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 Legitimate
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IRC19

#List

Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2019
 Lamakaan, Hyderabad

Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC) is an annual conference series conceptualised and initiated by the researchers@work programme of the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), India. This fourth edition of the conference series (IRC19) invited sessions and papers that engage critically with the form, imagination, and politics of the **list** - to present or propose academic, applied, or creative works that explore its social, economic, cultural, material, political, affective, or aesthetic dimensions.

The conference is hosted by **Lamakaan**, the open cultural center, in Hyderabad. It will be held from Wednesday, January 30 to Friday, February 1, 2019.

The conference poster is designed by Saumyaa Naidu, and the conference is organised by Puthiya Purayil Sneha and Sumandro Chattapadhyay. All of them work at the CIS.

Venue Address: Off Road 1, near GVK Mall, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034

Internet Researchers' Conference 2019 - #List: <https://cis-india.org/raw/irc19-list>

Internet Researchers' Conference: <https://cis-india.org/raw/irc>

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Internet Researchers' Conference

The last decades have seen a growing entanglement of our daily lives with the internet, not only as modes of communication but also as shared socio-politico-cultural spaces, and as objects of study. The emergence of new artifacts, conditions, and sites of power/knowledge with the prevalence of digital modes of communication, consumption, production, distribution, and appropriation have expectedly attracted academic and non-academic explorers across disciplines, professions, and interests.

Researchers and practitioners across the domains of arts, humanities, and social sciences have attempted to understand life on the internet, or life after the internet, and the way digital technologies mediate various aspects of our being today. These attempts have in turn raised new questions around understanding of digital objects, online lives, and virtual networks, and have contributed to complicating disciplinary assumptions, methods, conceptualisations, and boundaries.

The researchers@work programme at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) takes this opportunity to initiate an annual conference series titled 'Internet Researchers' Conference,' or IRC. The abbreviation is of course a reference to an early protocol for text-based communication over internet, and a net culture of anonymous and explorative peer-to-peer communication taking place through IRC chat rooms.

This conference series is driven by the following interests:

- creating temporary autonomous discussion spaces for researchers studying internet in India and in other comparable regions,
- foregrounding the multiplicities, inequalities, hierarchies, tensions, and urgencies of the digital sites and users in India,
- accounting for the various layers, conceptual and material, of experiences and usages of internet and networked digital media in India, and
- exploring and practicing new modes of research and documentation necessitated by new (digital) forms of objects of power/knowledge.

IRC19: #List

For the last several years, #MeToo and #LoSHA have set the course for rousing debates within feminist praxis and contemporary global politics. It also foregrounded the ubiquitous presence of the *list* in its various forms, not only on the internet but across diverse aspects of media culture. Much debate has emerged about specificities and implications of the *list* as an information artifact, especially in the case of #LoSHA and NRC - its role in creation and curation of information, in building solidarities and communities of practice, its dependencies on networked media infrastructures, its deployment by hegemonic entities and in turn for countering dominant discourses. Directed by the Supreme Court, the Government of India has initiated the National Register of Citizens process of creating an updated *list* of all Indian citizens in the state of Assam since 2015. This is a *list* that sets apart legal citizens from illegal immigrants, based on an extended and multi-phase process of announcement of draft *lists* and their revisions. NRC is producing a *list* with a specific question: who is a citizen and who is not? UIDAI has produced a *list* of unique identification number assigned to individuals: a *list* to connect/aggregate other *lists*, a *meta-list*.

From Mailing Lists to WhatsApp Broadcast Lists, *lists* have been the very basis of multi-casting capabilities of the early and the recent internets. The *list* - in terms of *list* of people receiving a message, *list* of machines connecting to a router or a tower, *list* of 'friends' and 'followers' 'added' to your social media persona - structures the open-ended multi-directional information flow possibilities of the internet. It simultaneously engenders networks of connected machines and bodies, topographies of media circulation, and social graphs of affective connections and consumptions. The epistemological, constitutive, and inscriptive functions of the *list*, as Liam Young documents,¹ have been crucial to the creation of new infrastructures of knowledge, and to understand where the internet emerges as a challenge to these.

