

# CHINAR MEHTA

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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| Jan '23 – present          | <b>Fulbright Fellow, Human-Computer Interaction Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, US</b><br>Received a 9-month fellowship to be mentored by Dr. Sarah Fox at CMU.   |
| Jan '20 – December '22     | <b>Research Lead, Feminist Approaches to Labour Collectives</b><br>FemLab.co is a seed-funded initiative by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada, as part of their Future of Work series. This initiative does grassroots research on how women workers can strengthen their position in the global supply chain and labour markets using digital platforms.               |
| Aug '21 – present          | <b>Senior Research Fellow, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</b>   |
| Aug '19 – August '21       | <b>Junior Research Fellow, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</b><br>Joined Ph.D. program as a Junior Research Fellow at the Department of Communication, Sarojini Naidu School of Performing Arts, Fine Arts & Communication at the University of Hyderabad. Advisor: Prof Usha Raman.   |
| Nov '18 - Feb '19 (4m)     | <b>Student Assistant, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai</b><br>Commissioned by: Facebook India<br>Organised three Roundtables on women's online safety and hate speech online. Tasks included preparing the background note, carrying out conference communications with the invitees, and preparing the notes of the proceedings and the draft report for all three Roundtables. |
| April '18 - May '18 (2m)   | <b>Research Intern, The Centre for Internet &amp; Society, Delhi</b><br>Supervisor: Sumandro Chattopadhyay<br>Research: Contributed research as part of MA dissertation about participatory design analysis of pornographic websites.  |
| Jan '15 - Nov '16 (1y 11m) | <b>Product Engineer, Sprinklr Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon</b><br>Starting as an intern for the first four months, I worked as a   |

core part of the research and development team, and was responsible for rolling out new features, improvements and fix existing bugs.

July '14 - Dec '14 (6m)

**Teaching Assistant, HM106 Approaches to Indian Society, DA-IICT, Gandhinagar**

Course Teacher: Prof. Visvajit Pandya

Responsibilities included grading examination papers and helping students with the course material.

## EDUCATION

August 2019 - present

Ph.D. candidate in Communication, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad  
Research Advisor: Prof Usha Raman

June 2017 - May 2019

Master of Arts in Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (CGPA: 8.2/10)  
Research Advisor: Prof Shilpa Phadke  
Dissertation: "Hardcore Habit: Lessons in Participatory Design from Women Watching Porn Online"

July 2011 - May 2015

Bachelor of Technology in Information and Communication Technology, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar (CGPA: 7.7/10)

May 2011

XII, ICSE (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) (Score: 93.8%)

## GRANTS

Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Fellowship, United States-India Educational Fund, US Department of State. January 2023 – September 2023.

Travel grant to present at ICA Annual Conference: One world, One Network? in Paris, France. 26 May - 30 May 2022.

Senior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission of India. August 2021.

Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission of India. January 2019.

Travel grant to present at Imagine a Feminist Internet: Research, Practice, and Policy in South Asia Conference, Negombo, Sri Lanka. 21-23 February 2019.

## PRESENTATIONS

“Collectives” in the panel “Interfacing With Informality: A Decolonial Feminist Labour Lexicon” at ICA Annual Conference: One world, One Network? held between 26 May - 30 May 2022 in Paris, France.

*Interface as Knowledge-in-practice: A Feminist Analysis of Web Development in India.* 4 October 2021. Doctoral Colloquium, Association of Internet Researchers Annual Meeting 2021.

*Web Standards and Protocols: Identifying Transnational Actors & Networks.* 7 October 2021. Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting 2021.

*Hardcore Habit: Lessons in Participatory Design from Women Watching Porn Online.* 21-23 February 2019. Imagine a Feminist Internet: Research, Practice, and Policy in South Asia Conference, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

*The Pundits of Technology: The Construction of Masculine Authority in Socio-technical Projects in India.* 30 November - 1 December 2018. Does the Nation want to know?: The Politics of Post-truth. Frames of Reference, National Students’ Seminar, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

## WRITING

What does the abandoned public toilet tell us? <https://femlab.co/2021/05/21/what-does-the-abandoned-public-toilet-tell-us/>

Unionized by phone – circumventing the male gatekeepers. *FemLabCo Blog*. URL: <https://femlab.co/2020/09/25/unionized-by-phone-%e2%94%80-circumventing-the-male-gatekeepers/>

