Isha Bhallamudi

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Digital Civil Society Lab, Stanford University   2024 – present

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D. Sociology. University of California Irvine.
Dissertation: *"It's Always Been Women's Work: Tracing Gender, Technology, and Work in India Through an Account of AI-Mediated Beauty Work"*
Committee: Swethaa Ballakrishnen (co-chair), Rachel Goldberg (co-chair), Francesca Polletta, Tom Boellstorff, Paul Dourish

2021 M.A. Demographic and Social Analysis. University of California Irvine.

2017 Integrated M.A. Development Studies. (Minor in Economics). Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
Dissertation: *"Exploring Adolescent Health in Tamil Nadu Through the National Adolescent Health Program: Where Do Implementation Status and Access to Healthcare Stand?"*

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Gender, Technology, Work, Platforms, Inequality, Culture, Participatory Approaches, India

SKILLS

- **Methods:** Interviews, ethnography, surveys, focus group discussions, literature reviews, participatory approaches, community-based research, working with adolescents.
- **Analysis:** Survey data analysis (proficient), qualitative analysis (proficient), regression analysis (proficient), statistical inference & hypothesis testing (basic), demographic analysis (basic), networks analysis (basic), & content analysis (basic).
- **Software**: STATA, R, Dedoose, Atlas.ti, Excel, LaTeX, Zotero.
- **Languages**: English (native), Hindi (native), Telugu (proficient), Tamil (basic).

PEER -REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. 2023. Kitojo, W., Kalisa, M., Bray, R. & **Bhallamudi, I**. "Applying 'Merging of Knowledge' in Tanzania: What Can we Learn About Interrupting Patterned Relationships to Reveal New Dimensions of Poverty?". *Action Research.*

2. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I**. 'Daughters, Devices and Doorkeepers: How Gender and Class Shape Inequalities in Adolescents' Access to Technology in Mumbai, India'. *Information, Communication and Society,* 25(6), pp. 851-867.

3. 2019. **Bhallamudi, I**. & Lingam, L. "Swaying between saving the Environment and Mitigating Women's Domestic Drudgery: India's Efforts at Addressing Clean Cooking Fuels". *Gender, Technology and Development*, 23(1), pp. 36-54.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

4. 2023. **Bhallamudi, I**[1] & Malik, L. "Influence as Method and Method as Influence: Collaborative Platform Work in Mumbai and Delhi". In Proceedings of the Social Media & Society in India Conference, University of Michigan.

5. 2023. **Bhallamudi, I.** "Gig Workers and HCXAI in the Global South: An Evaluative Typology". In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human-Centered Explainable AI (CHI '23), *Association for Computing Machinery*, New York, NY, USA.

6. 2019. Bhaskaran, J. & **Bhallamudi, I**. "Good Secretaries, Bad Truck Drivers? Occupational Gender Stereotypes in Sentiment Analysis". In Proceedings of the First Workshop on Gender Bias

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[1] Equal authorship

BOOK CHAPTERS, WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS

1. Forthcoming. Cameron, L., Alfrey, L., William, I., McMillam Cottom, T., Hill, J., Dubal, V., Schor, J., Baretto, I., Vianna, F., Alcadippani da Salveira, R., Amrute, S., **Bhallamudi, I**., Wohl, H., Rizk, N., Caza, B., Reid, E., Weigel, M., Ticona, J., Van Doorn, N., Kyratzi, S., Ravenelle, A., Teng,. N., Ghaedipour, F., Conzon, V. & Aninch, E. (Working Paper). "Moving Beyond Labor and Tech: How Race, Gender, Caste, Nationality and Citizenship Shape Work in the Gig Economy".
   Essay: "New Dimensions of Platform Management: An Analysis of Caste Patriarchy in Beauty Platform Organizations in India".
2. Forthcoming. Lingam, L. & **Bhallamudi, I**. ""Good Girls" and "Bad Boys": Smartphones and the Social Reproduction of Gender" in Lingam, L. and Mkhwanazi, N. (eds). *Digital Technologies and Gendered Realities*. Routledge.
3. 2019. Lingam, L., **Bhallamudi, I** & Rao, N. "Gender Mainstreaming Across Agriculture, Urban Planning and Governance: Lessons for India". UN Women: Mumbai.
4. 2018. Lingam, L., **Bhallamudi, I** & Rao, N. "Adolescent Sub-cultures and Smartphones: Exploring Implications for Gender, Sexuality and Rights". UNICEF: Mumbai.
5. 2018. Rao, N. and **Bhallamudi, I.** "Collaborative Knowledge Creation: Interrogating Processes and Patterns". Workshop Report for the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Committee of Resource Organizations (CORO).
6. 2017. **Bhallamudi, I.** and Muraleedharan, V.R. "Progress in Access to Healthcare by Adolescents in Tamil Nadu, India - Lessons for Public Sector Delivery".
7. 2015. Bray, R., & **Bhallamudi, I**. (with Ugarte, A). "Doing Participative Research: What is Needed to Make it Work?". 3-part Working Paper Series presented at the Collaborative Research Design Workshop between ATD Fourth World and the University of Oxford.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/PREPARATION

