

# ASWATI PANICKER

PhD Candidate, Indiana University Bloomington  
[apanicke@iu.edu](mailto:apanicke@iu.edu) | [aswatipanicker.com](http://aswatipanicker.com)

## EDUCATION

---

### Ph.D. in Informatics

*Indiana University Bloomington*

May 2025 (expected)

- Advisor: Chia-Fang (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

*Indiana University Bloomington*

May 2020

### B.E. in Instrumentation Engineering

*Mumbai University*

May 2016

## 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 researchers 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

with Prof. Christina Chung

May 2019 - Sept 2020

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

with Prof. Christina Chung

Spring 2022 and Spring 2023

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

with Prof. Kay Connelly

Fall 2021

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

with Prof. Hamid Ekbia

Fall 2019 and Fall 2022

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

to Colin LeFevre (Indiana University) and Forum Modi (The College of New Jersey)

May 2021

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

to Monika Worwa and Tahj Dosso (DePauw University)

May - June 2019

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

---

### User Experience Intern

CSBS

June 2024 - July 2024

Washington, DC

- Led the user experience initiative to understand the pain points of Mortgage loan originators (MLOs) using NMLS, the official nation-wide system for licensure.
- Scoped out and established a formal UX research process for the team that incorporated human-centered practices in user recruitment, feedback solicitation, and the creation of research protocols.
- Conducted interviews, synthesized design insights, developed user journey maps, and presented to stakeholders.
- Additionally, participated in a podcast and created a company culture video along with the summer intern cohort.

#### **UX Researcher Intern**

*Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook)*

June 2022 - Aug 2022

*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**

*Facebook*

June 2021 - August 2021

*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**

*Cabot Technology Solutions, Inc.*

August 2016 - June 2018

*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**

*American Museum of Natural History in New York*

28 October and 17 November 2022

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