VISHAL SHARMA

391 17th Street NW, Apt-2023, Atlanta, GA-30363
Contact: +1 (949)-247-6061
www.visharma.us │ visharma@gatech.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Human-Centered Computing (*expected* Aug. 2025)
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Specialization: Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
Minor: Sustainable Development
Advisor: Dr. Neha Kumar

M.S. in Informatics (Jun. 2019)
University of California, Irvine, CA
Specialization: Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
Thesis: Social Media use During Slow Crises
Advisor: Dr. Bonnie Nardi

B.E. in Computer Science & Engineering (Jun. 2015)
Chitkara University, India
Specialization: Theory & Data Management
Advisor: Dr. Neha Kishore

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, TanDEm Lab, Georgia Tech (Aug. 2019-ongoing)
Supervisor: Dr. Neha Kumar
Topic: Makerspaces as sites of community-driven innovation
Investigated the intersection of sustainability and global development in the Global South. Conducted an ethnographic study at MakerGhat, a community-led makerspace, located in Mumbai, India to investigate community knowledge networks and understand the potential of makerspaces situated in resource-constrained settings for driving innovation.

Topic: Expanding volunteering outreach of a humanitarian aid organization
Conducted interviews with the staff and volunteers at MedShare, a humanitarian aid organization located in Georgia, USA. Performed comparative analysis of charity websites and social media analysis of MedShare. Made design recommendations to foster MedShare's volunteering outreach, offline and online.

Graduate Research Assistant, GVU Center, Georgia Tech (Aug. 2020-ongoing)
Supervisor: Dr. Rebecca Grinter
Topic: Understanding socio-technical ecologies that form the human-technology frontier of work.
Conducting a mixed-methods study to understand human-technology frontier that supports authors to seek help, sell, and grow and maintain their readers. This study attempts to understand and design for the future of digital work.

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Informatics, UC Irvine (Oct. 2017-Jun. 2019)
Supervisor: Dr. Bonnie Nardi
Topic: Social media use to abate, combat, and avert water crises
Conducted an ethnographic study in Bangalore, India. Investigated social media use to abate, combat, and avert water crisis through an empirical examination of tweets and Facebook posts. Conducted 30 interviews to understand social media use by different stakeholders—celebrities, the public, and the government—to raise awareness and foster participation during the water crisis.
Awarded Council of Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL) grant of $3000.

Topic: Analyzing safety and inclusivity affordances on Indian matrimonial websites
Analyzed Indian matrimonial websites to understand their affordances of safety. Interviewed 20 matrimonial websites' users to evaluate safety measures on these sites. Explored how these sites open marital possibilities for people with disabilities, with digital and English low literacy, and for inter-caste marriages, providing alternatives for dating websites, in the Indian context.

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Informatics, UC Irvine (Apr. 2018-Jun. 2018)
Supervisor: Dr. Matthew Bietz
Topic: Designing for online trust and engagement on small-scale charity websites
Conducted a comparative analysis of charity websites to understand features that promote online trust and engagement. Interviewed 10 donors. Recommended design patterns concerned with converting users' motivation into action by identifying impediments to online charitable donations. Followed and built on the theory of persuasion.

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Informatics, UC Irvine (Jan. 2018-Mar. 2018)
Supervisor: Dr. Geoffrey Bowker
Topic: Techno-educational bridge to link retirees and underserved children
Explored existing infrastructures that can connect the retired population and underserved children in India for educational purposes. Proposed policy changes by augmenting "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" policy of the Indian government with features that empower the retired population and educate underserved children.

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Informatics, UC Irvine (Sep. 2017-Dec. 2017)
Supervisor: Dr. Alfred Kobsa
Topic: Usability design for a chat-bot in a group collaboration
Sponsor: IBM Research

Designed Chat-bot, an AI-based application, that can assist and facilitate group collaboration. Co-advised by Dr. Dakuo Wang, an IBM researcher. Conducted interviews and surveys. Performed usability testing to understand users' experiences with the application.

Research Assistant, School of Comp. Science and Eng., Chitkara University (Dec. 2013-Aug. 2014)
Supervisor: Dr. Neha Kishore
Topic: Mobile Cloning: Cloning cell phones in case of suspicion
Analyzed ways to clone a cell phone device that the police or intelligence bureau can use to keep track of a person if suspected of conspiring against the law.

PUBLICATIONS

Vishal Sharma, Bonnie Nardi, Juliet Norton, and A. M. Tassan. Towards Safe Spaces Online: A study of Indian Matrimonial Websites. *Proceedings of the 17th International Federation for Information Processing International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, INTERACT 2019, Paphos, Cyprus.* **Interaction Design for International Development Award.**

Vishal Sharma. Social Media During Slow Crises. 2019. *Master's thesis. UC Irvine.*

PRESENTATIONS

Sep. 2019, Towards Safe Spaces Online: A Study of Indian Matrimonial Websites. INTERACT 2019.
Jun. 2019, Social Media During Slow Crises. University of California, Irvine.

