

Dr. Raj is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Newcomb Institute at Tulane University, originally founded in 1886 as Newcomb College for women and now operating as a scholarly institute dedicated to gender equity and women's advancement in leadership. Dr. Raj is the first woman of color to lead Newcomb in its almost 140-year history. Dr. Raj is also an Endowed Chair and a Professor of Public Health at Tulane. Prior to her move to Tulane (as of Summer 2023), Dr. Raj was a Tata Chancellor's Endowed Professor of society and health, a professor in the departments of medicine and education studies, and the Founding Director of the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) at University of California San Diego. Over the course of her 25-year career, she has conducted both epidemiologic and intervention studies, focused on sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, women's economic empowerment and gender inequality. She has approximately 300 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals such as the Lancet and JAMA, and her work has been featured in major media outlets in the US, UK and India. She has also served as an advisor on gender equity and empowerment issues for UN organizations, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others.