

VAISHNAV KAMESWARAN

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Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Researcher

Nov 2023 - Present

Values-Centered Artificial Intelligence (VCAI), University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Affiliated with: NSF Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society (TRAILS), College of Information & Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS)

PI's: Hal Daumé III, Katie Shilton, Vanessa Frias-Martinez & John Horty

Affiliate Instructor on Record (IOR)

Aug 2024 – Dec 2024

College of Information, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Education

Ph.D. in Information

2017 - 2023

University of Michigan – School of Information, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dissertation: *Help Facilitates Accessibility: Understanding the Social & Technology-mediated Experiences of People with Visual Impairments in India*

Committee: Sile O'Modhrain, Tiffany Veinot, Robin Brewer, Joyojeet Pal & Anhong Guo

Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction

University of Michigan – School of Information, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science

Visveswaraya Technological University, Bangalore, India

Awards and Funding

AWARDS

Diana Forsythe Award - Finalist , American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)	2025
UMSI Dissertation Fellowship , University of Michigan – School of Information	2023
Predoctoral Fellowship , Rackham Graduate School – University of Michigan	2021 - 2022
Diversity and Inclusion Award , ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work	2021
Best Paper Award , ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work	2018
Best Paper Honorable Mention Award , ACM Conference on Computer-Human Interaction	2018
Academic Merit Scholarship , University of Michigan – School of Information	2013 - 2015
Best Outgoing Student , Ramaiah Institute of Technology	2010

RESEARCH GRANTS (~\$113,000)

\$9,000 Uncovering AI risks for people with disabilities, Maryland Initiative for Digital Accessibility	2024
\$60,000 Designing AI-powered DIY Communication Tools with AAC users, Google (Co-PI)	2024
\$6,500 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan - International Institute	2021
\$20,000 U-M Poverty Solutions Faculty Grant, University of Michigan (Grant Writer)	2020

\$8,500	Shared Mobility Systems for Underserved Groups – REU Supp, <i>NSF (Grant Writer)</i>	2020
\$3,500	U-M Ginsberg Center Faculty Engagement Grant, <i>University of Michigan (Grant Writer)</i>	2020
\$1,500	Rackham Pre-Candidate Research Grant, <i>University of Michigan</i>	2019
\$1,000	Rackham Travel Grant, <i>University of Michigan</i>	2017 - 2020

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

J7. Alicia K Williamson, Marcy G Antonio, Sage Davis, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Tawanna R Dillahun, Lorraine R Buis, Tiffany C Veinot. 2024. Human technology intermediation to reduce cognitive load: understanding healthcare staff members' practices to facilitate telehealth access in a Federally Qualified Health Center patient population. In *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*. Volume 31, Issue 4, April 2024, Pages 832–845.

J6. Marcy Antonio, Alicia Williamson, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Ashley Beals, Elizabeth Ankrah, Shannon Goulet, Ivy Wang, Grecia Macias, Jade James-Gist, Lindsay K Brown, Sage Davis, Srijanani (Jan) Pillai, Lorraine Buis, Tawanna Dillahun, Tiffany C Veinot. 2023. Targeting Patients' Cognitive Load for Telehealth Video Visits Through Student-Delivered Helping Sessions at a United States Federally Qualified Health Center: Equity-Focused, Mixed Methods Pilot Intervention Study. In *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. J Med Internet Res 2023;25:e42586.

J5. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Vidhya Yellareddy, and Megh Marathe. 2023. Advocacy as Access Work: How People with Visual Impairments Gain Access to Digital Banking in India. In *Proceedings of ACM Human-Computer Interaction*. Interact. 7, CSCW1, Article 120 (April 2023), 23 pages.

J4. Maulishree Pandey, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Hrishikesh V. Rao, Sile O'Modhrain, and Steve Oney. 2021. Understanding Accessibility and Collaboration in Programming for People with Visual Impairments. In *Proceedings of ACM Human-Computer Interaction*. Interact. 5, CSCW1, Article 129 (April 2021), 30 pages. **Diversity and Inclusion Award**

J3. **Vaishnav Kameswaran** and Srihari Hulikal Muralidhar. 2019. Cash, Digital Payments and Accessibility: A Case Study from Metropolitan India. In *Proceedings of ACM Human-Computer Interaction*. Vol. 3, CSCW, Article 97 (November 2019), 23 pages.

