ASWATI PANICKER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Informatics   May 2025 (expected)
Indiana University Bloomington
· Advisor: Christina Chung
· Committee Members: Selma Šabanović, Patrick Shih, and Hamid Ekbia
· Track: Human-Computer Interaction and Design
· Minor: Health Informatics

M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction and Design   May 2020
Indiana University Bloomington

B.E. in Instrumentation Engineering   May 2016
Mumbai University

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings

[P2] Understanding fraudulence in online qualitative studies: From the researcher's perspective.
***Aswati Panicker**, Novia Nurain, Zaidat Ibrahim, Chun-Han (Ariel) Wang, Seung Wan Ha, Yuxing Wu, Kay Connelly, Katie Siek, Chia-Fang Chung*
In Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)

[P1] Changing Roles and Contexts: Symbolic Interactionism in the Sharing of Food and Eating Practices between Remote, Intergenerational Family Members.
***Aswati Panicker**, Kavya Basu, Chia-Fang Chung*
In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '20)

Abstracts and Extended Abstracts

[A3] Forms of Fraudulence in Human-Centered Design: Collective Strategies and Future Agenda for Qualitative HCI Research
***Aswati Panicker**, Novia Nurain, Zaidat Ibrahim, Chun-Han (Ariel) Wang, Seung Wan Ha, Elizabeth Kaziunas, Maria Wolters, Chia-Fang Chung*
In Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24)

[A2] "I Don't Need a Megaphone to Be Helpful": Probing the Role of Technology in Pro-Choice Abortion Activism
*Colin LeFevre, **Aswati Panicker**, Sitha Vallabhaneni, Nikhil Dinesh, Forum Modi, Katie Siek, Chia-Fang Chung*
In Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '23 Companion)

[A1] Cooking Stories: Connecting Remote Families Through the Sharing of Cooking Experiences
*Forum Modi, Colin LeFevre, Nikhil Dinesh, **Aswati Panicker**, Chia-Fang Chung*
In Proceedings of the 20th European Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (ECSCW '22)

Workshop Papers

[W1] Designing to support the exchange of food and eating practices between remote, inter-generational family members
***Aswati Panicker**, Kavya Basu, Chia-Fang Chung*
Workshop on The Future of Human-Food Interaction (CHI 2021)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Field deployment of the "cooking stories" mobile app   October 2024 (Planned)
with Prof. Christina Chung   *Indiana University*
· Research study to deploy and user test a mobile app, "cooking stories" with long-distance family dyads.
· Study goals are to understand story-sharing and scaffolding of food experiences.

Fraudulent research participation in online qualitative research   March 2023 - October 2023
with Profs. Kay Connelly, Katie Siek, and Christina Chung   *Indiana University*
· Conducted interviews with 16 HCI reseachers to understand how they handle "fraudulent participation", i.e, when imposters misrepresent their identities and experiences to claim compensation in research studies.
· Findings included suggestions for qualitative researchers on how to check for fraudulence, how to strategize next steps, and guidance for handling fraudulent scenarios.
· The research led to a full paper and a workshop, which were both presented at CHI 2024. An article based on learnings from the workshop is in progress.

Designing for abortion rights activism and community engagement   October 2022 - December 2022
with Profs. Christina Chung and Katie Siek   *Indiana University*
· Interviewed local residents in Bloomington, IN on their activism in reaction to the recent legislation restricting access to abortions.
· Designed an artifact, which took the approach of a personality quiz to match residents with an activism style and showed them ways in which they can contribute (for e.g, the educator, the organizer etc.).
· Conducted 6 exploratory interviews, 6 conceptual interviews, and 4 usability testing interviews.
· Research published as a poster at CSCW 2023.

Social robots as mediators of long distant food experiences   May 2021 - December 2021
with Profs. Christina Chung and Selma Šabanović   *Indiana University*
· Conducted scenario-based interviews with 9 family members to investigate how family members envision the use of robots in the kitchen or dining space to share food-experiences with their distant relatives.
· A poster with preliminary findings was presented at CRA-WP.
· Manuscript under preparation.

Social presence through technology-mediated food experiences   May 2020 - May 2021
with Prof. Christina Chung   *Indiana University*
· Conducted photo diary studies and design workshops with 16 family members to research current practices and limitations in technology-supported remote food experiences.
· Developed a conceptual framework based on findings.
· Manuscript under review at journal.

