

Padma Chirumamilla

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Research Interests

Materiality, Media Infrastructures, Global and Transnational Media, Science and Technology Studies

Education

Ph.D, Information Studies

expected May 2019

University of Michigan School of Information, Ann Arbor, MI

Dissertation: "Producing TV(s): The Multitudinous Life of Television in South India"

Co-Chairs: Paul N. Edwards (Information and History), Aswin Punathambekar (Communication Studies)

Committee: Silvia Lindtner (Information), Matthew Hull (Anthropology), Daniel Herbert (Screen Arts and Cultures)

M.A, South and Southeast Asian Studies

May 2012

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Thesis: "‘Fishing Nets are for Stretching, Love is for the Internet’: Technology, Life and Film in Andhra Pradesh." (Full text available [here.](#))

Supervisor: Lawrence Cohen

Committee: Abigail de Kosnik, George Hart

A.B, English Language and Literature

June 2009

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Departmental and General Honors

Publications

2018 "Book Review: Sahana Udupa, 'Making News in Global India: Media, Publics, Politics.'"

International Journal of Communication.

Permalink: <http://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/9576/2361>

2018 "Remaking the Set: Innovation and Obsolescence in Television's Digital Future."

Media, Culture and Society.

2017 Pal, Joyojeet, Chandra, Priyank, Chirumamilla, Padma, Kameswaran, Vaishnav, Gonawela, Andre, Thawani, Udit, and Dasgupta, Pritika. "Innuendo as Outreach: @narendramodi and the Use of Political Irony on Twitter."

International Journal of Communication.

Permalink: <http://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/6705/2163>

- 2016** “Looking back at the land: Discourses of agrarian morality in Telugu popular cinema and information technology labor.”
Communication, Culture and Critique. DOI: [10.1111/cccr.12144](https://doi.org/10.1111/cccr.12144)
- 2013** Chirumamilla, Padma, and Pal, Joyojeet. “Play and power: a ludic design proposal for ICTD.”
Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development. DOI: [10.1145/2516604.2516628](https://doi.org/10.1145/2516604.2516628).

Under preparation

- 2018** Nemer, David and Chirumamilla, Padma. “Living in the broken city: infrastructural inequity, uncertainty, and the materiality of the digital in Brazil.”
In *digitalSTS: A Handbook and Fieldguide*, eds. Janet A. Vertesi and David Ribes, forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

Organized Conference Panels

- 2018** “The Everyday Poetics of Digital Media: Perspectives from South Asia.”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Presentations and Workshop Papers

- 2018** “The Cinematic Roots of Cable Television in South India.”
47th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI.
- 2017** “‘By the grace of Ramoji Rao, my job survived’: television stories from Andhra Pradesh.” 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI.
- 2017** “Maintaining the Medium: Notes from the Television Repair Shops of Andhra Pradesh.” Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Boston, MA.
- 2017** “The Cinematic Roots of the South Indian Cable Industry.”
Annual Conference of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Cartagena, Colombia.
- 2015** “The disjointed digital: notes from a South Indian cinema hall.”
Invited presentation at the “Materiality of Cultures: Methods and Practices” workshop, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, India.
- 2014** “The limits of ‘practicality’: repair knowledges and media transformations in South India.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 2014** “Living in the broken city: favelas, infrastructural inequity, and the materiality of the digital.” With David Nemer. 4S Annual Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2014** “The unused and the unusable.” Paper presented the “Refusing, Limiting,

Departing” workshop at the Conference on Human Factors in Computing (CHI), Toronto, Canada.

- 2013** “Looking back at the land: technology, work, and morality in South Indian popular cinema.” International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference, London, England. ***Top Paper in the Popular Communication division.***
- 2013** “Trash, sly civility, and the making of world-class Delhi.” Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA

Grants and Fellowships

- 2018-19** David and Mary Hunting Graduate Fellow, Institute for the Humanities
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- FY 2015** Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Award
U.S. Department of Education
- 2016** Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
- 2013** International Institute Individual Fellowship
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2010-12** Academic-Year Foreign Languages/Area Studies (FLAS) Award (Hindi)
University of California, Berkeley
- 2011** Graduate Division Summer Grant
University of California, Berkeley
- 2008** Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (Tamil)
University of Chicago
- 2005-09** Dean’s List
University of Chicago
- 2008-09** Odyssey Scholar
University of Chicago

Academic Employment

University of Michigan

- 2017-18** *Graduate Student Instructor, SI 110: Introduction to Information*
200+ student undergraduate-level introductory survey course to information studies. Responsible for conducting and leading two

discussion sections of 25+ students. Fall 2017: Head GSI responsible for coordination of 8-person teaching team.

- Winter 2015** Graduate Student Instructor, *SI 501: Contextual Inquiry*
Masters' level course (30 students) focused on learning principles of qualitative user research through semester-long projects with local businesses and community organizations.
- Fall 2014** Graduate Student Instructor, *SI 588: Fundamentals of Human Behavior*
Masters' level course (25 students) on principles of cognitive psychology with a focus on information systems and user experience research. Primarily responsible for grading projects and fielding student questions about exams.
- 2013-14** Graduate Student Instructor, *SI 110: Introduction to Information*

University of California, Berkeley

- Fall 2011** Graduate Student Instructor, *SA R5A: Great Books of India*
Required introductory writing course (17 students) for undergraduates that used premodern South Asian texts in English translation to teach principles of academic writing and analysis.

Research Assistantships

- Fall 2017** Research Assistant to Professor Christian Sandvig and Assistant Professor Casey Pierce on National Science Foundation-funded workshop, "Auditing Algorithms."
- Winter 2014** Research Assistant to Associate Professor Aswin Punathambekar on Social Science Research Council-funded project studying digitally-mediated activism in the Middle East/North Africa, China and South Asia

Service Activities

- 2017-18** Science, Technology and Society (STS) Reading Group
Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop Coordinator
- 2013-14** Doctoral Executive Committee (DEC) Member, School of Information

Non-Academic Employment

- 2006-10** Cataloging Assistant, Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, IL.
Assisted serials librarian in building print archive for select JSTOR titles, as well as cataloging South Asian print serials in Telugu and Tamil.

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Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)

International Communication Association (ICA)

[Global Media Studies Initiative](#), University of Michigan

Languages

Telugu (advanced/heritage speaker)

Hindi (low intermediate)

Tamil (basic)

References

Aswin Punathambekar

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Associate Professor

Department of Communication Studies

University of Michigan

Paul N. Edwards

pedwards@stanford.edu

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William J. Perry Fellow in International Security,
Center for International Security and Cooperation,
Stanford University

Professor of Information and History

University of Michigan

Joyojeet Pal

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Associate Professor (w/effect from Fall 2018)

School of Information

University of Michigan