Krishna Akhil Kumar Adavi

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Google Scholar

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin - Ph.D. in Information Studies (ABD)   **Aug '21 - Present**
Committee: Dr. Amelia Acker (Co-Chair), Dr. Ken Fleischmann (Co-Chair), Dr. Edgar Gómez-Cruz and Dr. Shiv Ganesh. Expected completion: May 2026
Ashoka University, India — Master's in Liberal Studies (Sociology and Anthropology)   **2019**
Birla Institute of Technology & Science, India — Electronics and Electrical Engineering   **2016**

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Conference Proceedings

🏆**Adavi, K. A. K**., & Acker, A. (2025). "Let's ask Meta AI!": Information Seeking Practices with Meta AI on WhatsApp. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, *62*(1), 1–12. https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1231

Wilner, T., **Adavi, K. A. K.**, Mandava, S., Bhimdiwala, A., Frluckaj, H., Turns, J. & Arif, A. (2024). From Concept to Community: Unpacking the Work of Designing Educational and Activist Toolkits. *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems,* 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642681

Bhimdiwala, A., **Adavi, K. A. K**., & Arif, A. (2024). Fighting for Their Voice: Understanding Indian Muslim Women's Responses to Networked Harassment. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, *8*(CSCW1), 1-24. https://doi.org/10.1145/3641005/

Adavi, K. A. K., & Acker, A. (2023). What is a File on a Phone? Personal Information Management Practices Amongst WhatsApp Users. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, *7*(CSCW2), 1-28. https://doi.org/10.1145/3610221/

Journal Articles

Adavi, K. A. K., & Hartelius, E. J. (2025). "Proud to Be the Enabler": Closed System Ideology in the Origin Stories of Indian Technology Start-Ups. *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, *39*(4), 467-503. https://doi.org/10.1177/10506519251348451

Book Chapters

Adavi, K. A. K., and Surie, A. (2023). Teachers in India and EdTech: a new part of the gig economy?. In Arora, P., Raman, U., & Konig, R (eds.), *Feminist Futures of Work: Reimagining Labour in the Digital Economy* (pp. 157-166). Amsterdam University Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/jj.2711713.16/

Nair, H & Das, S., & **Adavi, K. A. K.** (2020). Gandhi and the 'Race' Question. In Kumar, S (ed), *Gandhi and the Contemporary World* (pp. 157-168). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367809447-11

Book Review

Adavi, K. A. K. (2020). Book Review: The Gig Economy: A Critical Introduction by Mark Graham and Jamie Woodcock. *LSE Review of Books*. Retrieved July 15, 2025 from https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2020/07/23/book-review-the-gig-economy-a-critical-introduction-by-jamie-woodcock-and-mark-graham/

Manuscripts Under Review

Adavi, K. A. K., & Acker, A. *A Platform Perspective for Personal Information Practices on Superapps*. Revise and Resubmit at *Platforms and Society*.

Adavi, K. A. K., & Acker, A. *Dwelling with GenAI: Negotiating Authenticity and Privacy with AI Agents on WhatsApp*. Under Review at *New Media and Society*.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Adavi, K. A. K., Ghosh, P., Banks, R., Sarkar, A., Lindley, S. E. "*Will this tool ever pushback or challenge me?*": *Reflections on a Multi-agent LLM Tool for Perspective Seeking.*

CONFERENCE PAPER AWARDS

ASIS&T SIG-USE Diversity Award   2025

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

UT Austin Professional Development Award $1275	2025
UT Austin iSchool E. Glynn Harmon Excellence Fund Dissertation Support $1000	2025
ASIS&T Midwest Chapter 2025 Travel Award $1000	2025
UT Austin Graduate School Summer Excellence Fellowship $8220	2025
UT Austin Graduate Recognition Fellowship $1000	2025
UT Austin Professional Development Award $700	2025
Office of the Vice President for Research Special Research Grant $1330	2024
SIGCHI Gary Marsden Travel Award $150	2023

WHITE PAPERS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

Centre for Policy Research, LIRNEasia & Indian Institute for Human Settlements. (2022). *Ecosystems of Engagement: Digital Platforms and Women's Work in Sri Lanka and India.* Retrieved July 21, 2025 from https://lirneasia.net/2023/08/research-report-digital-platforms-and-womens-work-in-sri-lanka-and-india/

Surie, A. and **Adavi, K. A. K.** (2022). Gender out of focus: Methodological reflections on work in India's

platform economy. *Digital Future Society Think Tank*. Retrieved July 21, 2025 from
https://digitalfuturesociety.com/global-perspectives-on-women-work-and-digital-labour-platforms/

PUBLIC WRITING

Surie, A. and **Adavi, K. A. K.** (2021). Will EdTech go the way of the gig economy?. *FemLab.co*.

Adavi, K. A. K. (2021). Customers Are Central to the Gig Economy. Will We Use Our Voice to Fight for Workers' Rights?. *The Bastion*.

Adavi, K. A. K. (2021). Sitting, Waiting, Wishing - a note on Uber drivers in New Delhi. *Ethnographic Marginalia*.