Healthy eating and remote intergenerational family communication   May 2019 - Sept 2020
with Prof. Christina Chung   *Indiana University*

· Conducted semi-structured interviews with 18 older adult parents and 9 adult children (27 participants) to understand the eating habits of geographically-distant intergenerational families.
· Analyzed qualitative data using Affinity Mapping and Symbolic Interactionism theory to interpret the findings.
· Research paper published at CSCW 2020.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Associate Instructor/Teaching Assistant

I300: Intro to Human Computer Interaction   Spring 2022 and Spring 2023
with Prof. Christina Chung   *Indiana University*

· Assisted in teaching an undergraduate class of 164 students with a team of instructors.
· Closely mentored 15 students and held weekly design critiques and consultation sessions.
· Graded design deliverables and provided feedback.

I407/507: Intro to Health Informatics   Fall 2021
with Prof. Kay Connelly   *Indiana University*

· Assisted in teaching a graduate and undergraduate class of 40.
· Helped facilitate in-class discussions on various health informatics technology research.
· Graded student health tracking blogs and provided feedback.

I542: Foundations of HCI   Fall 2019 and Fall 2022
with Prof. Hamid Ekbia   *Indiana University*

· Assisted in teaching graduate classes with 47-68 students.
· Designed and conducted various in-class activities to help students understand the HCI concepts covered in academic literature.
· Graded student essays and provided feedback.

Research Experience Undergraduate (REU)

Graduate Mentor   May 2021
to Colin LeFevre (Indiana University) and Forum Modi (The College of New Jersey)   *Indiana University*

· Supported students ideate, design and prototype a mobile app for sharing cooking stories.
· Taught a virtual workshop on "Ideation and Prototyping" for all Summer 2021 REUs.

Graduate Mentor   May - June 2019
to Monika Worwa and Tahj Dosso (DePauw University)   *Indiana University*

· Helped students conduct research using semi-structured interviews and mobile app analysis.
· Supported students through protocol development and recruitment.
· Met with students regularly for check-ins and feedback as needed.
· Taught a workshop on "Affinity Mapping" for all Summer 2019 REUs.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

UX Researcher Intern   June 2022 - Aug 2022
Meta Platforms, Inc.   *Menlo Park, CA*

- Extended research findings from previous internship at Meta (Summer '21) and designed new usability studies to test the updated system design.
- Collaborated closely with cross-sectional partners such as Product Designers, Content Designers , Marketing and Product Leads.
- Conducted an in-depth literature review of business onboarding experiences to advance strategy and decision making.
- Assisted with the content writing of internal UX research review policies.

UX Researcher Intern   June 2021 - August 2021
Facebook, Inc.   *Remote Internship*

- Created a usability study plan through literature review and interviews with cross-functional partners.
- Prepared all supplementary material (screening surveys, research stimuli, discussion guides..) and executed the study.
- Qualitatively coded research data into themes, participated in design workshops and presented recommendations that were eventually integrated into Facebook Ads Manager.

Business Analyst   August 2016 - June 2018
Cabot Technology Solutions, Inc.   *Kerala, India*

- IT industry experience creating technical specifications by researching and absorbing software requirements (enterprise web and mobile).
- Collaborated with various stakeholders to create artifacts like wireframes, business proposals and presentations within the Agile framework.
- Additionally, was responsible for conducting market research, sales metrics analysis and competitive analysis.

INVITED TALKS

Food as social connection for long-distance families   28 October and 17 November 2022
American Museum of Natural History in New York

Gave research talks for the Science Alliance's "Anthrobytes" program, for middle school age children.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Received a Luddy Graduate Teaching Excellence Recognition   2022
- Awarded a Luddy GISA Travel fund   2022
- Selected as one of two students by the Informatics department to attend HCIC   2022
- Selected as a Grace Hopper Scholar   2021
- Received acceptance to CRA-W Grad Cohort for Women   2021 and 2023
- Received acceptance to CSCW's Asia Winter School   2020

SERVICE

Conference Reviewing
- ACM CHI Late Breaking Work Reviewer   2024
- ACM CHI Full Paper Reviewer   2024

· ACM CHI Full Paper Reviewer   2020
· ACM CHI Case Study Reviewer   2020

Volunteering

· ACM CHI Student Volunteer   May 2024
· Served on the INTERACT 2023 Shadow PC   March - April 2023
· ACM CHI Student Volunteer   May 2022
· UX Design Intern at Think Round, Inc. (non-profit)   June - July 2020

Lab

· Reading group organizer, ProHealth lab, Indiana University   Jan 2021 - May 2022