1. **Bhallamudi, I. &** Ballakrishnen, S. "How Organizational and Legal Histories Shape the Feminization of Platform Work in Urban India". Invited book chapter for the *Research Handbook on the Sociology of Professions*. SAGE.
2. Turney, K., Schmidt, S., **Bhallamudi, I.,** Torres, A. and Liu, A.G. "Carceral Brokering: How Families Manage the Strains of Incarceration". Under review at the *American Journal of Sociology*.
3. Alladi, H. & **Bhallamudi, I**[2]. "Dreaming of Home: Female Friendships and Collaborative Meaning-Making". Under review for Phadke, S. and Kanagasabai, N. (eds) *Friendships in South Asia*. Routledge.
4. **Bhallamudi, I.** & Raval, N. "How Indian Immigrant Tech Workers Shape Organizational Cultures in Silicon Valley".
5. Turney, K., Schmidt, S., **Bhallamudi, I.,** Torres, A. and Liu, A.G. "Cognitive Labor During Family Member Incarceration".
6. **Bhallamudi, I,** Hapke, H., Ponciano, L., Wagner-Huang, W., & Walker, B**.** "Individual-level and Institutional-level Bias in Grant Proposal Review".

PUBLIC WRITING

1. 2021. "Gender Parity in India: What a Case of 'Accidental Feminism' Can Offer". *Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog*.
2. 2021. "Girls, Gadgets, and Gatekeepers: What is Ethical Feminist Fieldwork When Working with Children?". *Platypus*, the CASTAC blog.
3. 2020. "Bespoke but not Woke": A commentary on the show Indian Matchmaking. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol 55, Issue 31.

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[2] Equal authorship

4. 2020. "[Outrage and Othering: 'Bois Locker Room'](#)": A commentary on online gender-based violence in India. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol 55. Issue 20.
5. 2020. "[Rowdy Without a Cause](#)?": A commentary on misogyny in South Indian films. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 55. Issue 6.
6. 2018. "[Positive Approaches to Adolescents and Sexuality Education: A Case for Expanding Regional Vocabularies](#)". Family Planning Association of India (blog post).
7. 2017. "[Mental Health in IIT Madras: Survey Findings](#)". The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (2-part article based on a survey of 800 students that I designed, conducted & analysed).
8. 2016. "[Gender-Based Harassment: a Reality on Campus](#)?" The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (2-part article based on a survey of 800 students that I designed, conducted & analysed).

RESEARCH FEATURED IN MEDIA

- [What Will Protect People from Hate Crimes in the Metaverse?](#), The Swaddle, Jan 2022
- [TISS-UNICEF Study on Smartphone Use by Adolescents](#), DNA India, Jun 2018
- [Fathima Lateef: Death on the Campus](#), Open Magazine, Nov 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

UX Research Intern, Fitbit, Google (San Francisco, CA)   06/22 – 09/22
- Researched 1) cognitive and emotional trust drivers and 2) unmet health needs of Black+ user communities using literature reviews and in-depth interviews, to help drive long-term trust-building efforts at Fitbit.

Graduate Student Researcher, Jail & Family Life Project, UC Irvine   06/20 – 03/22
- Carried out collaborative qualitative coding and analysis of 625 interviews with incarcerated men and their families, to study how families distribute and manage the burdens and cognitive labour associated with incarceration.

Graduate Student Researcher, California Alliance for Hispanic-serving Social Science Advancement, UC Irvine   06/20 – present
- Assisted in conducting faculty development webinars, and conducted a literature review and interview project, to examine individual and institutional-level bias in the grant review process.