As a media format that is easy to create, circulate, and access (as seen in the number of rescue and relief lists that flood the web during national disasters) or one that is essential in classification and cross-referencing (such as public records and memory institutions), the *list* becomes an essential trope to understand new media forms today, as the skeletal frame on which much digital content and design is structured and consumed through.

¹ See: <http://amodern.net/article/on-lists-and-networks/>

- Who makes lists?
- How are lists made?
- Who can be on a list, and who is missing?
- Who gets counted on lists, and who is counting?
- What new subjectivities - indicative of different asymmetries of power/knowledge - do list-making, and being listed, engender?
- What modalities of creation and circulation of lists affords its authority, its simultaneous revelations and obfuscations?
- What makes lists legitimate information artifacts, and what makes their knowledge contentious?
- What makes lists ephemeral, and what makes their content robust?
- What makes lists hegemonic, and what makes them intersectional?
- What makes lists ordered, and what makes them unordered?
- What do listicles do to habits of reading and creation of knowledge?
- What new modes of questioning and meaning-making have manifested today in various practices of list-making?
- How and when do lists became digital, and whatever happened to lists on paper?
- Are there cultural economies of lists, list-making, and getting listed?
- Are lists content or carriage, are they medium or message?

For the fourth edition of the Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC19), we invited sessions and papers that engage critically with the form, imagination, and politics of the *list* - to present or propose academic, applied, or creative works that explore its social, economic, cultural, material, political, affective, or aesthetic dimensions.

Programme - Day 01, Wednesday, January 30

10:00-10:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

10:30-11:30 **Introduction to the Conference and Discussion on Code of Conduct**

11:30-12:00 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

12:00-13:30 **#StoriesRecordsLegendsRituals**

Priyanka, Aditya, Bhanu Prakash GS, Aishwarya, and Dinesh

Our session would be a performative through experimental list artefacts that intend to make visible the interplay between the form of the information artefact and the content. How do we perceive information when the form of the list changes. The implicit structure of lists is suggestive of a certain order, priority and disconnected connections. We intend to play with those structures, breaking them and making new ones in the process. What do we call a list? and what does it do?

13:30-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:00 **#ListInterface**

Bharath Sivakumar, Rakshita Siva, and Deepak Prince

We would, as a starting point like to consider the conditions of possibility for the 'list' to emerge as the core thematic for this year's Internet Researchers' Conference. The proposal call provides several motivating questions and anchoring reasons foregrounding the list as an object for analysis and discussion. Broadly these may be divided along two lines - one pertaining to the qualities of the list (who makes it, why are they ephemeral, what makes lists this or that) and the other pointing to certain critical questions that emerge on our political landscape, with the list or practices of listing central to this politics.

16:00-16:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

16:30-18:00 **#LegitLists - Form follows function: List by design**

Akriti Rastogi, Ishani Dey, and Sagorika Singha

The session will comprise of three segments, where we shall analyse and highlight the form that is “List” in its multifarious inhabitations. From the much talked about spaces of the Hindi Film Industry to unfolding the dynamics of WhatsApp Groups, and finally to the listicles of violence and terror, the session will pose questions and argue for the malleability and limitations of the form. The obsession to finish a to do list and scheduling tasks around lists, makes list making one of the highest priority task in the big data age. The session will engage in unravelling these dynamics as well as texture its implications in varied spaces.

Programme - Day 02, Thursday, January 31

10:00-10:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

10:30-11:30 **#FOMO**

Pritha Chakrabarti and Baidurya Chakrabarti

The broad basis of the discussion would be the lists that address and invoke aspirations to know, particularly what has come to be known as 'listicle'. The focus would also be on social media and other digital platforms, including blogs and fan clubs, which list out cultural objects like books, films, music, etc. that one must not miss. On one hand, many of such listicle-s are essentially advertising devices and, in that way, descendants of the bestseller list and such that one used to encounter on the pages of The Hindu and so on. On the other, we have similar lists made by fans and culture enthusiasts, and the consumers. Both of these play on a specific type of aspiration and the attendant anxiety, expressed in common parlance as FoMo, i.e. Fear of Missing Out, in this specific case the fear of missing out on knowing/knowing about something.

