

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

2013 - 2015

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

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science

2006 - 2010

Visveswaraya Technological University, Bangalore, India

Awards and Funding

AWARDS

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, NSF (Grant Writer) 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

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. Dillahunt, **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. Dillahunt, **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

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</i> , Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), UAE	Apr 2025
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Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>Seminar Series</i> , University of Maine	Apr 2025
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On AI, Employment & People with Disabilities <i>Department of Rehabilitation Services</i> , State of Maryland	Mar 2025
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Bridging the AI Divide: Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities <i>Seminar Series</i> , Florida International University	Nov 2024
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Inclusive Design & Innovation Technology & the Developing World, Michigan State University	Sep 2024
AI & People with Disabilities THAT Lab Seminar, University of Maryland – College Park	Aug 2024
Community-Centered Approaches to AI Design VCAI & TRAILS Spring Tutorials, University of Maryland – College Park	Apr 2024
UX, Accessibility and the Majority World INF2201H: ICTs, Design, and Marginality, University of Toronto	Mar 2024
On the Potential of AI for People with Disabilities VCAI Research Seminar, University of Maryland – College Park	Mar 2024
AI & People with Disabilities Research Seminar, University of Maryland – Baltimore County	Mar 2024
Bridging the AI Divide: Towards Equitable Technology Futures for People with Disabilities INFO Science Seminar Series, University of Colorado - Boulder	Mar 2024
Participatory AI CMSC 116: Generative AI, You and I, University of Maryland – College Park	Feb 2024
Programming & Human-Computer Interaction Research Seminar, Carleton College	Mar 2023
HCI and Accessibility SI 710 - Methods for Underserved Populations, University of Michigan	Feb 2020
“We can go anywhere”: Ride-hailing for People with Visual Impairments in India Global South Asia Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan	Jun 2019
Uber Accessibility: Examining Ride-hailing Use by People with Visual Impairments in India Uber Technologies Inc	Jul 2018

Research Experience

Research Intern Google Research & Google Lookout, Mountain View, CA Hosts: Gaurav Aggarwal & Nithya Sambasivan	Jun 2021 – Aug 2021
Research Intern Enable Group, Microsoft Research, Redmond, Seattle Hosts: Alex Fiannaca, Melanie Kniessel, Meredith Ringel Morris & Ed Cutrell	Jun 2019 – Sep 2019

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

Winter 2019

University of Michigan

Graduate Student Instructor, SI 582 - Fundamentals of Interaction Design

Fall 2018

University of Michigan

Service

Program Committee, ASSETS

2025

Associate Chair, FAccT

2025

Program Committee, ASSETS

2024

Program Committee, ICTD

2024

Associate Chair, FAccT	2024
Associate Chair, CHI	2023 - 2025
Reviewer, CHI	2018 - 2025
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

Accessible AI Requires Involving and Collaborating with People with Disabilities Everywhere Learner	2025
Bridging code and conscience: UMD's quest for ethical and inclusive AI AI News	2024
Risky teleoperation, Rocket League simulation and zoologist multiplication TechCrunch Perceptron	2022

<u>'We can go anywhere'</u>	2022
Transportation Research Board	
<u>Accessibility for Passengers with Sensory and Cognitive Disabilities</u>	2021
U.S. Access Board	
<u>Modi's sarcasm and humour behind his Twitter popularity</u>	2019
Business Standard India	
<u>Narendra Modi used political humour, sarcasm to refashion his political style</u>	2017
Times of India, Economic Times India, Live Mint India	
<u>University of Michigan students unveil projects aimed at helping city of Jackson</u>	2014
Ricky Olmos, MLive	