J2. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Jatin Gupta, Joyojeet Pal, Sile O'Modhrain, Tiffany C. Veinot, Robin Brewer, Aakanksha Parameshwar, Vidhya Y, and Jacki O'Neill. 2018. 'We can go anywhere': Understanding Independence through a Case Study of Ride-hailing Use by People with Visual Impairments in metropolitan India. In *Proceedings of ACM Human-Computer Interaction*. Vol. 2, CSCW, Article 85 (November 2018), 24 pages. **Best Paper Award**

J1. Joyojeet Pal, Priyank Chandra, Padma Chirumamilla, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Andre Gonawela, Udit Thawani, Pritika Dasgupta. 2017. Mediatized Populism: Innuendo as Outreach: @narendramodi and the Use of Political Irony on Twitter. In *International Journal of Communication*. October 2017, 22 pages.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

C15. Lining Wang, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Hernisa Kacorri. 2025. Toward A Taxonomy of Algorithmic Harms for Disability: A Systematic Review. In *Proceedings of the 8th AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics and Society (AIES '25)*. Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence/Association for Computing Machinery, Madrid, Spain.

C14. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Jerry Robinson, Nithya Sambasivan, Gaurav Aggarwal, Meredith Ringel Morris. 2024. Help and the Social Construction of Access. In *Proceedings of the 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '24)*. Association for Computing Machinery, St.John's, NL, Canada.

C13. Divya Ramesh, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Ding Wang, Nithya Sambasivan. 2022. How platform-user power relations shape algorithmic accountability: A case study of instant loan platforms and financially stressed users in India. In *Proceedings of the 2022 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '22)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA.

C12. Tawanna R Dillahunt, Erica Poon, Samantha E Rasmussen, Juan F Maestre, John Osorio Torres, Patrick C Shih, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Mia Gallardo, Alice Bagley, Samuel LA Young. 2022. Trust, Reciprocity, and the Role of Timebanks as Intermediaries: Design Implications for Addressing Healthcare Transportation Barriers. In *Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA.

C11. Juan F. Maestre, Tawanna Dillahunt, Alec Andrew Theisz, Megan Furness, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Tiffany Veinot, and Patrick C. Shih. 2021. Examining Mobility Among People Living with HIV in Rural Areas. In *Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 201, 1–17.

C10. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Alexander Fiannaca, Melanie Kniesel, Amy Karlson, Ed Cutrell, Meredith Ringel Morris. 2020. Understanding In-Situ Use of Commonly Available Navigation Technologies by People with Visual Impairments. In *Proceedings of the 22nd International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '20)*. Association for Computing Machinery, NY, USA.

C9. Robin N. Brewer and **Vaishnav Kameswaran**. 2019. Understanding Trust, Transportation, and Accessibility through Ridesharing. In *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '19)*. Association for Computing Machinery, NY, USA, Paper 195, 1–11.

C8. Robin N. Brewer and **Vaishnav Kameswaran**. 2018. Understanding the Power of Control in Autonomous Vehicles for People with Vision Impairment. In *Proceedings of the 20th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '18)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 185–197.

C7. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Lindsey Cameron, and Tawanna R. Dillahunt. 2018. Support for Social and Cultural Capital Development in Real-time Ridesharing Services. In *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Paper 342, 1–12.

C6. Tawanna R. Dillahun, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Desiree McLain, Minnie Lester, Delores Orr, and Kentaro Toyama. 2018. Entrepreneurship and the Socio-Technical Chasm in a Lean Economy. In *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Paper 240, 1–14. **Best Paper Honorable Mention Award**

C5. Joyojeet Pal, Priyank Chandra, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Aakanksha Parameshwar, Sneha Joshi, and Aditya Johri. 2018. Digital Payment and Its Discontents: Street Shops and the Indian Government's Push for Cashless Transactions. In *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Paper 229, 1–13.

C4. Joyojeet Pal, Anjuli Dasika, Ahmad Hasan, Jackie Wolf, Nick Reid, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Purva Yardi, Allyson Mackay, Abram Wagner, Bhramar Mukherjee, Sucheta Joshi, Sujay Santra, and Priyamvada Pandey. 2017. Changing data practices for community health workers: Introducing digital data collection in West Bengal, India. In *Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD '17)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 17, 1–12.

C3. Joyojeet Pal, Anandhi Viswanathan, Priyank Chandra, Anisha Nazareth, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Hariharan Subramonyam, Aditya Johri, Mark S. Ackerman, and Sile O'Modhrain. 2017. Agency in Assistive Technology Adoption: Visual Impairment and Smartphone Use in Bangalore. In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 5929–5940.

C2. Tawanna R. Dillahun, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Linfeng Li, and Tanya Rosenblat. 2017. Uncovering the Values and Constraints of Real-time Ridesharing for Low-resource Populations. In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 2757–2769.

C1. Jasmine Hentschel, Samyukta Manjappa Sherugar, Rui Zhou, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Rajesh Chandwani, and Neha Kumar. 2017. Rice Today, Roti Tomorrow: Diets and Diabetes in Urban Indian Households. In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 4069–4081.

