

Nimisha Karnatak

Ph.D. in Computer Science at University of Oxford

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-Computer Interaction, Human-AI Interaction, Healthcare, Accessibility, ICTD

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

Oct 2023 - Oct 2027 (expected)

Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

- Supervisors: [Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt](#) and [Professor Max Van Kleek](#)
- Research Focus: Investigating the design and development of contextual GenAI-mediated systems to provide workflow assistance for novice AI users, such as community healthcare workers
- Publications: AAAI 2024 (W) [3], CHI 2025 (W) [1]

International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore

July 2019 - June 2021

Master of Science in Digital Society, Specialization: Data Intensive Digital Design

CGPA: 3.72/4.0

- Dean's Merit List of IIIT-B (For outstanding academic performance)

G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology

Sept 2014 - June 2018

Bachelor of Technology in Industrial and Production Engineering

CGPA: 8.093/10.0

- Vice Chancellor's Silver Medalist of the batch 2014 - 18 (awarded to the highest CGPA holder)
- Toppers merit scholarship throughout the B.Tech. programme

WORK EXPERIENCE

The World Bank

International Consultant

Washington, D.C., United States

May 2025 – Present

Project: Developing Human-Centered AI applications in global development programs supporting women in Africa

Google DeepMind London

Student Researcher

London, United Kingdom

April 2024 - Oct 2024

Advisor: [Kristen Olson](#)

Project: Understanding the co-creation dynamics of novice designers with Generative AI

- * Contributed to developing a multimodal Generative AI ad creation prototype
- * Conducted usability testing of the AI ad creation prototype with 16 small business owners in London, UK
- * First-author workshop paper accepted at [CHI 2025](#) [1]
- * First author paper under preparation for submission in [ACM TOCHI](#) [2]

Note: Submitted U.S. patent application for the AI prototype

Microsoft Research India

Research Fellow (Full-Time Position)

Bangalore, India

July 2021 - May 2023

Collaborators: [Dr. Bill Thies](#), [Dr. Mohit Jain](#), [Dr. Indrani Medhi Thies](#), [Brooke Loughrin](#), [Odeline Mateu](#)


Project 1: Understanding the ecosystem of BP management in low-resource communities of India, joint research project with [Microsoft Health Futures](#) at [Microsoft Research, Redmond](#)





- * Recruited 21 patients clinically diagnosed with hypertension/hypotension; conducted and analyzed 21 qualitative interviews
- * Design recommendations for chronic disease management in resource-constrained settings in India
- * First-author paper accepted in the [ACM TOCHI](#) journal, presented at [ACM CHI 2024](#) [4]

Project 2: Understanding the technology-mediated interaction of phlebotomists in India

- * Identified and recruited stakeholders of the phlebotomists' ecosystem; conducted and analyzed 26 qualitative interviews and 3 observation studies
- * Proposed design recommendations to improve transparency and trustworthiness in the phlebotomy ecosystem.
- * First-author paper accepted in [CSCW 2024](#) [5]

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Expanding the Generative AI Design Space through Structured Prompting and Multimodal Interfaces.** **Nimisha Karnatak**, Adrien F. Baranes, Rob Marchant, Huinan Zeng, Triona Butler, Kristen Olson. Accepted at the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Workshop on Designing and Developing User Interfaces with AI ([ACM CHI 2025](#)) 

- [2] **ACAI for SBOs: AI Co-Creation for Advertising and Inspiration for Small Business Owners**
Nimisha Karnatak, Adrien F. Baranes, Rob Marchant, Triona Butler, Kristen Olson.
 Under preparation for submission at the Transactions on Human-Computer Interactions ([ACM TOCHI](#)) 
- [3] **Generative AI as Collaborative Technology for ASHA Workers in Marginalized Communities**
Nimisha Karnatak, Max Van Kleeck, Nigel Shadbolt.
 Accepted at the Collaborative AI and Modeling of Humans Bridge at the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence ([AAAI 2024](#)) 
- [4] **“Is it even giving the correct reading or not?”: How Trust and Relationships Mediate Blood Pressure Management in India**
Nimisha Karnatak, Brooke Loughrin, Tiffany Amy Kuo, Odeline Mateu-Silvernail, Indrani Medhi Thies, Bill Thies, and Mohit Jain
 Accepted paper at the Transactions on Human-Computer Interactions ([ACM TOCHI](#)).
Note: Presented at the ACM conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems ACM CHI 2024 
- [5] **Understanding the Technology-Mediated Home Phlebotomy Ecosystem in India**
Nimisha Karnatak*, Meghna Gupta* and Mohit Jain (* denotes equal authorship)
 Accepted paper at the ACM Conference On Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing ([CSCW 2024](#)) 

