

# Gauthami Penakalapati

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## EDUCATION

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**Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, CA Aug 2018 - Current  
Masters/PhD Program

**Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University** Atlanta, GA May 2013  
Master of Public Health in Global Health, Community Health and Development Concentration

**Georgia Institute of Technology** Atlanta, GA May 2009  
Bachelor of Science in Biology with Honor, Minor in History

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Social networks, gender and empowerment, mental health and well-being, decision-making and aspiration development, mental and psychosocial health, water and sanitation access, social epidemiological methods, community-based participatory research, photography, South-Asia

## CURRENT RESEARCH

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**Evaluation of Girl Icon Program at Milaan Foundation** Lucknow, India  
Assessing Girl Icon Program to understand changes in social networks, aspiration development, self-esteem, and decision-making skills among rural and urban girls participating in Milaan's Girl Icon Program

**UCNets, UC Berkeley Social Networks Study**  
Analysis of ego-centric network data assessing gender differences in the interpretation of friendships between men and women in panel dataset

## CURRENT TEACHING

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**Graduate Student Instructor for Intervention Trial Design (PH 252c)** Aug – Dec 2018  
**Instructor:** John Colford

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Public Health Research Associate, Rollins School of Public Health Atlanta, GA** Jan 2015 – Jun 2017

- Completed and published systematic review on impact of animal fecal contamination on human health
- Technical lead and managed Emory/UNICEF WinS4Girls Project aimed at reducing social and physical barriers to safe and stigma-free menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools and education sectors in 14 project countries
- Conducted and coordinated five systematic reviews on subjects related to sanitation and health used to develop the WHO *Guidelines on Sanitation and Health* (2018)

**Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)** Bungoma, Kenya May 2013 – Aug 2014  
*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Benefits Project and Soapy Water Handwashing Station Project (SW-HWS)*

- Designed framework to monitor 5,000 study respondents to track migration and attrition patterns and developed behavior change communication material and strategy material in WASH and nutritional practices
- Managed and implemented SW-HWS project designing and piloting innovation handwashing stations in peri-urban communities
- Developed project monitoring plans including project indicators, corresponding surveys and qualitative tools, standard operation procedures for data collection, and data analysis plans
- Analyzed and reported on quantitative and qualitative data for briefs and quarterly progress reports for USAID, principal investigators and stakeholders

- Assisted in analyzing quantitative data to create a 'basic-package of school interventions' to be implemented by UNICEF in addressing the challenges of MHM in schools
- Collected original research, designed methods and developed research proposal for a formative MHM research project in Gicumbi District, Rwanda

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Caruso, B. A., Ellis, A., Sclar, G., Girod, C., **Penakalapati, G.**, Sahin, M., & Cavill, S. (2018). Building Qualitative Research Capacity Among Interdisciplinary Teams to Investigate Girls' Challenges With Menstruation: Process and Lessons Learned From a 14-Country E-Course. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*.

Sclar, GD., **Penakalapati, G.**, Caruso, BA., Rehfuss, EA., Garn, JV., Alexander, KT., Freeman, MC., Boisson, S., Medicott, K., Clasen, T. (2018) "Exploring the relationship between sanitation and mental and social well-being: A systematic review and qualitative synthesis." *Social Science & Medicine*.

Delahoy MJ, Wodnick B, McAliley L, **Penakalapati G**, Swarthout J, Freeman MC, Levy K. (2018) Pathogens transmitted in feces in low- and middle-income countries. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*

**Penakalapati, G.**, Swarthout, J., Delahoy, M. J., McAliley, L., Wodnik, B., Levy, K., & Freeman, M. C. (2017). Exposure to animal feces and human health: A systematic review and proposed research priorities. *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Sclar, G. D., Garn, J. V., **Penakalapati, G.**, Alexander, K. T., Krauss, J., Freeman, M. C., Boisson, S., Medicott, K.O., & Clasen, T. (2017). Effects of sanitation on cognitive development and school absence: A systematic review. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, 220(6), 917-927.

Freeman, M. C., Garn, J. V., Sclar, G. D., Boisson, S., Medicott, K., Alexander, K. T., **Penakalapati, G.**, Anderson, D., Mahtani, A.G., Grimes, J.E.T., Rehfuss, E. A., Clasen T. (2017). The impact of sanitation on infectious disease and nutritional status: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*.

Sclar, G.D., **Penakalapati, G.**, Amato, H.K., Garn, J.V., Alexander, K.T., Freeman, M.C., Clasen, T. (2016). *Assessing the Impact of Sanitation on Indicators of Fecal Exposure Along Principal Transmission Pathways: A Systematic Review*. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*.

Garn, J., Sclar, G.D, Freeman, M., **Penakalapati, G.**, Alesander, K.T, Brooks, P., Rehfuss, E.A., Clasen, T. (2016). *The impact of sanitation interventions on latrine coverage and latrine use: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*.

