

Anita Desikan's biographical summary

Anita Desikan is a senior analyst for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In her role, she investigates the role of science in public policy, focusing on topics like scientific integrity at federal agencies, environmental justice, and political interference in the scientific rulemaking process. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her work has focused on the need for a strong science-based and equitable governmental response to the pandemic and she have worked closely with grassroots organizations and partners to provide the best available science on COVID-19 and vaccines in underserved communities.

Prior to joining UCS, Ms. Desikan served as a research assistant at the Scripps Research Institute, where she researched the effects of alcohol binging on the adolescent mind, and at King's College London, where she conducted epidemiological research on stroke in a socioeconomically deprived part of London. She also earned a Fulbright scholarship and served as an English teaching assistant in rural Malaysia.

She earned an MPH in environmental health and science policy from George Washington University, an MS in biomedical science from Drexel University, and a BA in psychology/biology from Pitzer College.