11:30-12:00 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

12:00-13:30 **#CallingOutAndIn**

Usha Raman, Radhika Gajjala, Tarishi Verma, Pallavi Guha, Sai Amulya Komarraju, and Sugandha Sehgal

Lists are empowering; they offer a method of curating—things, experiences, people, events. As elements of an archive, they are a powerful tool for including and marking something as important. A list is not a neutral collection of objects; it comes into being within a specific logic, an articulated or unseen/unspecified rules, or criteria by which these objects are either included or excluded. In the context of the #MeTooIndia movement, lists have been weaponized by survivors of sexual abuse or harassment, serving to call out behaviours that for many years had been normalized, accepted, or simply ignored, but a patriarchal system. The list, in this instance, becomes a means around which survivors can rally and find support, while also being a tool for punitive action of various kinds, from legal to administrative to social.

13:30-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:00 **#PowerListing**

Shubhda Arora, Smitana Saikia, and Ravikant Kisana

'Lists' come with an ontological mandate of organising information in a structured and hierarchical manner. This has a deliberate aspect with respect to the question of power. Our panel attempt to investigate the question of power in terms of who wields it and what implications, philosophically and materially, this lands on the stakeholders thereof. The questions of power have different insinuation when the agency of the 'listing' rests with the state, the individual or if it is folded within the operational matrix of a corporate service. Our panel attempts to bring all these myriad conversations together to try and unpack the various nuances of this discussion on power around 'lists'.

16:00-16:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

16:30-18:00 **#ButItIsNotFunny**

Madhavi Shivaprasad and Sonali Sahoo

In this session, we propose to look at the implications of the "List" being circulated in relation to the comedy industry in particular and study the discourse surrounding it. While Raya Sarkar's LoSHA was structured as a list and circulated on social media as one too, the second wave of the movement was nothing of the sort. Sarkar has still refused to divulge details of the assault as shared with her in the interest of those that came forward with their stories. The second wave, involving primarily the media and entertainment industry, was about naming and shaming the perpetrators, mainly by specifying details of every case of harassment while keeping the survivors anonymous. In this case, there was no physical, tangible list, but host of people on social media sharing screenshots of the accounts and retweeting the same. Each of the panellists will be presenting papers and engaging with the interpretative idea of "list" as they understand it in relation to the comedy industry in India.

Programme - Day 03, Friday, February 01

10:00-10:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

10:30-11:30 **#AyushmanBhavah**

Arya Lakshmi and Adrij Chakraborty

Indian healthcare is a convoluted administration. There is a need for the healthcare system to effectively permeate into the lowest rungs of society, thereby replacing the existent maladroitness structure. This session takes Ayushman Bharat – a Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), as an admirable example which is based on a foundation of a series of lists, prepared for an administrative apparatus, in this case, the public health sector. However, not all reviews of this policy have been favourable to the cause, and the effectiveness to address health at all the primary, secondary and tertiary levels have oftentimes been met with crude skepticism and sardonic critiques. Currently being a crucial policy that involves serious list-making procedures on a large population of India, the need to scrutinize the cultural techniques behind list-making for Ayushman Bharat cannot be unseen.

11:30-12:00 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

12:00-13:30 **#LoSHAandWhatFollowed**

Anannya Chatterjee, Arunima Singh, Bhanu Priya Gupta, Renu Singh, and Rhea Bose

Coming from an experience of institutionally engaging with the #LoSHA through the #questionthesilence campaign, we propose to conduct a session that seeks to theorize the 'list' as a document, the particularity of its form, and list as a medium and a message. What goes into the making of a list, and what are the kind of subjectivities produced through it? How does social media as an internet platform, in the preparation and circulation of the list, determine the discourses that emerge from it? Further, we want to explore the various possibilities of solidarity networks and feminist practices that have emerged post-LoSHA. Given the possibilities of new intimacies and relationships that liberal spaces open up, how have the debates around the LoSHA questioned the contemporary feminist

understanding of sexual harassment and violation in these spaces? How has the existing imagination of gender justice been challenged by the LoSHA?

