Aswati Panicker

Postdoctoral Scholar
University of California, Santa Cruz

apanicke@ucsc.edu | aswatipanicker.com

Education

July 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

June 2025   **M.S. in Informatics**, Indiana University Bloomington

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

May 2016   **B.E. in Instrumentation Engineering**, Mumbai University

Publications

G 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).* https://doi.org/10.1007/s10606-025-09513-5 (2025).

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**, Chung, C.-F. & Šabanović, S. *Haru in the Kitchen: Investigating Family Members' Perceptions Toward a Social Robot Mediator of Food Experiences* in *Proceedings of the 2025 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference* (Association for Computing Machinery, 2025), 222–235. ISBN: 9798400714856. https://doi.org/10.1145/3715336.3735818.

C2.   **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.

Abstracts, Extended Abstracts, and Posters

A1. 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. ɪsʙɴ: 9798400701290. https : / / doi . org / 10 . 1145 / 3584931.3606980.

A2. 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).

Organized Workshops

O1. **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). ɪsʙɴ: 9798400703317. https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3636309.

Research Experience

Aug 2025 – Present	**Postdoctoral Scholar**, *Computational Media*, UC Santa Cruz
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 to investigate food-related story-sharing and scaffolding.
- Collected weekly feedback and facilitated a joint review session with 6 family member dyads.
- Manuscript complete.

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.
- Study findings include a guide for researchers that illustrate fraudulent scenarios during research and suggest 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.
- Research published as a paper and presented at DIS 2025.

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).
- Research published at JCSCW 2025.

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

- Taught a core and required undergraduate class of 48 on the basics of user-centered design.
- Covered topics such as primary and secondary research, thematic analysis, concept exploration, ideation, and design using Figma.
- Outcomes for students included a design portfolio comprising 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 to middle school students on human relationships with food through digital tools. This was 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

Conferences

CHI 2026 Associate Chair, *Interaction Beyond the Individual* subcommittee
CHI 2025 Reviewer, Late Breaking Work
CHI 2025 Reviewer, Papers
CHI 2024 Reviewer, Late Breaking Work
CHI 2024 Reviewer, Papers
CHI 2023 Reviewer, Late Breaking Work
CHI 2021 Reviewer, Case Studies
CHI 2021 Reviewer, 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: October 15, 2025