Isha Bhallamudi

University of California, Irvine. • isha.b@uci.edu

EDUCATION

University of California Irvine, USA.
Ph.D. in Sociology.   Exp. 2024
MA. In Social and Demographic Analysis.   2021
Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India.
5-yr Integrated M.A. in Development Studies. (Minor in Economics).   2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Gender, Technology, Work, Inequality, Culture, Wellbeing, India

DISSERTATION THESIS
"It's Always Been Women's Work: The Gender Dynamics of Platform Work in India"

SKILLS

- **Data Collection:** Interviews, surveys, focus group discussions, literature reviews, participatory approaches, community-based research, working with adolescents.
- **Data Analysis:** Survey data analysis (proficient), qualitative analysis (proficient), regression analysis (proficient), statistical inference & hypothesis testing (basic), demographic analysis (basic), networks analysis (basic), & content analysis (basic).
- **Software**: STATA (proficient), R (proficient), Dedoose (Proficient) & Excel (basic).
- **Languages**: English (native), Hindi (native), Telugu (proficient), Tamil (basic).

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. (Forthcoming) Kitojo, W., Kalisa, M., Bray, R. & **Bhallamudi, I**. "Applying 'Merging of Knowledge' in Tanzania: What Can we Learn About Interrupting Patterned Relationships to Reveal New Dimensions of Poverty?". *Action Research.*
2. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I**. 'Daughters, Devices and Doorkeepers: How Gender and Class Shape Inequalities in Adolescents' Access to Technology in Mumbai, India'. *Information, Communication and Society,* 25(6), pp. 851-867.
3. 2019. **Bhallamudi, I**. & Lingam, L. "Swaying between saving the Environment and Mitigating Women's Domestic Drudgery: India's Efforts at Addressing Clean Cooking Fuels". *Gender, Technology and Development*, 23(1), pp. 36-54.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

1. 2023. **Bhallamudi, I.** "Gig Workers and HCXAI in the Global South: An Evaluative Typology". In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human-Centered Explainable AI (CHI '23), *Association for Computing Machinery*, New York, NY, USA.
2. 2023. **Bhallamudi, I**[1] & Malik, L. "Influence as Method and Method as Influence: Collaborative Platform Work in Mumbai and Delhi". Poster and position paper. In Proceedings of the Social Media & Society in India Conference, University of Michigan.
3. 2019. Bhaskaran, J. & **Bhallamudi, I**. "Good Secretaries, Bad Truck Drivers? Occupational Gender Stereotypes in Sentiment Analysis". In Proceedings of the First Workshop on Gender Bias in Natural Language Processing, *Association for Computational Linguistics 2019*, Florence, Italy.

BOOK CHAPTERS, WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS

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[1] Equal authorship

1. (Forthcoming in 2023) Lingam, L. & **Bhallamudi, I**. "Keeping Young People Out of Harm's Way: Smartphones and the Social Reproduction of Gender" in Lingam, L. and Mkhwanazi, N. (eds). *Smart Phones, Social Media and Gender Fault-lines: Southern Perspectives*. Routledge.
2. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I.** "Individual-level and Institutional-level Factors Shaping Review Bias in Faculty Grant Applications". Literature review/working paper for the California Alliance for Hispanic-serving Social Science Advancement (CAHSSA).
3. 2019. Lingam, L., **Bhallamudi, I** & Rao, N. "Gender Mainstreaming Across Agriculture, Urban Planning and Governance: Lessons for India". UN Women: Mumbai.
4. 2018. Lingam, L., **Bhallamudi, I** & Rao, N. "Adolescent Sub-cultures and Smartphones: Exploring Implications for Gender, Sexuality and Rights". UNICEF: Mumbai.
5. 2018. Rao, N. and **Bhallamudi, I.** "Collaborative Knowledge Creation: Interrogating Processes and Patterns". Workshop Report for the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Committee of Resource Organizations (CORO).
6. 2017. **Bhallamudi, I.** and Muraleedharan, V.R. "Progress in Access to Healthcare by Adolescents in Tamil Nadu, India - Lessons for Public Sector Delivery".
7. 2015. Bray, R., & **Bhallamudi, I** (with Ugarte, A). "Doing Participative Research: What is Needed to Make it Work?". 3-part Working Paper Series presented at the Collaborative Research Design Workshop between ATD Fourth World and the University of Oxford.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

1. Alladi, H. & **Bhallamudi, I**[2]. "Always Dreaming of Home: How Female Friendships Facilitate Collaborative Sense-Making of the Home and Self". *Under review* for Phadke, S. and Kanagasabai, N. (eds) *Friendships in South Asia*. Routledge.
2. **Bhallamudi, I**. and Ballakrishnen, S. "Liminality and Legality: Collectivization Practices of Women Gig Workers in Beauty Platforms in Mumbai".
3. Turney, K., Schmidt, S., **Bhallamudi, I.,** Torres, A. and Liu, A.G. "Burdens of Brokering: How Families Manage the Burden of Incarceration".
4. **Bhallamudi, I**. & Lingam, L. "Safe for Boys, Risky for Girls: Moral Panics in Response to Indian Adolescent Girls on Digital Media".

LIGHTLY REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. 2021. "Gender Parity in India: What a Case of 'Accidental Feminism' Can Offer". *Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog*.
2. 2021. "Girls, Gadgets, and Gatekeepers: What is Ethical Feminist Fieldwork When Working with Children?". *Platypus*, the CASTAC blog.
3. 2020. "Bespoke but not Woke:" A commentary on the show Indian Matchmaking. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol 55, Issue 31.
4. 2020. "Outrage and Othering: 'Bois Locker Room'": A commentary on online gender-based violence in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol 55. Issue 20.
5. 2020. "Rowdy Without a Cause?": A commentary on misogyny in South Indian films. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 55. Issue 6.
6. 2018. "Positive Approaches to Adolescents and Sexuality Education: A Case for Expanding Regional Vocabularies". Family Planning Association of India (blog post).
7. 2017. "Mental Health in IIT Madras: Survey Findings". The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (2-part article based on a survey of 800 students that I designed, conducted & analysed).
8. 2016. "Gender-Based Harassment: a Reality on Campus?" The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (2-part article based on a survey of 800 students that I designed, conducted & analysed).

RESEARCH FEATURED IN MEDIA

- What Will Protect People from Hate Crimes in the Metaverse?, The Swaddle, Jan 2022
- TISS-UNICEF Study on Smartphone Use by Adolescents, DNA India, Jun 2018

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[2] Equal authorship

- [Fathima Lateef: Death on the Campus](#), Open Magazine, Nov 2019

WORK EXPERIENCE

UX Research Intern, Fitbit Team, Google   06/22 – 09/22
- Researched 1) cognitive and emotional trust drivers and 2) unmet health needs of Black+ user communities using literature reviews and in-depth interviews, to help drive long-term trust-building efforts at Fitbit.

Graduate Student Researcher, UC Irvine   06/20 – 03/22
- Conducted literature reviews and data analysis (spanning qualitative interview analysis, survey regression analysis, content analysis and social network analysis) for 3 different projects & teams, resulting in 5 co-authored papers.

Research Assistant, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai   06/17 – 08/18
- Carried out 3 research and consultancy projects (for UN Women, UNICEF and the Telangana state police academy), using pilot studies, primary research, organizational strategy and policy analyses.

Research Intern, Dept. of Social Policy and Intervention, Oxford   06/15 – 07/15
- Helped adapt a novel participatory methodology and develop the research design for an [international 6-country study of multidimensional poverty](#), later presented at UN and OECD in 2020.

HONORS, PRIZES AND GRANTS

- 2023. **Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship**, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Outstanding Graduate Research Award**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Small Grant**, Center for Organizational Research, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Fellow**, Noyce Fellowship in AI, Law and Society, UC Irvine (with faculty advisor Swethaa Ballakrishnen).
- 2022. **Finalist**, SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship.
- 2022. **Summer Research Fellowship**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2021. **Graduate Fellow**, Center for Networks and Relational Analysis, UC Irvine.
- 2021. **Conference Grant**, AGS, UC Irvine.
- 2021**. Summer Research Grant**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2020**. Summer Research Grant**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2019**. Summer Research Grant**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2019. **Summer Research Fellowship**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2018. **Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship**, UC Irvine.
- 2015. **Research Travel Grant**, IIT Madras, India.
- 2015 & 2014. **Institute Merit Prize** for academic excellence. IIT Madras, India.
- 2012. **DST**-**INSPIRE scholarship**, awarded to top 1% of STEM high school students in India. Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

1. 2023. "It's Always Been Women's Work": The Gender Dynamics of App-Based Work in Mumbai". Research Talk, Department of Communication, **University of Hyderabad**.
2. 2023. "Women, Work and Technology in India: Current Trends and Future Opportunities". Invited talk for Women's Day, English Department, **Payyanur College.**
3. 2023. "Academic Paper Publishing". Workshop/mentorship session at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, **IIT Madras**.
4. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I**. & Ballakrishnen, S. "Tracing Labor, Technology, and Urbanization in India through an Account of Gig Work". **Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting** (cancelled due to visa denial).

5. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I.,** Ballakrishnen, S., Whitworth, W., Boutcher, S., Silver, C., & Paik, A. "Diverse Belongings: How Social Networks Change the Ways in Which We Belong in Law School". **Law and Society Association Annual Conference**.
6. 2022. Turney, K., Schmidt, S., **Bhallamudi, I.,** Torres, A. and Liu, A.G. "Burdens of Brokering: How Families Manage the Burden of Incarceration". **ASA Annual Meeting**.
7. 2022. Dinsmore, B., Jonas, A., Rafalow, M., Outland, S., Puckett, C., Miner, M. & **Bhallamudi, I.** ""Cameras On": How Schools Reify Social Inequality through Decisions about Online Visibility".
    a. Paper presentation, **ASA Annual Meeting.**
    b. Paper Presentation, **Sociology of Education Annual Meeting.**
8. 2022. "Daughters, Devices and Doorkeeping: How Gender and Class Shape Adolescent Mobile Phone Access in Mumbai". Guest Lecture for the Feminist Economic & Policy Initiative at **OP Jindal Global University**.
9. 2021. "Ethical Dilemmas During Fieldwork with Adolescents in India: Complicating and Questioning Ideas of Feminist Fieldwork in the Global South".
    a. Paper presentation, **Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting**.
    b. Paper presentation, **Anthropology in Transit Conference**, UC Irvine.
10. 2021. "Girls, Gadgets and Gatekeepers: Gendered Modes of Access to Mobile Phones in Mumbai, India".
    a. Paper presentation, **AoIR Annual Meeting**.
    b. Paper presentation, **SSSP Annual Meeting**.
    c. Refereed Roundtable, **ASA Annual Meeting** (declined due to Covid-19).
11. 2021. "The Gender Dynamics of App-Mediated Work in Urban India". Talk for **Socio-Legal Studies Workshop**, UC Irvine.
12. 2021. "Survey Research Methods". Guest Lecture**, Research Methods course**, Summer Session, UC Irvine.
13. 2021. "Fighting Gender Inequality with Coding + Social Science". Guest Lecture for **Girls Tech Camp**, National Center for Women and Information Technology, USA.
14. 2019. "Smartphones and Gender Fault Lines: How are Adolescent Girls and Young women Navigating?" **Imagine a Feminist Internet: Research, Practice and Policy in South Asia conference**. Internet Democracy Project, Sri Lanka.
15. 2018. "Fight for Equality: Moral Panic over Adolescent Girls and Mobile Phone Use in Mumbai". Talk for **Gender Research Workshop**, **UC Irvine**.
16. 2018. "Why Loiter? Women Claiming Online Public Space". **National Conference on Gender-Based Cyber Violence,** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