NON-REFEREED ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, etc.

B3. Cella M Sum, Franchesca Spektor, Rahaf Alharbi, Leya Breanna Baltaxe-Admony, Erika Devine, Hazel Anneke Dixon, Jared Duval, Tessa Eagle, Frank Elavsky, Kim Fernandes, Leandro S Guedes, Serena Hillman, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Lynn Kirabo, Tamanna Motahar, Kathryn E Ringland, Anastasia Schaadhardt, Laura Scheepmaker, Alicia Williamson. 2024. Challenging Ableism: A Critical Turn Toward Disability Justice in HCI. In *XRDS: Crossroads, The ACM Magazine for Students*.

B2. Maulishree Pandey, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Hrishikesh V. Rao, Sharvari Bondre, Sile O'Modhrain, and Steve Oney. 2023. UI Development Experiences of Programmers with Visual Impairments in Product Teams. In *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Software Engineering*. Apress 2024.

B1. **Kameswaran V.** and Pal J. 2020. Ride-hailing as Accessible Transit. In *Disability and the Developing World*. Oxford University Press 2021.

PEER-REVIEWED SHORT PAPERS

S3. Tamanna Motahar, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, et al. 2025. Accessibility Research Across Borders: Collaboration and Community Building in Accessibility and ICTD Research. In *Proceedings of the 27th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '25)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA.

S2. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Shannon Fearday, Abir Viqar, Michelle Meade, Allyson Mackay, Pari Rajavelu, Vetri Natan, and Joyojeet Pal. 2016. Institutional Structures and Culture in Healthcare: A Comparative Case on Health Learning. In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD '16)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 45, 1–4.

S1. Megh Marathe, Priyank Chandra, **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Tsuyoshi Kano, and Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed. 2016. In search of missing pieces: A re-examination of trends in ICTD research. In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD '16)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 60, 1–4.

LIGHTLY PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PAPERS

W6. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Jerry Young, Nithya Sambasivan, Gaurav Aggarwal, Meredith Ringel Morris. AI for Accessibility: An Agenda for the Global South. 2023. In *ASSETS 2023 Workshop on A11y Futures*, New York City, NY.

W5. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Maulishree Pandey, Joshua Guberman, Hrishikesh Rao, Sile O'Modhrain. Experiences of mobility in the Global South: Lessons from People with Visual Impairments in India. 2019. In *CHI 2019 Workshop on Hacking Blind Navigation*, Glasgow, Scotland.

W4. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Megh Marathe, Priyank Chandra. 2018. Redefining the Landmark – Designing Navigation Tools for the Visually Impaired. In *CHI 2018 Workshop on HCI across Borders*, Montreal, Canada.

W3. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Megh Marathe, Priyank Chandra, Priyamvada Pandey, Joyojeet Pal. 2017. Usability in the field: Reflections from an HCI4D project in rural West Bengal. In *CHI 2017 Workshop on HCI across Borders*, Denver, CO.

W2. **Vaishnav Kameswaran** and Rohan Malpani. 2016. Empower me – An Alternate Take on Pervasiveness. In *CHI 2016 Workshop on Pervasive Play*, San Jose, CA.

W1. **Vaishnav Kameswaran**, Megh Marathe, Joyojeet Pal, Tawanna Dillahunt, Katherina Reinecke, Kentaro Toyama. 2016. Project Boost: Addressing the Socio in a Socio-Technical System to Improve Income-Earning opportunities in Detroit. In *CHI 2016 Workshop on HCI across Borders*, San Jose, CA.

Invited Talks

Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>Seminar Series, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), UAE</i>	Apr 2025
Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>Seminar Series, University of Maine</i>	Apr 2025
On AI, Employment & People with Disabilities <i>Department of Rehabilitation Services, State of Maryland</i>	Mar 2025
Bridging the AI Divide: Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>Seminar Series, Florida International University</i>	Nov 2024
Inclusive Design & Innovation <i>Technology & the Developing World, Michigan State University</i>	Sep 2024
AI & People with Disabilities <i>THAT Lab Seminar, University of Maryland – College Park</i>	Aug 2024
Community-Centered Approaches to AI Design <i>VCAI & TRAILS Spring Tutorials, University of Maryland – College Park</i>	Apr 2024
UX, Accessibility and the Majority World <i>INF2201H: ICTs, Design, and Marginality, University of Toronto</i>	Mar 2024
On the Potential of AI for People with Disabilities <i>VCAI Research Seminar, University of Maryland – College Park</i>	Mar 2024
AI & People with Disabilities <i>Research Seminar, University of Maryland – Baltimore County</i>	Mar 2024
Bridging the AI Divide: Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>INFO Science Seminar Series, University of Colorado - Boulder</i>	Mar 2024
Participatory AI <i>CMSC 116: Generative AI, You and I, University of Maryland – College Park</i>	Feb 2024
Programming & Human-Computer Interaction <i>Research Seminar, Carleton College</i>	Mar 2023
HCI and Accessibility <i>SI 710 - Methods for Underserved Populations, University of Michigan</i>	Feb 2020
“We can go anywhere”: Ride-hailing for People with Visual Impairments in India <i>Global South Asia Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan</i>	Jun 2019