INVITED TALKS

Google DeepMind, London, August 2024: Bridging the Expertise Gap: Understanding the Dynamics of Co-Creation between LLM-powered Tools and Novice Designers

UXR Health Collectives, Microsoft Research Redmond, May 2022: “Is it even giving the correct reading or not?”: How Trust and Relationships Mediate Blood Pressure Management in India

Technology and Empowerment Group, Microsoft Research India, April 2022: Understanding the Ecosystem of Blood Pressure Management in Low Resource Communities of India

Oxford Women in Computer Science (OxWoCS), May 2025: Invited panelist at “Keep It Real”, the flagship event for women in STEM hosted by OxWoCS.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Research Delegate, Citadel and Citadel Securities PhD Summit: **Selected among 25 globally distinguished PhD and postdoctoral researchers** to attend an invite-only summit on academic research applications in finance.
- Nominated by the University of Oxford for the **Google PhD Fellowship** through a competitive, university-wide selection process. ([Link](#))
- Nominated by the University of Oxford for the **Apple Scholars in AI/ML PhD Fellowship** through a competitive, university-wide selection process. ([Link](#))
- Awarded \$1,500 scholarship to present my work titled “Generative AI as Collaborative Technology for ASHA Workers in Marginalized Communities.” at the 38th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence in person
- Selected for the SIGCHI Emerging Scholars at CSCW 2023 and awarded \$1,000 in financial support.
- Amongst the top 65 students out of over 15000 applicants across India to get selected as a **SPARK summer Intern for 2020** at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (**IIT-R**)
- Won the ‘**Best Presentation Award**’ for my internship work at the SPARK Internship Program of the Indian Institute Of Technology, Roorkee (**IIT-R**) [Certificate Of Appreciation by IIT-R and SPARK](#)

FUNDED ACADEMIC RESEARCH

<p>Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee <i>User Experience Research Intern</i></p> <p>Project: Evaluation of urban space from the perception of the elderly to build an inclusive neighborhood</p> <p>Advisor: Prof. Saptarshi Kolay (IIT-Roorkee)</p> <p>Responsibilities: Created personas and scenarios; designed survey for the user study containing a total of 65 questions, analyzed the qualitative and quantitative data to design ideas for the active aging of the elderly</p>	<p>Roorkee, India June 2020 - July 2020</p>
<p>International Labour Organisation (ILO) <i>Qualitative Research Assistant</i></p> <p>Project: Exploring the experiences of women working in the AI domain in India and understanding the ethical aspects of AI from the perspective of women.</p> <p>Advisors: Dr. Uma Rani (Senior Economist, ILO), Prof. Preeti Mudliar (IIIT-B)</p> <p>Responsibilities: Recruited Indian female AI engineers as participants using LinkedIn and snowball sampling; designed questionnaire, conducted 24 qualitative interviews averaging 120 min</p>	<p>Geneva, Switzerland Sep 2019 - June 2020</p>
<p>Digital Identity Research Initiative at Indian School Of Business and IIIT-B <i>Research Intern</i></p> <p>Project: Exploring the implication of Aadhar failure and consequential exclusion.</p> <p>Advisor: Prof. Bidisha Chaudhuri (IIIT-B)</p> <p>Responsibilities: Performed statistical analysis and created infographics for a qualitative study in South India using MS Excel; documented literature on biases in biometric technology and Aadhaar</p>	<p>Bangalore, India Jan 2020 - June 2020</p>

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mentor

Supervising 6 undergraduate Computer Science students, University of Oxford

Feb 2025 - May 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Interaction Design (IDE), University of Oxford

Fall 2024

External Reviewer

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (ACM CHI)

2024

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Few-Shot Classification of Medical Data: Exploring Self-Supervised Learning Approaches for Classifying Low Resource Medical Data: A Comparative Investigation With MedMNIST

- Used a hybrid approach leveraging self-supervised learning and active learning to perform few-shot image classification of medical data; Technology Stack: Python, PyTorch, Numpy, Matplotlib

Brain MRI Segmentation: Developed a deep-learning network for semantic segmentation of brain MRI scans.