Design for one: Centering the inadequacy of technology. *FemLabCo Blog*. URL: <https://femlab.co/2020/06/12/design-for-one-centering-the-inadequacy-of-technology/>

Risk and Gendered Surveillance: Redefining the Good Woman. *Researchers@work*. The Centre for Internet and Society Blog. URL: <https://medium.com/rawblog/risk-and-gendered-surveillance-redefining-the-good-woman-253ec0a1f0eb>

The Gendered Construction of Media Technologies. *Gender Media Culture Blog*. School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai. URL: <https://gendermediacultureblog.wordpress.com/2018/12/29/the-gendered-construction-of-media-technologies/>

Sexual Deviancy in the Digital. 31 December 2018. *Gender Media Culture Blog*. School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

URL: <https://gendermediacultureblog.wordpress.com/2018/12/31/chinar-mehta-sexual-deviancy-in-the-digital/>

A girl walks alone at night... but who's watching? 31 December 2018. *Gender Media Culture Blog*. School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

URL: <https://gendermediacultureblog.wordpress.com/2018/12/29/a-girl-walks-alone-at-night-but-whos-watching/>

## AWARDS

Prof. Vijay Tendulkar Gold Medal for the Best Student, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai. 9 May 2019.

Best Student for 2017-18 in Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai. December 2018.

Eligible for Scholarship for Higher Education in the Sciences (for scoring in the top 1% nationally in XII exam), ICSE board. May 2011.

Valedictorian, S N Kansagra School. May 2011.

## MEDIA PROJECTS

March 2019

### **Documentary Film: The Dancing Lion of Mazgaon**

In a team of 4, we scripted, shot and edited a documentary film about the Kwan Kung temple in Mazgaon, Mumbai, and explored the perspectives of some members of the ethnic Chinese people who celebrate the Chinese New Year at the temple. The film deals with the complexities of migration, cultural identities and war.

URL: <https://youtu.be/PFz77yXhN9c>

December 2018

### **Blog: Gender Media Culture**

Aided Dr. Shilpa Phadke (SMCS, TISS) in setting up the Wordpress blog consisting of posts that students wrote over the course of a semester for a course titled Gender, Media, Culture at TISS.

URL: <https://gendermediacultureblog.wordpress.com/>

October 2018

### **Podcast: Audience One-on-one**

Audience One-on-One is a show that tries to understand audiences or consumers of different media or media-related products through in-depth, exciting conversations with diverse audiences.

URL: <https://smcsradioulloo.wordpress.com/2018/10/30/audience-one-on-one/>

October 2018

### **Documentary Film: Ghutan**

In a team of 4, we scripted, shot, and edited a documentary film about SRA (Slum Rehabilitation Authority) buildings in Mahul Gaon, Mumbai, and the high air and water toxicity levels posing significant health risks to the residents.

URL: <https://youtu.be/ZZIJTyC1C0>

October 2018

**Blog: Migrant Mumbai**

Created and maintaining a blog for all the films made by the SMCS Batch of 2017-19 under the theme of *Migrant Mumbai*.

URL: <http://migrantmumbai.wordpress.com/>

March 2018

**Public Service Announcement: Pehla Kadam**

**Music Video: Maati**

In a team of 4, we scripted, shot, and edited a PSA and a music video along themes of gender based violence, with a message encouraging audiences to break the silence around it.

URL for PSA: [https://youtu.be/iAzcSv9h\\_UU](https://youtu.be/iAzcSv9h_UU)

URL for Music Video: <https://youtu.be/b4EM-4oYMY>

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming languages: Javascript (React, Node.js), HTML, CSS (SASS, LESS), Python

Video Production: Video shooting, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premier Pro, HitFilm Express

Audio Production: Audacity, Soundtrack Pro

**LANGUAGES:** English (professional), Hindi (bilingual), Gujarati (native)

## POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Student Representative for PhD students (2020 - present), Board of Studies, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad

Editor-in-Chief (2014 - 15), Section Editor (2012 - 14), Writer (2011 - 15) - Press Club, DAIICT.

Core Committee Member (2014 - 15) - Debate Club, DAIICT.

Coordinator (2013 - 2015), 'Shailee', literary event at Synapse (annual festival), DAIICT.