CHINAR MEHTA

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EDUCATION

August 2019 – December 2024 (submitted)	Ph.D. candidate in Communication, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

Research Advisor: Prof Usha Raman
Thesis: "At the Interface: A Feminist Exploration of Web Development Cultures"

June 2017 - May 2019	Master of Arts in Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Research Advisor: Prof Shilpa Phadke

July 2011 - May 2015	Bachelor of Technology in Information and Communication Technology, DA-IICT, Gandhinagar

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Mehta, C., & Gupta, A. (2024). The Pundits of Technology: The Construction of Masculine Authority in Socio-technical Projects. *Subversions: A Journal of Emerging Research in Media & Cultural Studies*, *8*. Link.
- Akridge, H., Fan, B., Tang, A. X., **Mehta, C.**, Martelaro, N., & Fox, S. E. (2024). "The bus is nothing without us": Making Visible the Labor of Bus Operators amid the Ongoing Push Towards Transit Automation. *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1–16. Link.
- (Accepted for Special Issue) Mehta, C., Fox, S. E., & Vaghela, P. (2025). Solving for "Bad Workers": How Socio-Technical Imaginaries of Caste, Labor, and Datafication Normalize Unjust Tracking of Sanitation Workers. *Computational Culture*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Mehta, C., Raman, U., & Arora, P. (2024). A Feminist Human–Machine Communication Framework: Collectivizing by design for inclusive work futures. In A. Guzman, R. McEwen, & S. Jones (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Human–Machine Communication*. SAGE Publications. Link.
- Mehta, C. (2023). What Lies in the Shadows of a Stakeholder Analysis? A Methodological Analysis to Contextualize the Lives of Women Workers in the Global South. In P. Arora, U. Raman, & R. König, *Feminist Futures of Work: Reimagining Labour in the Digital Economy*. Amsterdam University Press. Link.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Feb '25 – present	**Research Consultant, Digital Futures for Children, London School of Economics & Political Science and 5Rights**

The project studies the use and experiences of teenagers in 4 countries regarding Generative Artificial Intelligence.

Aug '19 – Dec '24 (5y)	**PhD Candidate, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad**

PhD thesis looks at web development cultures from a Feminist Science & Technology Studies perspective; through historical discourse, in-depth interviews with engineers, managers, designers, and archival & software documentation. Advisor: Prof Usha Raman.

Jan '23 – Sept '23 (9m)	**Fulbright Fellow, Human-Computer Interaction Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, US**

Received a 9-month fellowship to be mentored by Dr. Sarah Fox. Actively a part of the Future of Transit Work project.

Jan '20 – Dec '22 (2y)	**Research Lead (Sanitation Sector), Feminist Approaches to Labour Collectives**

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.

Nov '18 - Feb '19 (4m)	**Student Assistant, School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai** Commissioned by: Facebook India

Organized 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.

GRANTS

Travel grant to present at the Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference in Sheffield, UK. 29 October – 3 November 2024. ~$1,500.

Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Fellowship, United States-India Educational Fund, US Department of State. January 2023 – September 2023. ~$16,000.

Travel grant to present at the International Communication Association Annual Conference: One world, One Network? in Paris, France. 26 May - 30 May 2022. ~$1,500.

Junior & Senior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission of India. August 2019 – July 2024. ~$32,000 over 5 years.

Travel grant to present at Imagine a Feminist Internet: Research, Practice, and Policy in South Asia Conference, Negombo, Sri Lanka. 21-23 February 2019. ~$800.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Jan '20 – May '20 Jan '21 – May '21 Jan '22 – May '22 Jan '24 – May '24	**Teaching Assistant, Digital Cultures, University of Hyderabad** Course Teacher: Prof. Usha Raman
July '14 - Dec '14 (6m)	**Teaching Assistant, HM106 Approaches to Indian Society, DA-IICT, Gandhinagar** Course Teacher: Prof. Visvajit Pandya

REPORTS

Mehta, C., Raman, U., & Arora, P. (2023). *Digitalisation and Transformations of Women's Labour in Sanitation Work* (Empowerment or Exploitation? Global Perspectives on Women's Work in the Platform Economy) [Edition 5]. Just Jobs Network. Link.

Mehta, C., Bansal, P., & Koenig, R. (2021). *Connecting the Informal: Stakeholder mapping of women's informal work in India and Bangladesh*. FemLabCo. Link.

PRESENTATIONS

Solving for "Bad Workers": How Imaginaries Normalize Surveillance of Workers in the panel "Constructing the Digital: Working from the Global South" at the Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference held between 29 October – 3 November 2024 in Sheffield, UK.

"Collectives" in the panel "Interfacing With Informality: A Decolonial Feminist Labour Lexicon" at International Communication Association Annual Conference: One World, One Network? held between 26 May - 30 May 2022 in Paris, France.

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.

INVITED WORKSHOPS

Feminist Futures Now. 19 – 21 August 2024 in Goa, India. Organized by Digital Futures Lab and American Jewish World Service.

Invited Participant, International Doctoral Institute, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, University of Pennsylvania. March 2024.

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.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Association of Internet Researchers Flashpoint Symposium, Hyderabad, 13 April 2024. *Constructing the Digital: Working from the Global South*.

Association of Internet Researchers Satellite Event, Hyderabad, 4 October 2021. *Interfacing, Interacting, Internetting in Pandemic Times*. 71st Annual International Communication Association Conference, Hyderabad Hub, 28 May – 1 June 2021. *Engaging the Essential Work of Care: Communication, Connectedness, and Social Justice*. Call for participation. Poster.

International Communication Association, 71st Annual Conference, Hyderabad Hub, 28 May to 1 June 2021. *Engaging the Essential Work of Care: Communication, Connectedness, and Social Justice*. Poster. Agenda.

Bodily Habitations, Seminar held by Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, 12 March 2020. Concept Note.

Student Assistant, *Three Roundtables on Women's Safety Online*, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Commissioned by Facebook India. November 2018 – February 2019.

WRITING

What does the abandoned public toilet tell us? Link.

Unionized by phone – circumventing the male gatekeepers. *FemLabCo Blog*. Link.

Design for one: Centering the inadequacy of technology. *FemLabCo Blog*. Link.

Risk and Gendered Surveillance: Redefining the Good Woman. *Researchers@work*. The Centre for Internet and Society Blog. Link.

The Gendered Construction of Media Technologies. *Gender Media Culture Blog*. School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS, Mumbai. Link.

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

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. [Link](#).

AWARDS

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

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan '15 - Nov '16 (1y 11m)	**Product Engineer, Sprinklr Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon**

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. Technologies used: ReactJS, NodeJS, SASS, LESS, HTML, and others.

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. [Link](#).

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. [Link](#).

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)