Graduate Student Researcher, Diversity and Networking in Law School: Are Students From Diverse Backgrounds Disadvantaged?, UC Irvine   06/20 – 03/22
- Carried out regression analysis of law student survey data across 3 universities, to examine how students' social networks and diversity traits shape their belongingness in law school.

Research Assistant, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai   06/17 – 08/18
- Carried out 3 research and consultancy projects (for UN Women, UNICEF and the Telangana State Police Academy), using pilot studies, primary research, organizational strategy and policy analyses.

Research Intern, Dept. of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford   06/15 – 07/15
- Helped adapt a novel participatory methodology and develop the research design for an [international 6-country study of multidimensional poverty](#), later presented at UN and OECD in 2020.

HONORS, PRIZES AND GRANTS

- 2023. **Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship**, UC Irvine.
- 2023. **Graduate Student Grant**, Center for Asian Studies, UC Irvine.
- 2023. **Honorable Mention**, Outstanding Graduate Research Award, Dept. Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Outstanding Graduate Research Award**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Small Grant**, Center for Organizational Research, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Noyce Fellowship in AI, Law and Society**, UC Irvine.
- 2022. **Finalist**, SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship.
- 2022. **Summer Research Fellowship**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2021. **Graduate Fellow**, Center for Networks and Relational Analysis, UC Irvine.
- 2021. **Conference Grant**, Associated Graduate Students, UC Irvine.

- 2019-2023**. Summer Research Grant**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2019. **Summer Research Fellowship**, Dept. of Sociology, UC Irvine.
- 2018. **Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship**, UC Irvine.
- 2015. **Research Travel Grant**, IIT Madras, India.
- 2015 & 2014. **Institute Merit Prize** for academic excellence. IIT Madras, India.
- 2012. **DST-INSPIRE scholarship**, awarded to top 1% of STEM high school students in India. Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

1. 2023. "The Women Who Hold Up Platforms – Gender, Precarity and Resistance in Gig Work in Mumbai, India". Paper presentation, **Pre-Conference Workshop on Platform Economies, ASA**.
2. 2023. "Organizing Against Precarity: Learning from Women Gig Workers in India". Paper presentation, **ASA Annual Conference**.
3. 2023 (forthcoming). "How Women Platform Workers Fight Back – Gendered Modes of Resistance and Strategization Among Beauty Gig Workers in Mumbai, India". Paper presentation, **AoIR Annual Meeting**.
4. 2023. "What Gig Work Can Tell Us About Women's Employment Futures: A Study of Women Platform Workers in Mumbai". Paper presentation, **Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison.**
5. 2023. "It's Always Been Women's Work": The Gender Dynamics of App-Based Work in Mumbai". Research Talk, Department of Communication, **University of Hyderabad**.
6. 2023. "Women, Work and Technology in India: Current Trends and Future Opportunities". Invited talk for Women's Day, English Department, **Payyanur College.**
7. 2023. "Academic Paper Publishing". Workshop/mentorship session at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, **IIT Madras**.
8. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I**. & Ballakrishnen, S. "Tracing Labor, Technology, and Urbanization in India through an Account of Gig Work". **Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting** (cancelled due to visa delay).
9. 2022. **Bhallamudi, I.,** Ballakrishnen, S., Whitworth, W., Boutcher, S., Silver, C., & Paik, A. "Diverse Belongings: How Social Networks Change the Ways in Which We Belong in Law School". **Law and Society Association Annual Conference**.
10. 2022. Turney, K., Schmidt, S., **Bhallamudi, I.,** Torres, A. and Liu, A.G. "Burdens of Brokering: How Families Manage the Burden of Incarceration". **ASA Annual Meeting**.
11. 2022. Dinsmore, B., Jonas, A., Rafalow, M., Outland, S., Puckett, C., Miner, M. & **Bhallamudi, I.** ""Cameras On": How Schools Reify Social Inequality through Decisions about Online Visibility".
    a. Paper presentation, **ASA Annual Meeting.**
    b. Paper Presentation, **Sociology of Education Annual Meeting.**
12. 2022. "Daughters, Devices and Doorkeeping: How Gender and Class Shape Adolescent Mobile Phone Access in Mumbai". Guest Lecture for the Feminist Economic & Policy Initiative at **OP Jindal Global University**.
13. 2021. "Ethical Dilemmas During Fieldwork with Adolescents in India: Complicating and Questioning Ideas of Feminist Fieldwork in the Global South".
    a. Paper presentation, **Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting**.
    b. Paper presentation, **Anthropology in Transit Conference**, UC Irvine.
14. 2021. "Girls, Gadgets and Gatekeepers: Gendered Modes of Access to Mobile Phones in Mumbai, India".
    a. Paper presentation, **AoIR Annual Meeting**.
    b. Paper presentation, **SSSP Annual Meeting**.
    c. Refereed Roundtable, **ASA Annual Meeting** (declined due to Covid-19).
15. 2021. "The Gender Dynamics of App-Mediated Work in Urban India". Talk for **Socio-Legal Studies Workshop**, UC Irvine.
16. 2021. "Survey Research Methods". Guest Lecture, **Research Methods course**, Summer Session, UC Irvine.

17. 2021. "Fighting Gender Inequality with Coding + Social Science". Guest Lecture for **Girls Tech Camp**, National Center for Women and Information Technology, USA.
18. 2019. "Smartphones and Gender Fault Lines: How are Adolescent Girls and Young women Navigating?" **Imagine a Feminist Internet: Research, Practice and Policy in South Asia conference**. Internet Democracy Project, Sri Lanka.
19. 2018. "Fight for Equality: Moral Panic over Adolescent Girls and Mobile Phone Use in Mumbai". Talk for **Gender Research Workshop**, **UC Irvine**.
20. 2018. "Why Loiter? Women Claiming Online Public Space". **National Conference on Gender-Based Cyber Violence,** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING
1. 2022. **Co-Workshop Organizer**. "Context Convergence in Mobile Phone Use: Mapping Multiplicities of Presence, Digital Inequalities and Wellbeing Across the Global North and South". **ICA Mobile Pre-Conference**.
2. 2021. **Co-Panel Organizer**, 'Transgenerational Listening: Telling Stories about Global STS Programs and Formations' Open Panel, **4S Annual Meeting**.
3. 2021. **Co-Panel Organizer**, 'Celebrating and Critiquing Feminist Inclusion Strategies in Technoscience Communities', Open Panel, **4S Annual Meeting.**

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS
- 2024. AIIS Dissertation-to-Book Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2021. Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA.
- 2020. Summer Institute on 'AI and Governance', Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University.
- 2020. NSF Problem-Solving Sociology Dissertation Proposal Development Workshop, Northwestern University.

SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY
- Wrote a 5-part Guide to UX Research Internships on Medium (>6000 views)   2022
- **Discussant**, 'Summer Funding Opportunities' panel, DECADE, UC Irvine   2022
- **Reviewer,** New Media and Society; Information, Communication and Society; Journal of Consumer Culture; Gender, Development and Technology   2022-pres
- Personally mentored over 30 diversity PhD candidates   2021-23
- **Co-Chair**, Transnational STS Working Group, Student Section of 4S   2021-22
- **Student Member**, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, CITAMS, ASA   2021
- **Student Member**, Graduate Admissions Committee, Sociology, UC Irvine   2021-23
- **Social Sciences Representative**, Associated Graduate Students, UC Irvine   2020-21
- **Peer Mentor,** UC Irvine.   2019-20
- **Executive Editor,** The Fifth Estate, IIT Madras. (Campus News Body)   2016-17
- **Peer Mentor,** IIT Madras.   2016-17
- **Founder and Member,** Committee to Prepare Guidelines for   2016-17
  Sexual Harassment Policy, Student Legislative Council, IIT Madras.
- **Member,** Committee to Prepare Recommendations for Campus Mental Health, Student   2015-16
  Legislative Council, IIT Madras.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND RELEVANT TRAINING
- Selected to teach the **'Sociology of Sexuality and Gender' summer course** at UC Irvine   2022
  (declined due to summer internship offer)
- **Suicide Prevention Gatekeep Training,** UCI Counselling Center   2021
- **Inclusive Instruction Working Group**, UC Irvine   2019
  - Created teaching resources including Inclusive Teaching Practices: A Practical Guide and the Accessible Teaching Habits Checklist
- **Enhancing Diversity and Equitable Inclusion** seminar, UC Irvine   2020
- **Content Developer**, National Prog. on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), India   2013

- **Teaching Assistantships**
  - o 'Sociology Majors Seminar', UC Irvine. 2021
  - o 'Fundamentals of Psychology', UC Irvine. 2018, 2019
  - o 'People and Society', UC Irvine. 2018
  - o 'Law and Society', UC Irvine. 2018
  - o 'International Trade and Finance', IIT Madras. 2016