

Isha Bhallamudi

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EDUCATION

UC IRVINE

PH.D. SOCIOLOGY (EXP JUN'24)

M.A. DEMOGRAPHY (JAN'21)

IIT MADRAS

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

Minor in Economics

SKILLS

Methods: Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups, Ethnography, Field Observation, Qualitative Analysis, Network Analysis, Hypothesis Testing, Regression Analysis, Policy Analysis, Content Analysis, Mixed-Methods, Community-Based Research, Participatory Approaches
Languages and Software: R, STATA, SPSS, Dedoose, Atlas.ti, Zotero

AWARDS & TRAINING

- 2023. Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, UCI.
- 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 at Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard.

COURSEWORK

GRADUATE

Interview Methods
Survey Design
Analysis of Networks Data
Demographic Analysis
Advanced Regression Models
Graduate Statistics I, II and III
Sociology of Culture

UNDERGRADUATE

Technology and Sustainable Devl.
Social Psychology
Disability Studies
Economics of Industrial Orgs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GOOGLE | UX RESEARCH INTERN

Jun '22 – Sep '22 | San Francisco, USA

- 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 – Present | California, USA

- 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

- Provided research and consultancy services to UN Women, UNICEF and a state policy academy, through pilot studies, primary research, organizational strategy and policy analyses.

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

Jun '15 – Jul '15 | Oxford, U.K.

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

SELECTED PROJECTS

AI-MEDIATED PLATFORM WORK IN INDIA - PHD THESIS

Jan '22 - present | Irvine, CA / Mumbai, India

- Examined AI-mediated platform work in India, with a focus on organizational cultures, intersectional inequalities, and strategies against algorithmic harm. Carried out interviews, ethnography, observation, focus groups and other methods 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 differential access to technology in urban India, 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". Proceedings of the Social Media and Society in India conference, University of Michigan.
- 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.