

Aswati Panicker
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Education

- May 2025* **Ph.D. in Informatics**, Indiana University Bloomington
Track: Human-Computer Interaction and Design
Minor: Health Informatics
Advisor: Chia-Fang (Christina) Chung
Committee Members: Selma Šabanović, Patrick Shih, and Hamid Ekbia
- May 2020 **M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction and Design**, Indiana University Bloomington
- May 2016 **B.E. in Instrumentation Engineering**, Mumbai University

Publications

 [Google Scholar](#)

† → Equal contribution

Journal Articles

- J1. **Panicker, Aswati**, Basu, K. & Chung, C.-F. Mediated Human-Food Interaction for Remote Presence in Adult Family Relationships: A Social Practice Theory Approach. *Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)* (in press).
- J2. **Panicker[†], Aswati**, Basu[†], K. & Chung, C.-F. Changing Roles and Contexts: Symbolic Interactionism in the Sharing of Food and Eating Practices between Remote, Intergenerational Family Members. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* **4**. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3392848> (May 2020).

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

- C1. **Panicker, Aswati**, Nurain, N., Ibrahim[†], Z., Wang[†], C.-H., Ha[†], S. W., Wu[†], Y., Connelly, K., Siek, K. A. & Chung, C.-F. *Understanding fraudulence in online qualitative studies: From the researcher's perspective* in *Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Association for Computing Machinery, Honolulu, HI, USA, 2024). ISBN: 9798400703300. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642732>.

*Expected.

Abstracts, Extended Abstracts, and Posters

- A1. **Panicker, Aswati**, Nurain, N., Ibrahim, Z., Wang, C.-H., Ha, S. W., Kaziunas, E., Wolters, M. K. & Chung, C.-F. *Forms of Fraudulence in Human-Centered Design: Collective Strategies and Future Agenda for Qualitative HCI Research in Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Association for Computing Machinery, Honolulu, HI, USA, 2024). ISBN: 9798400703317. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3636309>.
- A2. LeFevre[†], C., **Panicker[†], Aswati[†]**, Vallabhaneni[†], S., Dinesh[†], N., Modi[†], F., Siek, K. & Chung, C.-F. “I Don’t Need a Megaphone to Be Helpful”: Probing the Role of Technology in Pro-Choice Abortion Activism in Companion Publication of the 2023 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (Association for Computing Machinery, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 2023), 307–311. ISBN: 9798400701290. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3584931.3606980>.
- A3. Modi, F., LeFevre, C., Dinesh, N., **Panicker, Aswati** & Chung, C.-F. *Cooking Stories: Connecting Remote Families Through the Sharing of Cooking Experiences in Proceedings of 20th European Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work* (European Society for Socially Embedded Technologies (EUSSET), 2022). https://doi.org/10.48340/ecscw2022_p11.

Workshop Papers

- W1. **Panicker, Aswati.**, Basu, K. & Chung, C.-F. *Designing to Support the Exchange of Food and Eating Practices Between Remote, Intergenerational Family Members. Workshop on The Future of Human-Food Interaction in CHI '21* (2021).

Research Experience

- Oct 2024 – Dec 2024 **Research Assistant**, *Cooking Stories Deployment*, Indiana University
PI: Prof. Christina Chung
- Conducted a 4-week deployment study of the ‘Cooking Stories’ app with 6 family member dyads.
 - Weekly feedback was collected, and a final joint review session was held to investigate food-related story-sharing, scaffolding interactions, and design insights.
 - Manuscript is currently under preparation.
- Mar 2023 – Oct 2023 **Research Assistant**, *Fraudulent Study Participation*, Indiana University
PIs: Profs. Kay Connelly, Katie Siek, and Christina Chung

- Conducted an interview study with 16 qualitative HCI researchers who encountered fraudulent participants.
 - Findings of the study included a guide for researchers illustrating fraudulent scenarios and suggestions for how to respond.
 - Research presented at CHI 2024 as a paper and a workshop.
 - Workshop insights article is planned.
- Oct 2022 – Dec 2022 **Research Assistant, *Activism & Technology***, Indiana University
PIs: Profs. Katie Siek and Christina Chung
- Conducted an interview study with 14 local residents in Bloomington, IN on their activism efforts.
 - Designed a quiz-based artifact to help residents identify and engage with an activism style.
 - Research and prototype presented as a poster at CSCW 2023.
- May 2021 – Dec 2021 **Research Assistant, *Social Robots as Mediators***, Indiana University
PIs: Profs. Christina Chung and Selma Šabanović
- Conducted an interview study with 9 family members.
 - Used the Haru robot as a probe alongside scenario cards to prompt conversations on how a robot might mediate food experiences.
 - Preliminary findings were presented as a poster at CRA-WP.
 - Manuscript currently under review.
- May 2020 – May 2021 **Research Assistant, *Social Presence & Mediated HFI***, Indiana University
PI: Prof. Christina Chung
- Conducted photo diary studies to understand the food sharing practices of 16 family members with their distant family.
 - Facilitated follow-up co-design sessions to gather speculations and ideas for remote food-related technology support.
 - Analyzed findings using Social Practice Theory (SPT).
 - Manuscript accepted and pending publication.
- May 2019 – Sep 2020 **Research Assistant, *Intergenerational Family Health***, Indiana University
PI: Prof. Christina Chung
- Conducted an interview study with 27 intergenerational family members on their healthy eating practices and communication with distant family.
 - Used Affinity Mapping for initial analysis, and then Symbolic Interactionism for a deeper theoretical analysis.
 - Research published as a paper and presented at CSCW 2020.

