Meenakshi Mani

3rd year PhD Candidate
Centre for Research in Digital Education, Centre for Technomoral Futures
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Education

PhD in Education, University of Edinburgh Funded by the Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship	October 2022 – Present
MA in Educational Foundations, Policy & Practice, University of Colorado Boulder	Jan 2019 - May 2022 GPA: 4.0
MS in Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder	Aug 2009 - Dec 2011
BS in Computer Science, Anna University, India	Sept 2005 - May 2009

Professional Experience

Research Assistant, Informatics & STIS, University of Edinburgh   April 2024 - Present

I am assisting Dr. James Garforth (Informatics) and Dr. Benedetta Catanzariti (School of Social and Political Science) in their research into AI ethics within computer science, with a focus on the challenges of the translation of AI ethics in practice and within computer science classrooms.

Teaching Assistant/Tutor, Informatics, Edinburgh Futures Institute   Oct 2023 - Present

I have supported various courses including Professional Issues, Ethical Data Futures, and Translational Data and AI Ethics. I also continue to facilitate bi-weekly tutorial group discussions around tech ethics with Year 3 computer science and AI undergraduate students in Informatics.

Student Research Assistant, National Education Policy Centre   May 2021 - May 2022

I was part of an investigative research project focused on the Summit Public Schools (SPS) charter network and its digital education platform, the Summit Learning Platform, both of which have close ties to the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative. My contributions, that were done in close collaboration with the director and publications manager of NEPC involved organising and driving the analysis of close to a hundred documents the NEPC received from SPS in response to NEPC's public records access request. This included an in-depth breakdown of legal contracts that Summit Public Schools has with third-party services integrated into the Summit Learning Platform, with the goal of highlighting language related to student data handling, student privacy, and associated liabilities.

Software Engineer III, NetApp-SolidFire Boulder, CO   Aug 2018 - Sept 2019

I was part of the team that developed software for NetApp Solidfire storage nodes. I was a core contributor to the I/O path code that was critical for the running of our multi-node, multi-service high-availability clusters. I championed the collaboration of developers and support engineers to create a better framework for our bug triaging on-call system.

Software Development Engineer II, Amazon, Seattle, WA   Apr 2017 - June 2018

I was part of the Investigation Optimization Services team that detected fraudulent orders in the Amazon marketplace. I designed and implemented a new shipment deadline retrieval system used by

Amazon's fraud detection system. I designed and implemented a new service that filtered machine learning variable maps passed between services to filter out sensitive customer data.

Member of Technical Staff, Formation Data Systems, Boulder, CO   June 2015 - March 2017

I was co-owner of the central orchestration component in Formation Data Systems' software-defined storage product. I developed code that was multi-threaded, highly-available, and fault-tolerant to enable the smooth functioning of our distributed system.

Software Engineer, NetApp, Boulder, CO   Feb 2012 - June 2015

Web Developer Intern, Environmental Systems Research Institute   May 2011 - Dec 2011

Software Developer Intern, Qwest Communications   May 2010 - May 2011

Publications

Molnar, A., Boninger, F., Noble, A., & Mani, M. (2023). "We need better education policy. Summit Public Schools shows why." Boulder, CO: National Education Policy Center.

Garforth, J., Catanzariti, B. & Mani, M. (2024). "Bridging the Gap: Reflections from teaching translational data and AI ethics." Centre for Technomoral Futures.

Conference Papers and Knowledge Exchange work

Oct 2024 (upcoming)	AoIR, Sheffield, "Investigating Machine Learning infrastructures and EdTech", part of a 5-person EdTech panel
Oct 2024	Guest lecture (Informatics): "The ethics of 'doing good': when engineering meets the messy realities of the world"
Sept 2024	BERA, Manchester, "ROYBI: Investigating how machine learning infrastructures influence EdTech," Individual paper presentation

Other Outputs

Sept 2024	Applied to, and attended workshop on "AI Vulnerabilities And Their Societal Implications", Edinburgh Futures Institute
July 2024	Applied to, and attended the Digital Humanities Research Software Engineer summer school organised by the Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture & Society, Cambridge Digital Humanities, King's Digital Lab and The Alan Turing Institute.
Sept 2022	Funded participant at the summer school: Doing Qualitative Education Research in/of/through Algorithmic Environments held at Helmut Schmidt University.