

Isha Bhallamudi

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SKILLS

Competencies: Research design, recruitment, data analysis, reporting, policy analysis

Methods: Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups, Participatory Methods, Ethnography, Field Observation, Community-Based Research, Contextual Inquiry, A/B Testing, User Personas

Languages and Software: R, STATA, SPSS, Dedoose, Atlas.ti, Zotero, SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics

EDUCATION

UC IRVINE

PH.D. SOCIOLOGY ('24)

M.A. DEMOGRAPHY ('21)

IIT MADRAS

B.A. + M.A. DEVL. STUDIES ('17)

Minor in Economics

AWARDS &

TRAINING

- 2021. Noyce Fellow in AI, Law & Society, UCI.
- 2021. Graduate Fellow, Center for Networks & Relational Analysis, UCI.
- 2021. Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, UCLA.
- 2020. Summer Institute in AI and Governance, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard.

COURSEWORK

Interview Methods
Survey Design
Analysis of Networks Data
Demographic Analysis
Advanced Regression Models
Graduate Statistics I, II and III
Social Psychology
Disability Studies
Economics of Industrial Orgs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, DEPT. OF COMMUNICATION | POSTDOC

Sep '24 – Present | Palo Alto, CA

- Researched AI accountability and harm in platformized algorithmic management, through ethnographic and policy analysis. Taught a course on digital platforms, inequalities and participatory cultures.

GOOGLE | UX RESEARCH INTERN

Jun '22 – Sep '22 | San Francisco, CA

- 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.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE | RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jun '20 – Jun '24 | Irvine, CA

- Collaborated with 3 cross-sector teams on different projects. Conducted qualitative analysis, survey analysis and networks analysis, along with literature reviews, data cleaning, ideation and policy recommendations.

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES | RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Jun '17 – Jul '18 | Mumbai, India

- Worked on 3 consultancy projects, for UNICEF, UN Women, and a State Police Academy. For UNICEF, carried out an exploratory study of adolescent mobile phone cultures in urban India, through community-based methods and lit reviews.

UNI. OF OXFORD, DEPT. OF SOCIAL POLICY | RESEARCH INTERN

Jun '15 – Jul '15 | Oxford, U.K.

- Helped design a novel participatory methodology for a 6-country study of multidimensional poverty, later presented at UN and OECD.

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI-MEDIATED PLATFORM WORK IN INDIA - PHD THESIS

Jan '22 – Jun '25 | Irvine, CA / Mumbai, India

- Studied how women access and experience AI-mediated forms of work in India, and how platforms organize algorithmic management practices, through a mixed-methods ethnography with >175 gig workers and platform managers.

ADOLESCENT MOBILE PHONE USE IN MUMBAI - MA THESIS

Jun '19 – Aug '20 | Irvine, CA / Mumbai, India

- Studied how gender, class and cultural norms shape digital youth cultures, mobile use patterns and access to technology in Mumbai, using interviews, focus group discussions and vignettes with 300 adolescents.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023. “Gig Workers and HCXAI in the Global South: An Evaluative Typology”. Workshop on Human Centered Explainable AI, CHI ACM.
- 2023. “Influence as Method and Method as Influence: Collaborative Platform Work in Mumbai and Delhi”. Social Media and Society in India conference.
- 2022. “Girls, Gadgets and Gatekeepers: Gendered Modes of Access to Mobile Phones in Mumbai, India”. Information, Communication and Society.
- 2019. “Good Secretaries, Bad Truck Drivers? Occupational Gender Stereotypes in Sentiment Analysis”. Workshop on Gender Bias in NLP, ACL.