Teaching Experience

Indiana University Bloomington

Spring 2025

Instructor of Record, I300: *Human-Computer Interaction and Programming*, Indiana University
Mentor: Dr. Akesha Horton

- Currently teaching an undergraduate class of 48 on the basics of user-centered design.
- Covering topics such as primary and secondary research, thematic analysis, concept exploration, ideation, and design using Figma.
- Outcomes for students include a design portfolio comprising of a working prototype, documentation, and a poster.

Fall 2024

Associate Instructor, I590: *HCI/d Studio Practice*, Indiana University
Instructor: Prof. Austin Toombs

- Assisted in teaching a graduate class of 70 students.
- Provided feedback on students' industry sponsored project documentation and deliverables.
- Supported in-class needs, such as attendance tracking, grading, and team evaluations.

Spring 2022 & 2023

Associate Instructor, I300: *Human-Computer Interaction and Programming*, Indiana University
Instructor: Prof. Christina Chung

- 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.

Fall 2021

Associate Instructor, I407/507: *Intro to Health Informatics*, Indiana University
Instructor: Prof. Kay Connelly

- 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.

Fall 2019 & 2022

Associate Instructor, I542: *Foundations of HCI*, Indiana University
Instructor: Prof. Hamid Ekbia

- Assisted in teaching a graduate class of 47 students (Fall 2019) and 68 students (Fall 2022).
- Organized and facilitated in-class activities to help students engage with HCI concepts in both historical and modern contexts.
- Graded student essays and provided feedback.

Mentorship Experience

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

May – Aug 2021

Graduate Mentor, ProHealth REU, Indiana University

Students: Colin LeFevre (Indiana University) & Forum Modi (The College of New Jersey)

- Mentored 2 students in translating academic research findings into the ideation, design, and prototyping of a mobile app.
- Student project later presented as a poster at ECSCW 2021.
- Co-taught a virtual workshop on "Ideation and Prototyping" for all Summer 2021 REU students.

May – Jun 2019

Graduate Mentor, ProHealth REU, Indiana University

Students: Monika Worwa (DePauw University) & Tahj Dosso (DePauw University)

- Mentored 2 students in qualitative research protocols, participant recruitment, semi-structured interviews, and mobile app analysis.
- Taught a workshop on "Affinity Mapping" for all Summer 2019 REU students.

Industry Experience

Jun 2024 - Jul 2024

User Experience Intern, CSBS, Washington, DC

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

Jun 2022 - Aug 2022

UX Researcher Intern, Meta Platforms, 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 content writing of internal UX research review policies.

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021

UX Researcher Intern, Facebook, 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, etc.) 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.

Aug 2016 - Jun 2018

Business Analyst, 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.
- Conducted market research, sales metrics analysis, and competitive analysis.

Invited Talks

Oct 28 & Nov 17, 2022 **Food as Social Connection for Long-Distance Families**, American Museum of Natural History, New York

- Presented research and engaged with middle school-aged children studying human relationships with food through digital tools.
- Part of the Science Alliance's "Anthrobytes" program.

Service

Volunteer

May 2024 Student Volunteer, ACM CHI Conference 2024, Honolulu, HI
Mar 2023 – Apr 2023 Shadow Program Committee, INTERACT 2023 Conference (virtual)
May 2022 Student Volunteer, ACM CHI Conference 2022, New Orleans, LA
Jun 2020 – Jul 2020 UX Design Intern, Think Round, Inc. (non-profit)

ProHealth Lab

Jan 2021 – May 2022 Reading Group Organizer

Conference Reviewer

CHI 2025 Late Breaking Work
CHI 2025 Papers
CHI 2024 Late Breaking Work
CHI 2024 Papers
CHI 2023 Late Breaking Work
CHI 2021 Case Studies
CHI 2021 Papers

Awards & Honors

Dec 2023 Received acceptance to CRA-W Grad Cohort for Women
Apr 2022 Luddy Graduate Teaching Excellence Recognition (with I300 team)
Jul 2022 Awarded a Luddy GISA Travel Fund
May 2022 Selected as one of two students by the Informatics Department to attend HCIC
Jul 2021 Selected as a Grace Hopper Scholar
Jan 2021 Received acceptance to CRA-W Grad Cohort for Women
Oct 2020 Received acceptance to CSCW's Asia Winter School

Last updated: March 5, 2025