

SUKRIT VENKATAGIRI

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EDUCATION

2017 – present **Virginia Tech**, Arlington, VA, USA
Ph.D. in Computer Science with a focus in HCI (qualifier completed)
Committee: Kurt Luther (advisor), Steve Harrison, Tanushree Mitra, Chris North
Courses: Human-AI Interaction, Models & Theories of HCI, Usability Engineering, User Interface Design, Adv. Topics in HCI: Crowdsourcing, Quantitative Research Methods, Qualitative Research Methods, Ethics & Professionalism in Data Science, Information Security, Urban Computing

2013 – 2017 **PES University** (Electronic City), Bangalore, India
B.E. in Computer Science, First Class
Advisor: Snehanshu Saha

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 – present **Graduate Research Assistant**, Crowd Intelligence Lab
Virginia Tech, Arlington, VA, USA
Advisor: Kurt Luther

Projects:

1. Developed and conducted mixed-methods evaluation of GroundTruth, an online tool that helps investigators find where a photo was taken anywhere in the world, with the help of crowd workers. Also studied expert investigative work practice on Twitter. Led to publications [J-2], [w-1-2], [c-4, 5, 7].
2. Developing a human-AI system that combines crowdsourcing and computer vision to generate clues that help investigators verify images and combat misinformation. *In progress.*
3. Conducted including semi-structured interviews and participant observation at CrowdSolve, an event where a crowd of 250 true crime enthusiasts helped law enforcement experts uncover new leads for two unsolved cases. *In progress, to be submitted to CSCW 2020.*
4. Helped design, build, and experimentally evaluate a system to mitigate political bias in content moderation. Led to Best Poster/Demo Award [c-6]. *In progress, to be submitted to CSCW 2020.*

Research Methods: crowdsourcing, survey design, semi-structured interviewing, transcribing, qualitative coding/thematic analysis, usability evaluation, think-aloud protocol, wireframing, prototyping, participant observation, focus groups, experiment design, statistical analysis, log analysis

Languages & Tools: HTML/CSS, JS/jQuery, Python, Django, Descript, Balsamiq, Qualtrics, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Sketch, AWS MTurk API, R

Spring 2018 **User Experience Consultant**, Blacksburg Transit
Blacksburg, VA

Project: Worked with Blacksburg Transit and Automation Creations Inc. (ACI) in a team of 5 to perform a comprehensive evaluation and provide design recommendations for revising the Blacksburg Transit iOS application. Resulted in interface changes and new features.

Research Methods: surveys, stakeholder interviews, usability evaluation, personas, wireframing, prototyping, UX inspection, affinity diagramming

Tools: Google Forms, Axure RP, Lucidchart

2015 – 2017 **Data Analysis Team Lead**, SciBase Project

PES University (Electronic City), Bangalore, India

Advisors: B.S. Daya Sagar, Snehanshu Saha, Minita Mathew

Project: Analyzing citation networks to model a scientometric indicator (SNIP). Resulted in publication [J•1].

Research Methods: web scraping, network analysis, regression analysis, graph visualization

Languages: Python, R, HTML/CSS, D3.js

Summer 2016 **Undergraduate Research Intern**, Department of Statistics

University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

Advisor: Abhyuday Mandal

Languages: Python, R, MATLAB

HONORS & AWARDS

2019 Best Poster/Demo Award (#1 poster/demo of 25 submissions), AAAI HCOMP 2019

2018 Graduate Student Fellow, Misinformation Solutions Forum 2018, Rita Allen Foundation

2017 Graduated First Class, PES Institute of Technology

2017 Outstanding Final Year Project (top 3 of 47), PES University (Electronic City)

2014 Runner Up (2nd of 87), inGenius Hackathon, ACM India & PES University (Electronic City)

PUBLICATIONS

Note: * indicates a student (co-)advised by Sukrit Venkatagiri.

Refereed Archival Journal Articles

[J•2] Sukrit Venkatagiri, Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Rachel Kohler, John Purviance, Rifat Sabbir Mansur, Kurt Luther. **GroundTruth: Augmenting Expert Image Geolocation with Crowdsourcing and Shared Representations**. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 3 (CSCW), 2019. (205/658 = 31.2% acceptance rate)

[J•1] Gouri Ginde, Snehanshu Saha, Archana Mathur, Sukrit Venkatagiri, Sujith Vadakkepat, Anand Narasimhamurthy and B. S. Daya Sagar. **ScientoBASE: A Framework and Model for Computing Scholastic Indicators of Non-local Influence of Journals via Native Data Acquisition Algorithms**. *Scientometrics*, 108(3), 1479–1529. 2016. (impact factor: 2.77)

Refereed Archival Papers in Conference Proceedings

[C•1] Sukrit Venkatagiri and Amy X. Zhang. **Response to “Heuristics for the Online Curator”: Combating Misinformation by Improving Online Conversation**. *Curbing the Spread of Misinformation: Insights, Innovations, and Interpretations from the Misinformation Solutions Forum*, Brian G. Southwell and Vanessa Boudewyns (Eds.). 9–10. RTI Press. Washington, D.C., USA. 2018. (invited submission)

Refereed Nonarchival Workshop Papers

[w•2] Sukrit Venkatagiri, Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Kurt Luther. **Designing for Coordinated Action: Challenges and Opportunities of Working with Experts**. *CSCW 2019 Workshop on Mapping the “How” of Collaborative Action*. Austin, TX, USA. 2019.

- [w•1] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Aliza Camacho*, Kurt Luther. **Localness and Urbanness in Geographic Crowd Work**. *CSCW 2018 Workshop on Rural Computing: Beyond Access & Infrastructure*. Jersey City, NJ, USA. 2018.

Refereed Nonarchival Conference Papers (posters, extended abstracts, etc.)

- [c•7] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Sarwat Kazmi*, Efua Akonor*, Kurt Luther. **It's QuizTime: A Study of Online Verification Practices on Twitter**. *7th AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019)*. Stevenson, WA, USA. 2019. (poster)
-  [c•6] Jacob Thebault-Spieker, [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), David Mitchell*, Chris Hurt, Kurt Luther. **PairWise: Mitigating Political Bias in Crowdsourced Content Moderation**. *7th AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019)*. Stevenson, WA, USA. 2019. (demo, poster) **(Best Poster/Demo Award)**
- [c•5] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Kurt Luther. **Geolocating Images with Expert-Led Crowdsourcing and Shared Representations**. *Algorithms That Make You Think, 4th Annual Virginia Tech Workshop on the Future of HCI*. Blacksburg, VA, USA. 2019. (poster)
- [c•4] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Kurt Luther. **Verifying Truth from the Ground: Leveraging Human Strengths in the Image Geolocation Process**. *Human-Computer Interaction Conference (HCIC 2018)*. