

Isha Bhallamudi

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SKILLS

Competencies: Project design, project management, policy analysis, research design, data analysis, reporting

Methods: Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups, Participatory Methods, Ethnography, Field Observation, Community-Based Research, Content Analysis, Contextual Inquiry

Languages and Software: Python, R, STATA, SPSS, Dedoose, Atlas.ti, Zotero, SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics

EDUCATION

UC IRVINE

Ph.D. SOCIOLOGY ('24)

M.A. DEMOGRAPHY ('21)

IIT MADRAS

B.A. + M.A. DEV'L STUDIES ('17)

Minor in Economics

AWARDS &

TRAINING

- 2021. Noyce Fellow in AI, Law & Society, UCI.
- 2021. Graduate Fellow, Center for Networks & Relational Analysis, UCI.
- 2021. Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA.
- 2020. Summer Institute in AI and Governance, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard.

COURSEWORK

Interview Methods

Survey Design

Analysis of Networks Data

Demographic Analysis

Advanced Regression Models

Graduate Statistics I, II and III

Social Psychology

Disability Studies

Economics of Industrial Orgs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, DIGITAL CIVIL SOCIETY LAB | POSTDOC

Sep '24 – Present | Palo Alto, CA

- Researched emerging questions around AI accountability and harm in global contexts, using mixed-methods and policy analysis. Taught a course on digital platforms, inequalities and participatory cultures.

GOOGLE | UX RESEARCH INTERN

Jun '22 – Sep '22 | San Francisco, CA

- 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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE | RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jun '20 – Jun '24 | Irvine, CA

- Collaborated on multiple cross-sectoral projects using qualitative analysis, survey analysis, networks analysis, literature reviews, data cleaning, ideation and policy recommendations.

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES | RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Jun '17 – Jul '18 | Mumbai, India

- Worked on consultancy projects for UNICEF (on mobile phone cultures in India), UN Women (on best practices for tech and policy governance), and a State Police Academy (on reorganization), using mixed-methods.

UNI. OF OXFORD, DEPT. OF SOCIAL POLICY | RESEARCH INTERN

Jun '15 – Jul '15 | Oxford, U.K.

- Helped design a novel participatory methodology for a 6-country study of multidimensional poverty, later presented at UN and OECD.

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI-MEDIATED PLATFORM WORK IN INDIA - PHD THESIS

Jan '22 – Jun '25 | Irvine, CA / Mumbai, India

- Studied the emerging impacts of AI-mediated forms of work on workers, organizations, management practices, and society in global contexts, through a mixed-methods ethnography with >175 gig workers and platform managers.

ADOLESCENT MOBILE PHONE USE IN MUMBAI - MA THESIS

Jun '19 - Aug '20 | Irvine, CA / Mumbai, India

- Studied how gender, class and cultural norms shape digital youth cultures, mobile use patterns and access to technology in Mumbai, using interviews, focus group discussions and vignettes with 300 adolescents.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming. “Dating the Machine: Emerging Issues Around Users’ Emotional Relationships with ChatGPT”. The Swaddle.
- 2023. “Gig Workers and HCXAI in the Global South: An Evaluative Typology”. Workshop on Human Centered Explainable AI, CHI ACM.
- 2022. “Girls, Gadgets and Gatekeepers: Gendered Modes of Access to Mobile Phones in Mumbai, India”. Information, Communication and Society.
- 2019. “Good Secretaries, Bad Truck Drivers? Occupational Gender Stereotypes in Sentiment Analysis”. Workshop on Gender Bias in NLP, ACL.