13:30-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:00 **Papers**

Orinam: An online list archiving queer history, activism, support, experiences and literature

Brindaalakshmi.K

De-duplicating amidst disaster: how rescue databases were made during 2018 Kerala floods

Gayas Eapen

Making the 'other' count: Categorizing 'self' using the NRC

Khetrimayum Monish Singh and Ranjit Singh

16:00-16:30 **Tea + Coffee + Snacks**

16:30-18:00 **#EnlistingPrivacy**

Pawan Singh and Pranjal Jain

In this session, we invite participants to tell stories on privacy based on their life experiences. The session aims to employ the concept of a list liberally to understand how privacy continues to be on a to-do list of sorts for lawmakers, technologists and users who are constantly being informed to manage their online account settings, to constantly make certain things private and to care about privacy. Even as privacy has finally joined the list of fundamental rights in India, its meaning continues to be contested. What may be the politics of privacy at play in the circulation of the #MeToo list? Privacy itself may be spoken of as a list of values and affordances: as dignity and bodily integrity of rights subjects, as confidentiality of certain information, the integrity of data flows, self-determination and individual autonomy. The list of all things privacy will evolve with new, privacy-by-design technologies in a rapidly evolving information technology global landscape.

18:00-18:30 **Closing Session**

Conference Participants

Aditya is a designer and an entrepreneur always thinking of ways to display information beautifully. Lately he has been working on interfaces for lists to provide a clear stream of reason to anyone through simple model(s) of visualisation of information and, therefore attempt to make knowledge more accessible.

Adrij Chakraborty is an economics researcher. He is currently an economic analyst with Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai and is researching with the Government of Maharashtra on the agricultural practices and labour market behaviour in Maharashtra. He attended Edinburgh University as a graduate scholar with the Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics. His interests lie in economic policymaking in Labour Markets, Migration and Political Economics.

Aishwarya is a Communication Strategist at the Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) - Andhra Pradesh, Department of Rural Development, Government of Telangana. SSAAT has been set-up with a vision to uphold the concept of eternal vigilance by the people, facilitated by social activists and Government acting in conjunction.

Akriti Rastogi is a PhD candidate at the Cinema Studies department of the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her current work proposes to trace the design of monetization channels of cinema effects in a new media environ. She has previously worked as a radio broadcast producer at All India Radio, New Delhi.

Anannya Chatterjee is a trained Bharatnatyam dancer, a Hindustani classical singer and a theatre artist. She is a part of Sar-e-raahguzar, an endeavour to talk about love, resistance, hate crimes and freedom on the streets by employing the art forms she practices. She holds a Masters degree in Gender Studies from Ambedkar University, Delhi, and has written her Masters' dissertation titled *Love, Passion, Peril: A Feminist Understanding of Abuse in Heterosexual Romantic relationships in India*. She has also been a member of *Pinjra Tod - Break the Hostel Locks*, and believes in bringing together her art with her feminist politics.

Arunima Singh holds a Bachelors degree in History from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and a Masters degree in Gender Studies from Ambedkar University, Delhi. She has worked as a freelance writer, model, game show host, and is currently working with Swiggy in Sales and Accounts Management. She is a member of *Pinjra Tod - Break the Hostel Locks*. She also plans to one day follow her dream of becoming the Jon Stewart of India. She worked on the figure of Bharat Mata for her MA thesis titled: *Clothing Womanhood - meanings of modesty and tradition: from colonial modernity to the contemporary*, and wishes to work on studying and deconstructing the discourses around oppression and modesty in her future studies.

Arya Lakshmi is a journalist and a media researcher. She has worked across India with various news media publications mostly covering politics. She completed her post graduation in Political Communication from Cardiff University, UK with her interests in Big Data, Internet and Electoral Behaviour. She is primarily involved in media research that revolves around internet and politics.

Dr. Baidurya Chakrabarti is an Assistant Professor at the Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication, Pune. Besides receiving his doctoral degree in Cultural Studies from EFL University, Hyderabad, he has also worked in the publishing industry as well as a content editor in the corporate sector. His doctoral dissertation maps the ideological terrain of contemporary Bollywood against the rise of neoliberalism in India. His areas of interests include contemporary film cultures, digital modernity, particularly digital cinephilia, comparative cultural studies, etc.

Bhanu Prakash GS: As Web application developer at Servalots(.com), he contributes to the open and free software, and has been working on developing tools for delivering visual stories from archives. He has worked with the NCBS@25 project titled "13 Ways" where stories from the history of National Centre for Biological Sciences, Democracy Archives for University of Göttingen, and also on methods to render the folk stories of Vijaydashami rituals into visual stories on the Web.