Whinnery, J., **Penakalapati, G.**, Steinacher, R., Wilson, N., Null, C., Pickering, A. (2016). *Handwashing With a Water-Efficient Tap and Low-Cost Foaming Soap: The Povu Poa "Cool Foam" System in Kenya*. *Glob Health Sci Pract* 4.2. 336-341.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA

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Freeman, M.C., Levy, K., **Penakalapati, G.**, Swarthout, J., Delahoy, M. J. (2017). Exposure to animal feces and human health. Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 18 October. (Oral).

**Penakalapati, G.**, Ellis, A., Mahon, T. (2015). Operationalizing Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools. Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Water, North Carolina, 30 October. (Oral)

Caruso, B.A., Long, J., Haver, J., Yerian, S., Fehr, A., **Penakalapati, G.**, Ellis, A., Andes, K., Freeman, M.C. (2013). *"I couldn't urinate at our toilet. There's no water. I might see blood on the bowl": A formative investigation of Menstruation and school WASH in four countries*. Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 16 October. (Oral).

## CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

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**Penakalapati, G.**, Swarthout, J., Delahoy, M. J., McAliley, L., Wodnik, B., Levy, K., & Freeman, M. C. (2017). Exposure to animal feces and human health: A systematic review and proposed research priorities. Paper presented at the Water and Health Conference. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 19 October. (Poster).

Caruso, B.A., Freeman, M.C., Long, J., Haver, J., Yerian, S., Fehr, A., Ellis, A., **Penakalapati, G.** & Andes, K. (2014). *Similar Challenges, Different Contexts: The Health and Educational Impacts of a Disempowering Physical and Social School Environment for Managing Menstruation in Bolivia, Philippines, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone*. Symposium: The impact of sub-optimal water, sanitation (WaSH) and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) on health and gender equity: use of scientific evidence to define global priorities. The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, 3 November.

**Penakalapati, G.**, Caruso, B.A., Yerian, S., Andes, K., Uwimana, A., & Freeman, M.C. (2013). *“Boys don’t have knowledge about menstruation; they think it is a bad thing”: Knowledge and Beliefs about Menstruation among Adolescent Boys in Gicumbi District, Rwanda*. Paper presented at the Society of Menstrual Cycle Research. Marymount Manhattan College, New York, 7 June. (Poster)

Caruso, B.A., Haver, J., Long, J., Yerian, S., **Penakalapati, G.**, Ellis, A., Andes, K., Sahin, M. & Freeman, M.C. (2013). *Different Worlds, Similar Challenges: An Investigation of Girls’ Experiences of Menstruation at School in Bolivia, Philippines, Rwanda and Sierra Leone*. Symposium: Policy and Practice: Learning from the Experiences of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) from Around the World. Society of Menstrual Cycle Research, Manahattan Marymount College, New York, 6 June.

## REPORTS

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Caruso, B., Long, J.L, Yerian, S., Haver, J., **Penakalapati, G.**, Ellis, A., Andes, K.L., and Freeman, M. (2013). *WASH in Schools Empowers Girls’ Education: Tools for Assessing Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools*. United National Children’s Fund, New York, November 2013.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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### 2018

Global Development Fellow (\$7500), UC Berkeley

Institute for International Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$5000), UC Berkeley

Bhattacharya Research Travel Grant (\$1000), UC Berkeley

### Previous

Global Health Institute (\$3000), Emory University, 2012

Rollins AmeriCorps Fellow, Emory University, 2011-2013

HOPE Scholarship, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2006 - 2009

## SELECTED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

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### **Atlanta Photography Group and Clarkston Community Center, Clarkston, GA**

Jan – May 2016

- Developed photography teaching curriculum and taught digital photography to five young girls in the Clarkston neighborhood
- Organized a photography exhibit to display student photography at Atlanta Photography Group

### **Pipeline Program**

Oct 2011 – May 2013

*A mentorship program between South Atlanta High School students and Emory University undergraduates*

- Developed original and innovative curriculum focusing on the socio-contextual determinants of health
- Designed and organized a case competition project for 25 South Atlanta high school students to address community challenges

### **City Year (AmeriCorps) Los Angeles, CA**

July 2009 – June 2011

#### ***Samuel L. Gompers Middle School and Markham Middle School***

- Organized community health fairs for students, parents and community members aimed at providing educational and community resources regarding healthy eating practices, obesity prevention and physical activity opportunities
- Developed overarching structure and curriculum for Markham and Gompers' afterschool programs teaching students about good health practices, engaged citizen activities and provided homework help
- Developed and supported structured trainings to build leadership and problem solving skills for corps members and collaborated and strategized with school administration to implement school and community events