

Rama Adithya Varanasi, Ph.D.

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Summary

I am a mixed-methods HCI researcher passionate about improving people's work lives. I study, design, and develop technologies that empower workers and enhance their livelihoods. My interdisciplinary research draws inspiration from computer science, organizational studies, and sociology scholarship.

Key Research Areas: Computer Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW) • Sociology of Work • Future of Work.

Appointments

- 2024 – **Adjunct Faculty & Postdoctoral Candidate**, New York University.
- 2022 – 2023 **Research Intern**, Google Inc., Responsible AI.
- 2021 – 2021 **Research Intern**, Microsoft Research, Technology In Emerging Markets.
- 2020 – 2020 **Research Intern**, Microsoft Research, Technology In Emerging Markets.
- 2013 – 2015 **UX Designer**, Standard & Poor's Global.
- 2012 – 2013 **UX Intern**, McGrawHill Financial.

Education


- 2017 – 2023 **Ph.D., Information Science**, Cornell University.
Advisor(s): *Dr. Nicola Dell & Dr. Aditya Vashistha.*
- 2015 – 2017 **M.S., Information Science & Technology**, Pennsylvania State University.
Advisor(s): *Dr. Jack Carroll.*
- 2009 – 2013 **B.Tech., Computer Science, Unseen**, S.R.M. University.

Awards

- 2024 Postdoctoral Professionalization Scholarship, *New York University.*
- 2023 DLI fellowship, *Cornell University.*
- 2022 Honorable mention award, *CHI'22.*
- 2021 Outstanding service award, *Cornell University.*
- 2020 Dissertation research award, *QuIRI Institute.*
- 2018 Engaged doctoral fellowship, *Cornell University.*
- 2017 International research travel award, *Einuadi Center for International Studies.*
- 2016 Student research award, *Bloomberg Inc.*
- 2015 ACE award for outstanding performance and innovation, *Standard & Poor's.*
- 2014 Changemaker of the year award (Education), *Standard & Poor's.*

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- CHI 2025 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Batia Wiesenfeld, and Oded Nov. Ai rivalry as a craft: How resisting and embracing generative ai are reshaping the writing profession. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 2025
- LCS 2025 Matthew Law and **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**. Generative ai & changing work: Systematic review of practitioner-led work transformations through the lens of job crafting. In *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 2025
- CHI 2024 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Nicola Dell, and Aditya Vashistha. Saharaline: A collective social support intervention for teachers in low-income indian schools. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pages 1–20, 2024
- CHI 2024 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Nicola Dell, and Aditya Vashistha. Saharaline: A collective social support intervention for teachers in low-income indian schools. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pages 1–20, 2024
- COMPASS 2023 Akanksha Y Gavade, Annie Sidotam, and **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**. Pandemic, hybrid teaching & stress: Examining indian teachers' sociotechnical support practices in low-income schools. In *Proceedings of the 6th ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies*, pages 64–75, 2023
- CHI 2023 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya** and Nitesh Goyal. “it is currently hodgepodge”: Examining ai/ml practitioners' challenges during co-production of responsible ai values. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI conference on human factors in computing systems*, pages 1–17, 2023
- CHI 2022 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Joyojeet Pal, and Aditya Vashistha. Accost, accede, or amplify: attitudes towards covid-19 misinformation on whatsapp in india. In *Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pages 1–17, 2022a
-  CHI 2022 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Divya Siddarth, Vivek Seshadri, Kalika Bali, and Aditya Vashistha. Feeling proud, feeling embarrassed: Experiences of low-income women with crowd work. In *Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pages 1–18, 2022b
- CSCW 2021 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Aditya Vashistha, Rene F Kizilcec, and Nicola Dell. Investigating technostress among teachers in low-income indian schools. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5(CSCW2):1–29, 2021b
- COMPASS 2021 Pranjal Jain*, **Varanasi, Rama Adithya***, and Nicola Dell. “who is protecting us? no one!” vulnerabilities experienced by low-income indian merchants using digital payments. In *Proceedings of the 4th ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies*, pages 261–274, 2021
- CHI 2021 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Aditya Vashistha, and Nicola Dell. Tag a teacher: A qualitative analysis of whatsapp-based teacher networks in low-income indian schools. In *Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, CHI '21, 2021a
- ICTD 2020 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Aditya Vashistha, Tapan Parikh, and Nicola Dell. Challenges and issues integrating smartphones into teacher support programs in india. In *Proceedings of the 2020*

