

ABIR SAHA

Qualitative Researcher with Expertise in User-Centered Design and Accessibility

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[LinkedIn](#) • [Personal Website](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher | Northwestern University Sep 2018 – Present

- Led all aspects of 4 studies on understanding the needs of blind content creators.
- Performed foundational and secondary research, translated findings into design decisions, and informed and led the design of a fully functional prototype.
- Conducted 30+ in-depth interviews, contextual inquiries, observations, and usability testing sessions.
- Performed independent and collaborative research in a team of 11+ researchers across two universities.
- Mentored an undergraduate student in award-winning accessibility research.
- Communicated findings to academics and industry professionals through 5+ publications and 3+ presentations at top academic conferences, quarterly reports, and numerous remote meetings.

Teaching Assistant | Northwestern University Winter 2022

- Mentored a class of 50+ undergraduate students on fundamentals of user research.
- Guided students in prototyping on Figma and usability testing.

Research Assistant | Indiana Univ. – Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (IUPUI) Aug 2016 – Jun 2018

- Led the design of industry-standard, patented equipment to test safety features of self-driving cars.
- Collaborated with a cross-functional team of 15+ engineers and researchers from Toyota, IUPUI, and Ohio State University.
- Communicated findings to academics, industry partners, and media outlets through quarterly meetings and reports, academic publications, and news media interviews.

Freelance Researcher Apr 2017 – Jan 2018

- Led an online survey (N=93) and translated findings into design goals for tailoring user experience of social media to support mothers facing postpartum depression.
- Conducted systematic literature review to generate actionable guidelines for designing Autism support smart technologies.
- Collaborated with 5 researchers from two US universities.

SKILLS

Methods: In-depth interviews, field observation, contextual inquiry, usability testing, ethnography, thematic analysis, survey design, experiment design, prototyping.

Tools: Wireframing (Figma), qualitative analysis (Atlas.ti, NVivo), assistive technology (screen readers), audio editing (GarageBand, Logic Pro), image editing (Photoshop, Lightroom).

Programming: Python, R.

EDUCATION

PhD in Technology & Social Behavior (CS + Communication) | Northwestern Univ. (Expected Dec 2023)

MS in Electrical & Computer Engineering | Indiana Univ. – Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (Aug 2018)

BS in Electrical & Electronic Engineering | Bangladesh Univ. of Engineering and Technology (Sep 2015)