Uber Accessibility: Examining Ride-hailing Use by People with Visual Impairments in India Jul 2018
Uber Technologies Inc

Research Experience

Research Intern Jun 2021 – Aug 2021
Google Research & Google Lookout, Mountain View, CA
Hosts: Gaurav Aggarwal & Nithya Sambasivan

Research Intern Jun 2019 – Sep 2019
Enable Group, Microsoft Research, Redmond, Seattle
Hosts: Alex Fiannaca, Melanie Kniesel, Meredith Ringel Morris & Ed Cutrell

Visiting Researcher Jun 2017 – Aug 2017
Technology for Emerging Markets Group, Microsoft Research India, Bangalore, India
Host: Jacki O'Neill

Visiting Researcher Jun 2016 – Aug 2016
Technology for Emerging Markets Group, Microsoft Research India, Bangalore, India
Host: Bill Theis

Research Assistant May 2015 – June 2017
University of Michigan – School of Information, Ann Arbor, MI
Advisors: Joyojeet Pal, Tawanna Dillahunt, Kentaro Toyoma

Professional Experience

User Experience Design Intern Sep 2014 – Dec 2014
Court Innovations, Ann Arbor, Michigan

User Experience Research Intern May 2014 – Aug 2014
Quicken Loans, Detroit, Michigan

Software Developer Sep 2010 – Aug 2013
Aditi Technologies, Bengaluru, India

Teaching

Affiliate Instructor on Record (IOR), INST704 – Inclusive Design in HCI Fall 2024
University of Maryland

Graduate Student Instructor, SI 582 - Fundamentals of Interaction Design Fall 2022
University of Michigan

Graduate Student Instructor, SI 422 - Needs Assessment and Usability Fall 2019
University of Michigan

Graduate Student Instructor, **SI 682 - Advanced User Research Methods**
University of Michigan

Winter 2019

Graduate Student Instructor, **SI 582 - Fundamentals of Interaction Design**
University of Michigan

Fall 2018

Service

Associate Chair, FAccT	2025
Program Committee, ASSETS	2024 - 2025
Program Committee, ICTD	2024
Associate Chair, FAccT	2024
Associate Chair, CHI	2023 - 2026
Reviewer, CHI	2018 - 2026
Reviewer, CSCW	2018 - 2023
Area Chair, CHI Late Breaking Work	2018 - 2020
Student Representative, UMSI Doctoral Executive Committee	2019 - 2020

Mentoring

Aakanksha Parameshwar, Master's Student University of Michigan (<i>First Position: UX Researcher, Google</i>)	2017 - 2018
Josue Figueroa, Master's Student University of Michigan (<i>First Position: UX Researcher, Blink</i>)	2020 - 2022
Erica Poon, Undergraduate Student University of Michigan (<i>Current: Master's Student, University of Michigan</i>)	2020 - 2022
Kartik Joshi, Undergraduate Student Vellore Institute of Technology (<i>Current: Master's Student, IIIT - Bangalore</i>)	2020 - Present
Valentia Hong, Undergraduate Student University of Maryland, College Park	2024 - Present
Jazmin Maria Clark, Undergraduate Student Georgetown University	2024 - Present
Aryan Thakker, Undergraduate Student University of Maryland, College Park	2024 - Present
Macfayden Nichols, Undergraduate Student Brown University	2024 - Present
David Onafuwa, Undergraduate Student University of Maryland, College Park	2024 - Present

News & Other Coverage

<u>Accessible AI Requires Involving and Collaborating with People with Disabilities</u> Everywhere Learner	2025
<u>Bridging code and conscience: UMD's quest for ethical and inclusive AI</u> AI News	2024
<u>Risky teleoperation, Rocket League simulation and zoologist multiplication</u> TechCrunch Perceptron	2022
<u>'We can go anywhere'</u> Transportation Research Board	2022
<u>Accessibility for Passengers with Sensory and Cognitive Disabilities</u> U.S. Access Board	2021
<u>Modi's sarcasm and humour behind his Twitter popularity</u> Business Standard India	2019
<u>Narendra Modi used political humour, sarcasm to refashion his political style</u> Times of India, Economic Times India, Live Mint India	2017
<u>University of Michigan students unveil projects aimed at helping city of Jackson</u> Ricky Olmos, MLive	2014