

ASWATI PANICKER

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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 - December 2024
with Prof. Christina Chung Indiana University

- Conducted a deployment study with 6 family dyads using the ‘Cooking Stories’ app over a 4-week period.
- Collected weekly feedback and held a final review session to explore story-sharing and scaffolding of food experiences.
- Manuscript under preparation.

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 review.

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.

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

Instructor of Record

I300: Human-Computer Interaction and Programming

with mentorship from Dr. Akesha Horton

Spring 2025

Indiana University

- Teaching a 13-week intro level class for undergraduate students on the basics of user-centered design.
- Class Enrollment: 48

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 Full Paper Reviewer 2025
- 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