Bhanu Priya Gupta is an M.Phil. student in Women and Gender Studies at Ambedkar University, Delhi, and Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), who has been invested in issues of gender, sexuality and mental health. She has previously worked with Indian Social Institute on social conflict among dalit women in rural Haryana. She is a freelance facilitator on gender, violence and identity formation, with People for Parity, and has conducted gender and capacity building workshops in urban and rural Rajasthan with adolescent school children, middle-aged women and village stakeholders. She has also attended training programmes on gender, sexuality and rights, at Crea and TARSHI. She is currently working on physical disability, sexuality and the emergence of disability life writing in India.

Bharath Sivakumar graduated with a B.Sc (Research) degree in mathematics from Shiv Nadar University and currently works for Loonycorn where he's part of the team that creates technical courses. He has eclectic tastes ranging from mathematics to philosophy to Anthropology and feels at home in the hills. He enjoys trekking, loves performing on stage and aspires to be a stand up comedian one day.

Brindaalakshmi.K is a writer and researcher who works at the intersection of gender, sexuality, and technology. Currently, she is working on a research project titled 'Gendering of Development Data in India: Beyond the Binary' with the Centre for Internet and Society, India. She is also a member of the Chennai-based queer collective, Orinam.

Deepak Prince is a course instructor and Phd candidate in the Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social sciences at SNU. His thesis research seeks to grapple with the 'explosion' of smartphones and touchscreens in practices of everyday sociality through the conceptual categories of the screen and the interface. Deepak's key research interest revolves around technics, the history and philosophy of technical objects. He also takes an interest in questions of anthropological disciplinarity, the history of ideas and political anthropology

Dinesh is part of Janastu team - a non-profit group. The team is eager to help address Web content accessibility for the low-literate using social semantic web concepts and are also looking at 3D methods for spatial navigation, location interpretation and storytelling. Janastu engages with software commons by developing and supporting open source social platforms.

Gayas Eapen is an assistant professor of English and Journalism (as part of the Resident Expert Panel, 2018-19) at Dayapuram Arts and Science College, Kozhikode, University of Calicut. After finishing his MA in Convergent Journalism from the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, he worked as reporter at the Times of India, Gurgaon. He is interested in researching and writing on issues surrounding locative technology, information infrastructure, privacy and digital labour practices.

Ishani Dey is working on her PhD in Cinema Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her current project seeks to analyse some of the ways in which the body-technology ensemble has changed with the rise of the digital. While every new image making technology since the mid-nineteenth century has reconfigured the human body, this project is dedicated to understanding the implications of twenty-first century digital technologies and the internet on bodies that inhabit the screens of the 'post-cinematic'.

Madhavi Shivaprasad is currently a Ph.D scholar in the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies at TISS, Mumbai. She also teaches full-time in the English department at Mount Carmel College Bangalore. Her areas of interest include gender and sexuality studies, humour studies, as well as disability studies.

Khetrimayum Monish Singh works on data governance and issues around data-driven community experiences and practices, especially related to access, security and identity. His interests also include design, AI, data protection and privacy. He currently works at the Centre for Internet and Society, India, and is based in New Delhi.

Pallavi Guha, assistant professor of communication and new media, Towson University, USA.

Pawan Singh: New Generation Network Scholar at Deakin University. Works on issues of identity, representation, privacy and the costs of social justice in India and globally. Current project on Aadhaar, data privacy and social media in India.

Pranjal Jain: Human-Centered Designer from Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology. Currently in the 2nd year of Master in Design and research assistant at Digital Identity Research Initiative, Indian School of Business. Believe in Ethical Data Practices. Works on designing for online privacy through speculative and critical design.

Pritha Chakrabarti is an independent researcher based out of Hyderabad. She has recently submitted her doctoral dissertation titled Politics of Screen Dance in Indian Cinema in the department of Cultural Studies at EFL University, Hyderabad. A recipient of the ICSSR-CSDS doctoral fellowship, she has worked on the ideology of on-screen choreographic construction and dissemination and reception of film dance as popular culture. Professionally a Content Manager, she has nearly a decade-long experience in marketing content generation, both offline and online.

Priyanka is a new media artist-researcher, currently engaged with Microsoft as an interaction designer. While at Microsoft she solves design problems for the browser, her personal inquiries run deep into understanding people's lives on the internet, nature of the digital-materiality and its affordances for expression and exchange in networked societies.