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development, ICTD '20, 2020

- CSCW 2019 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, René F. Kizilcec, and Nicola Dell. How teachers in india reconfigure their work practices around a teacher-oriented technology intervention. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.*, (CSCW), 2019
- ICHI 2018 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Elaine Diccio, and Andrew Gambino. Facebook reactions: Impact of introducing new features of sns on social capital. In *HCI International 2018*. Springer International Publishing, 2018
- SM&S 2017 **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Benjamin V. Hanrahan, Shahtab Wahid, and John M. Carroll. Tweet-sight: Enhancing financial analysts' social media use. #SMSociety17, 2017

Workshop

- COMPASS 2023 Hafeni Mthoko, Joy Ming, and **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**. Empowering future scholars: Coaching workshop for junior researchers. In *Proceedings of the 6th ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies*, pages 149–151, 2023
- CHI 2022 Vikram Kamath Cannanure, Naveena Karusala, Cuauhtémoc Rivera-Loaiza, Annu Sible Prabhakar, **Varanasi, Rama Adithya**, Anupriya Tuli, Dilrukshi Gamage, Faria Noor, David Nemer, Dipto Das, et al. Hci across borders: Navigating shifting borders at chi. In *CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstracts*, pages 1–5, 2022

Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2024 Visiting lecture, *Digital Health Research Workgroup, NYU Langone*.
- 2023 Invited talk, *Digital Life Initiative, Cornell Tech*.
- 2023 Invited talk, *Department of Informatics, New Jersey Institute of Technology*.
- 2022 Internship lecture, *Google*.
- 2022 Invited talk, *Teach for India, Meghshala*.
- 2021 Internship lecture, *Microsoft Research*.
- 2021 Visiting lecture, *State Government of India*.
- 2020 Guest lecture, *SRM University*.

Funding

- 2024 Research and Development Grant, *NYU Tandon (\$2,500)*
- 2024 Presidential Grant (Future of Work), *Russell Sage Foundation (\$75,000, rejected)*.
- 2024 Responsible Design, Development, and Deployment of Technologies (ReDDDoT) Planning Grant, *National Science Foundation (\$300,000, rejected)*.

- 2023 DLI fellowship, *Cornell University* (**\$5,000**).
- 2020 Dissertation grant, *QuIRI Institute*. (**\$2,000**).
- 2018 Engaged Doctoral fellowship, *Cornell University*. (**\$15,000**).
- 2017 International research travel grant, *Einuadi Center for International Studies*. (**\$1,000**).
- 2016 Graduate research grant (w/ Dr. Benjamin V. Hanrahan), *Bloomberg Inc.* (**\$42,000**).

Teaching

- Sep-Dec'24 Instructor. Data Visualization for Business Intelligence. *New York University*
- Apr'24 Guest lecture. Transnational Technology. *New York University*.
- Mar'24 Guest lecture. INFO4505. *Cornell University*.
- Jul'21 Guest lecture. IS4940. *Cornell University*.
- Jan'18-Dec'18 Instructor. Graduate-level startup studio projects. *Cornell University*
- Jan'16-Aug'16 Instructor. Web development workshop. *Penn State University*
- Jan'13-Jan'14 Teacher. Math & Science for low-income govt. *Teach for India*

Service

- 2025 Committee Member. *New York University Postdoc Council*.
- 2025 Area Chair. *A.C.M. CHI'25*.
- 2025 Registration Chair. *A.C.M. GROUP'25*.
- 2024 Program Chair. *A.C.M. COMPASS'24*.
- 2023 Reviewer *A.C.M. CHI'24* (**Outstanding review**).
- 2024 Registration Chair. *A.C.M. Group'24*.
- 2023 Program Chair. *A.C.M. CHIWork*.
- 2023 Reviewer *A.C.M. CHI'23* (**Outstanding review**).
- 2022 Co-organizer. *A.C.M. HCI Across Borders workshop, CHI'22*.
- 2021 Reviewer. *A.C.M. CHI'22*. (**Outstanding review**).
- 2020 Assistant SC. *A.C.M. CHI'21*.
- 2020 PC. Late Breaking Work track, *A.C.M. CHI'21*.
- 2020 Co-president. *Information Science, Cornell University*.
- 2019 Co-chair. *A.C.M. IndiaHCI'19*.
- 2019 Co-organizer. *HCI across borders workshop, CHI'19*.

Mentoring

- 2024 Vidhi Doshi (*later UX Researcher in Jio Tesseract*)
- 2022 Akanksha Gavade (*later B.S. in CS, Lehigh University*)
- 2021 Alymer Britto (*later M.S. in CS, CMU*)
- 2021 Annie Sidotam (*later M.A. Educational Planning, UCL*)
- 2020 Pranjal Jain (*later Ph.D in Computational Science, Swansea University*)
- 2020 Nitya Agarwala (*later B.S. in CS, Dartmouth College*)