

Krishna Akhil Kumar Adavi

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Austin, TX

[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>

[Forthcoming - Accepted] **Adavi, K. A. K.**, & Acker, A. (2026) A Platform Perspective for Personal Information Practices on Superapps. *Platforms and Society*.

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. *Dwelling with GenAI: Negotiating Authenticity and Privacy with AI Agents on WhatsApp*. Under Review at *Social Media + Society*.

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*. Under Review at *CHIWORK* ‘26.

CONFERENCE PAPER AWARDS

ASIS&T SIG-USE Diversity Award	2025
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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 February 7, 2026 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 February 7, 2026 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

- Participated in 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

- [INF 388L - Spring 2026] Professional Experience and Project (with [Dr. Andrea Baer](#) and [Dr. John Neumann](#))
- [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, Sonapat - 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)