1. 2022. **Co-Workshop Organizer**. "Context Convergence in Mobile Phone Use: Mapping Multiplicities of Presence, Digital Inequalities and Wellbeing Across the Global North and South". **ICA Mobile Pre-Conference**.
2. 2021. **Co-Panel Organizer**, 'Transgenerational Listening: Telling Stories about Global STS Programs and Formations' Open Panel, **4S Annual Meeting**.
3. 2021. **Co-Panel Organizer**, 'Celebrating and Critiquing Feminist Inclusion Strategies in Technoscience Communities', Open Panel, **4S Annual Meeting.**

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- 2021. Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA (1 of 30 participants selected).
- 2020. Summer Institute on 'AI and Governance', Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University (1 of 23 students selected globally).
- 2020. NSF Problem-Solving Sociology Dissertation Proposal Development Workshop, Northwestern University.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Wrote a [5-part Guide to UX Research Internships](#) on Medium (>5500 views) 2022
- **Discussant**, 'Summer Funding Opportunities' panel, DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience), UC Irvine   2022
- **Reviewer,** Information, Communication and Society   2022-pres
- **Reviewer,** Journal of Consumer Culture   2022-pres
- **Reviewer,** Gender, Development and Technology   2022-pres
- Informally mentored over 30 diversity PhD candidates   2021-22
- **Co-Chair**, Transnational STS Working Group, Student Section of the Society for Social Studies of Science   2021-22
- **Student Member**, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, CITAMS, ASA   2021
- **Student Member**, Graduate Admissions Committee, Sociology, UC Irvine   2021-23
- **Social Sciences Representative**, Associated Graduate Students, UC Irvine 2020-21
- **Peer Mentor,** UC Irvine.   2019-20
- **Occasional Reviewer,** Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters.   2019-pres
- **Executive Editor,** The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (Campus News Body)   2016-17
    - Led a team of 50 correspondents & media team members, & increased viewership by 27%.
    - Spearheaded 2 ground-breaking campus-wide surveys that formed the first publicly available data on sexual harassment and mental health issues on campus.
- **Peer Mentor,** IIT Madras.   2016-17
- **Founder and Member,** Committee to Prepare Guidelines for Sexual Harassment Policy, Student Legislative Council, IIT Madras.   2016-17
    - Researched and drafted guidelines and recommendations for the Complaint Committee Against Sexual Harassment, IIT Madras.
- **Member,** Committee to Prepare Recommendations for Campus Mental Health, Student Legislative Council, IIT Madras.   2015-16
    - Researched and drafted guidelines and recommendations for recognizing and addressing student mental health on campus, IIT Madras.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND RELEVANT TRAINING

- Selected to teach the **'Sociology of Sexuality and Gender' summer course** at UC Irvine (declined due to summer internship offer from Google)   Summer 2022
- **Suicide Prevention Gatekeep Training,** UCI Counselling Center   Spring 2021
- **Inclusive Instruction Working Group**, UC Irvine   Spring 2019
    - Created teaching resources including [Inclusive Teaching Practices: A Practical Guide](#) and the [Accessible Teaching Habits Checklist](#)
- **Enhancing Diversity and Equitable Inclusion** seminar, UC Irvine   Fall 2020
- **Content Developer**, National Prog. on Technology Enhanced Learning   Summer 2013
    - A Govt. of India sponsored collaborative educational program offering >1000 MOOCs
- **Teaching Assistantships**
    - 'Sociology Majors Seminar', UC Irvine.   Winter + Spring 2021
    - 'Fundamentals of Psychology', UC Irvine.   Spring 2018 + 2019
    - 'People and Society', UC Irvine.   Winter 2018
    - 'Law and Society', UC Irvine.   Fall 2018
    - 'International Trade and Finance', IIT Madras, India   2016