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program (HPA-IA)  
2017- Member, Ph.D. Committee  
2017- Member, Undergraduate Committee  
2022 Faculty Reviewer, Fulbright Scholars Program  
2020-2021 Member, Open Rank Faculty Search Committee

### Academic Service – Profession

2021- Academic Editor: *PLOS Global Public Health*

### Peer Reviewer

*Advances in Nutrition: an International Review Journal, The American Journal of Managed Care  
Asian Development Review, BMC Health Services Research, Cancer, Current Developments in Nutrition,  
Demography, Frontiers in Public Health, Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, Global Health Action,  
Health Services Research, Health Policy, Infectious Diseases of Poverty, International Journal of  
Preventive Medicine, Journal of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Medical Care, PLoS ONE, PLoS Global  
Public Health, Population Studies, Public Health Nutrition, Social Science & Medicine, Spatial  
Demography, World Medical & Health Policy*

### Other Contributions

2022 Poster Judge, CUGH-Lancet Global Health Poster Competition 2022  
2021 Abstract Reviewer, Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference 2022  
2020 Abstract Reviewer, Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference 2021  
2019 Session chair (2 sessions), International Health Economics Association Meeting, Switzerland  
2019 Discussant, Population Association of America Meeting, Texas

### **Other Awards and Fellowships**

2022	Advancing a Global Penn State Early Career Faculty Award, PSU
2018	Elsevier Atlas Award, October 2018 (with Galway LP & Jones AD)
2018	Honorable Mention, 2017 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards
2017	Second Best Student Paper Award, International Health Policy Conference, London
2016-2017	Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, U. of Michigan.
2015	Nominated for the Best Graduate Student Instructor Award, U of Michigan
2012-2013	Avedis Donabedian Fellowship, U. of Michigan.
2007-2008	Maxwell Dean's Scholar Award, Syracuse University, Syracuse.
2007-2008	Syracuse University Tuition Scholarship, Syracuse

### **Previous Professional Experience**

2015-2016	Research Assistant. Institute for Healthcare Innovation and Policy, U. of Michigan.
2014-2015	Graduate Student Instructor. Dept. of Health Management & Policy, U. of Michigan.
2013-2014	Research Assistant. Dept. of Health Management & Policy, U. of Michigan.
2008-2012	Economist. Asian Development Bank. Kathmandu, Nepal.
2007-2008	Research Assistant. Dept. of Public Administration. Syracuse University, NY.
2005-2007	Associate Economist. Moody's Analytics, West Chester, PA.

### **Consulting**

2016	Asian Development Bank, Nepal Resident Mission.
2015-2016	Asian Development Bank. Manila, the Philippines.
2013	World Bank. Washington, D.C.
2012	World Bank. Kathmandu, Nepal.
2012	CARE-Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal.

### **Professional Membership**

International Health Economics Association  
Population Association of America  
International Society of Global Health  
Consortium of Universities for Global Health