Adavi, K. A. K. (2020). Clicking, Waiting, Praying: The making of the techno-scientific professional priest. *The Bastion*.

Adavi, K. A. K. (2020). Clicking, Waiting, Praying: The Mantras of Hindu Tech Startups. *The Bastion*.

Adavi, K. A. K, Nair, H & Das, S. (2016). Was Gandhi a racist?. *The Hindu*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research, Cambridge, United Kingdom – Human Computer Interaction Intern **Jun '24-Aug '24**
- Worked with the Tools for Thought team to understand how knowledge workers access different perspectives at their workplace. Project led by Richard Banks
- Conducted an interview study using a design probe built with Generative AI (GenAI) to facilitate multi-agent conversations for workplace problem solving
- Developed the interview protocol, recruited participants, and conducted interviews with 18 participants

University of Texas at Austin, Critical Data Studies Lab – Graduate Research Assistant   **May '21-Present**
- Worked on a project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to understand how users receive, share and manage files on WhatsApp. Project led by Dr. Amelia Acker
- Worked on a project to understand how GenAI integrations on WhatsApp impact everyday information practices. Project led by Dr. Amelia Acker
- Developed interview protocols, recruited participants, and conducted interviews with 51 participants across two projects
- Analyzed interview transcripts on ATLAS.ti, and synthesized a literature review on file management

University of Texas at Austin, Digital Discernment Lab — Graduate Research Assistant   **Jan '23-Jan '24**

- Working on a project funded by the National Science Foundation Convergence (NSF) Accelerator Grant, "Co-designing for Trust" (C4T) to understand how to support communities in combating mis- and disinformation. Project led by [Dr. Ahmer Arif](#)
- Developed an interview protocol, recruited participants and conducted interviews with 20 participants

Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore — External Consultant   **Jul '19 - Aug '21**

- Published a microsite [on digital labor platforms in India](#) under the Tacit Urban Research Network (funded by Ford Foundation). Project led by [Dr. Aditi Surie](#)
- Conducted 25 semi-structured interviews, secondary research and literature review on digital labor firms in India such as Swiggy, BigBasket, Shuttl and Ola Cabs
- Communicated academic research on digital labor platforms to the public of technology policy researchers, journalists and university students
- Worked on projects funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the ILO (International Labor Organization) with a focus on women and the platform economy

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Selected for the Doctoral Colloquium at the 2025 ASIS&T Meeting in Washington D.C. (2025)
- Presented "'WhatsApp feels less personal now': Anxieties, beliefs, and emerging norms around AI use on WhatsApp" at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) (2025)
- Presented in the ASIS&T SIG-III Doctoral Seminar Series (2025)
- Participated in the Oxford Internet Institute-Berkeley Summer Doctoral Program at UC Berkeley (2025)
- Presented at the Doctoral Colloquium at the iConference '25 at Indiana University, Bloomington (2025)
- "WhatsApp feels less personal now": Anxieties, beliefs, and emerging norms around AI use on WhatsApp by **Adavi, K. A. K.**, and Acker, A. at the UT Austin Year of AI iSchool Showcase (2024)
- Presented "Trust me, you need a platform for this: Indian entrepreneurs' efforts in building credibility for technology startups" at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) (2023)
- Presented "A Question of Voice: Understanding how Indian Muslim Women Confront Networked Harassment" by Bhimdiwala, A., **Adavi, K. A. K**, and Arif, A. at the Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor and Social Reproduction Conference (2023)
- Presented "'At least you are getting matches!' - Redditors discussing rejection on mobile dating apps in India" at the 12th International Conference on Social Media & Society (2022)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin - Teaching Assistant - School of Information

- [I-301 - Fall 2025] Introduction to Informatics (with Dr. Stephen Slota)
- [I-310J - Spring 2025] Introduction to Social Justice Informatics (with Dr. Angela Smith)
- [I-301 - Fall 2024] Introduction to Informatics (with Dr. Stephen Slota)
- [I-303 - Spring 2024] Ethical Foundations for Informatics (with Dr. Ken Fleischmann)

Ashoka University, Sonepat - Teaching Assistant - Sociology and Anthropology Department

- [SOA-315/MS-207 - Spring 2019] War and Media (with Dr. Deepak Mehta)
- [SOA-213 - Monsoon 2018] Religion, Science and Society (with Dr. Deepak Mehta)

SERVICE to the UNIVERSITY

Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Cultural Heritage Informatics, UT Austin (AY 2024-25), Doctoral Student Representative
Colloquium Committee at the School of Information, UT Austin (AY 2022-23), Doctoral Student Representative

SERVICE to the PROFESSION

CHI'26 (Reviewer); CHI '25 (Reviewer); CHI '24 (Reviewer); CHILBW '25 (Reviewer); Journal of Business and Technical Communication '25 (Reviewer); Interacting with Computers '25 (Reviewer); HICSS '24 (Reviewer); ACM Journal on Responsible Computing '24 (Reviewer); 4S '23 (Student Volunteer); SM&S '22 (Reviewer)