Radhika Gajjala, professor of Media and Communication Studies and American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University.

Rakshita Siva is a researcher at IIIT Bangalore in the faculty of Digital Society. She graduated with a Mechanical engineering major and a minor in Sociology from Shiv Nadar University. Her interests relate to the digital, questions of self, interiority and the psyche. Rakshita is a singer and enjoys a good jam.

Ranjit Singh is a PhD candidate at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University. His dissertation project, *Seeing Like an Infrastructure*, examines the legal, administrative, and technological challenges in the implementation of India's biometrics-based national identification project, Aadhaar. He is also involved in the *Life of a Tuple* project on the conceptualization, design, and implementation of an updated version of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, India. Both projects are geared towards elucidating the rapidly changing understandings, practices, and evaluations of the state-citizen relationship mediated by information infrastructures in India.

Prof. Ravikant Kisana is currently the Co-Chair of Humanities & Languages at Flame University, Pune. He has previously completed his doctoral studies from MICA, Ahmedabad. His doctoral research focused on the oral histories of Bollywood cinema in Kashmir, and its intersections with Kashmiri nationalism and resistance. His areas of research focus on the sociology of cinema, gender & sexuality intersections with films & new media platforms, as well as investigations into the structural mores of cybercultures.

Renu Singh is a doctoral candidate in Women and Gender Studies Program at Ambedkar University, Delhi, and Centre for Women's Development Study (CWDS). She holds an M.Phil. degree in Public Health from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her interdisciplinary training has allowed her to work in the development sector for eight years, while she has also been associated with sexual harassment complaints committees at some of the academic institutions she has been a part of. She is involved with the women's movement for almost 15 years, especially in Delhi, on issues around social reproduction, affect and care, gender & sexuality, intimacy, love and interpersonal lives. She has also been involved in student politics and is an active member of New Socialist Initiative (NSI) and *Stree Mukti Sangathan*. She is currently working on higher education, young women's aspirations and interpersonal ties in the backdrop of liberalization.

Rhea Bose did her Bachelors in Political Science from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and holds a Masters' degree in Gender Studies from Ambedkar University, Delhi. Until recently, she was working at Centre for Social Research, Delhi. Her interest in the field of gender has manifested in different ways, including participation in the Indian Association of Women's Studies (IAWS) where she presented a paper on women in global politics, conducting workshops on gender sensitization in schools as a part of an initiative called *Khalbali*.

Sagorika Singha is a doctoral candidate in the department of Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her areas of interest include cinema, subculture, queer studies, technoculture, post-cinema, new mediascape, and digital societies. Her ongoing doctoral work virtually reimagines the contested region of North-east India following the arrival and popularity of mobile media and media-sharing technologies.

Sai Amulya Komarraju is a doctoral scholar in the Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad.

Saumyaa Naidu is a designer and researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore. She works on critically examining the role of design in digital products and services, specifically in terms of privacy, security, access to knowledge, and accessibility. Her areas of interest include design history, design criticism, and cultural studies.

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researchers@work Programme at CIS

The researchers@work programme at the Centre for Internet and Society is a transdisciplinary research initiative driven by contemporary concerns to understand the reconfiguration of social processes and structures through the internet and digital media technologies, and vice versa. We are interested in producing local and contextual accounts of interactions, negotiations, and resolutions between the internet on one hand and socio-material and geo-political structures on the other. We take India as our physical field of research, as our unevenly excavated site of artifacts and practices, and also as our vantage point to reflect on the polymorphous growth of internet technologies and their relationships with societies across the world.

Our research activities are divided in five clusters: 1) data systems, 2) digital knowledge, 3) internet histories, 4) network economies, and 5) web cultures.

We are keenly interested in organising physical/digital/hybrid spaces and opportunities for researchers and practitioners engaging with topics at the intersections of internet and society to gather, and share thoughts and concerns. Towards this, we organise the annual conference series titled *Internet Researchers' Conference*, and have recently started a Medium-based blog for reflections on internet and society: [the r@w blog](#)

We also support research-based creative projects and critical media practices.

Updates about our work and opportunities at the researchers@work programme can be followed at researchers@cis-india.org (a low-traffic mailing list).

We can be reached at raw@cis-india.org