SERVICE

Reviewer, CHI 2020
Associate Chair, CHI Late-Breaking Works 2020
Reviewer, ALT.CHI 2020
Reviewer, CHI 2020
Judge, Honeywell STEM Challenge, Georgia Tech, 2020
Reviewer, INTERACT 2019
Student Volunteer, ACM SIGCHI-sponsored summer school on Expanding the Horizons of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, New Delhi, India (HCAI) 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant
CS 3750: User Interface Design, Dr. Maribeth Coleman, School of Interactive Computing, College of Computing, Georgia Tech (Summer 2020).
CS 3750: User Interface Design, Dr. Maribeth Coleman, School of Interactive Computing, College of Computing, Georgia Tech (Spring 2020).

CS 3600: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Mark Riedl, School of Interactive Computing, College of Computing, Georgia Tech (Fall 2019).

INF 191B: Senior Design Project, Dr. Hadar Ziv, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Spring 2018).

INF 191A: Senior Design Project, Dr. Hadar Ziv, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Winter 2018).

INF 191A: Senior Design Project, Dr. Darren Denenberg, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Fall 2018).

INF 117: Project in Software System Design, Dr. Hadar Ziv, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Spring 2018).

INF 121: Software Design, Dr. Andre Van Der Hoek, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Winter 2018).

Graduate Reader
ICS 3: Internet and Society, Dr. Judith Gregory, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine (Fall 2017).

Instructor
Sankalp classes for underserved children, Happy Club, Chitkara University, India (Fall 2013, Winter 2014, Spring 2014).

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Vice President of Conference Funds, Student Government Association, Georgia Tech (Apr. 2020-ongoing).

Member of Executive Cabinet, Graduate Student Government Association, Georgia Tech (Apr. 2020-ongoing).

Committee Member, Students Honor Committee, Georgia Tech (Aug. 2020-ongoing)

Committee Member, Academic Integrity Committee, Georgia Tech (Aug. 2020-ongoing)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer, Informatica LLC, Bangalore, India (Jan. 2016-Aug. 2017)
Developed an automation framework using Spring and Mockito for Cloud Master Data Management (MDM) testing. Tested user interface and back-end features for the first release of the Cloud-MDM. Designed, implemented, and automated use cases for APIs testing. Tested MDM migration on app servers: JBoss 6.1 to JBoss 6.4, Weblogic 11g to Weblogic 12c, WebSphere 8.5.5.0 to WebSphere 8.5.5.6.
Implemented continuous integration and development using Jenkins. Assured quality of MDM 10.2 through an intense bud-fixing cycle to its global market release. Updated and migrated automation code from MDM 10.1 pipeline to MDM 10.2.

Software Engineer Trainee, Informatica LLC, Bangalore, India (Aug. 2015-Dec. 2015)

Automated UI and back-end use cases using Selenium and JUnit. Automated and tested MDM's Address Doctor use cases. Assured quality of MDM 10.1 through an intense bud-fixing cycle to its global market release.

Software Engineer Intern, Informatica LLC, Bangalore, India (Jul. 2014-Jul. 2015)
Automated UI and back-end use cases using IRB-RFT and Java-API framework with Junit. Assured quality of MDM 10.0 through an intense bud-fixing cycle to its global market release.

AWARDS & HONORS

IFIP TC13 Interaction Design for International Development Award, INTERACT (2019).
Chair's Award, University of California, Irvine (2019).
Awarded Council of Research, Computing, and Libraries grant of $3000 with Dr. Bonnie Nardi (2018).
Innovation and Excellence Award, MDM-team, Informatica Business Sol. Pvt. Ltd. (2017).
Accountability and Integrity Award, MDM-team, Informatica Business Sol. Pvt. Ltd. (2016).

SKILLS

Research Methods: Ethnography, participatory observations, interviews, focus groups, surveys
Programming Languages: Java, C++, C, SQL
Software: Git, Perforce, Informatica MDM
Design Tools: Marvel, Sketch
Databases: NoSQL, Oracle RDBMS, IBM-DB2, MySQL

COMMUNITY SERVICES & VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer, Isha Institute of Inner Sciences, USA and India (Jan 2017 – ongoing).
Volunteer, MedShare, Atlanta, Georgia, USA (Sep. 2019).
Organizer, Corporate Social Responsibility, Informatica LLC, Bangalore, India (June 2017).
Volunteer, The Art of Living, Bangalore, India (Jan 2013-Jan 2014).
Co-founder & Team member, HAPPY Club, Chitkara University, India (Jan 2012- Jan 2015).

REFERENCES

Dr. Neha Kumar
Assistant Professor, School of Interactive Computing & Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Georgia Institute of Technology
neha.kumar@gatech.edu
www.nehakumar.org

Dr. Bonnie Nardi
Professor Emeritus, Department of Informatics
University of California, Irvine

nardi@ics.uci.edu
www.artifex.org/~bonnie

Dr. Matthew Bietz
Assistant Research Professor, Department of Informatics
University of California, Irvine
mbietz@uci.edu
www.matthewbietz.org