**Social Interaction Assistant**

An assistive and rehabilitative technology to enrich social interactions for individuals who are blind and visually impaired

**PhD Proposal**

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**Abstract:**

Social skills are vital for everyday interactions between individuals and these interactions incorporate the elements of both verbal and non-verbal cues. While the verbal cues refer to the actual information conveyed in speech, the non-verbal communication involves complex mannerisms and gestures that are left to the cognition of the interaction partners to decipher and react. A major portion of these non-verbal cues are visual in nature which in turn renders them inaccessible to people who are blind and visually impaired. In this proposal, we discuss how efficiently can some of these important non-verbal communicative cues be extracted and conveyed to the recipient of social interaction who is blind and visually impaired. Methodically we establish the importance of visual non-verbal cues and develop technologies for efficient sensing and de