- Trained a UNet-based architecture using Dice loss as objective function to perform brain MRI segmentation; Technology Stack: Python, PyTorch, Numpy, Matplotlib

User Research to Design Accessible Mobile Payment Apps for the Visually Challenged:: Developed low-fidelity prototype (Braille inscribed on cardboard simulating mobile phone screens) and high-fidelity prototype (by deploying Adobe XD) using design concepts from user research for usability testing

- Research methodology: qualitative interviews of 30-40 minutes with 11 visually challenged participants
- Usability Testing methods: Think out loud and Participant observation followed by an interview

Virtual internship in Product Management: Performed strategic evaluation of the Microsoft product 'Workplace Analytics' on the grounds of software product management and proposed design recommendations under the supervision of Professor Haragopal Mangipudi, Infosys veteran & Finacle creator

Developed high-fidelity virtual classroom prototype using Adobe XD: Analyzed the impact of emergency remote learning on IIIT-B students during COVID-19 through quantitative and qualitative research.

Spatial Data Analysis of Bangalore's Land Use and Cover: Conducted a Time Series Analysis on Bangalore's Land Use and Land Cover using GRASS GIS software for the years 2003, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

Bachelor of Technology Final Year Thesis Project: Analyzed and compared the temperature and humidity variation between the Earth Energy Enabled Cooling System and Traditional Cooler.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Doctor of Philosophy: Deep Learning in Healthcare

Master of Science: Human-Computer Interaction; Quantitative and Qualitative Research; Web and the Mind; Software Product Management; Algorithms; Social Complexity and Systems Thinking; ICT Policy and Regulation; Technology and Society; Geographic Information System

Bachelor of Technology: Work System Design; Automation and Robotics; Probability, Statistics, and Queuing Models; Industrial Engineering; Engineering Mathematics; Numerical Methods for Engineering

SKILLS / TECHNOLOGIES

Human Computer Interaction: User Study, Focus Groups, Prototyping, Wireframing, Adobe XD, Usability Testing and Evaluation, Design Thinking, Accessible and Inclusive design, Personas, Scenarios, Storyboards, Diary study, Survey Design and Sampling, Stakeholder/user interviews, Figma

Research and Data Analysis Skills: Qualitative Research & Quantitative Research, Data Collection & Analysis, Participant Observation, Ethnographic Research, Microsoft Excel, Advanced Statistics

Technical Skills: Python (NumPy), PyTorch, Machine Learning, Deep Learning (Convolutional Neural Networks and Artificial Neural Networks)

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

NGO: Jivaamrit Khelpur Shermou Roorkee (2018-19): Volunteered for organic farming awareness among farmers.

Indian Red Cross Society (since 2015): Life member of Red Cross Society since 2015, Volunteered in organizing 5 blood donation & 4 health check-up camps.

National Service Scheme by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government Of India (2014-2017): Awarded B&C certification for completing 240 & 360 hours of volunteering in 2014-2016 and 2016-2017

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Selected for the University of Oxford's [SeedWISE Programme](#), an exclusive initiative empowering women in STEM to develop entrepreneurial skills ([Certificate](#))
- Created an Instagram page to create awareness for eating healthy with over 25000 followers [indian_weightloss_recipes](#)
- Selected in Global Leadership Experience Program 2019 organized by Common Purpose in collaboration with King's College London and IIIT-B
- Winner of Netritva: Leadership Hunt contest 2016, organized by YUVA, The National Youth Awakening Festival.

REFERENCES

Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS FREng FBCS

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Doctoral Supervisor, PI
University of Oxford
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Bill Thies

Former Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research India
Co-Founder and Chair at Everwell
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Max Van Kleek

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Kristen Olsen

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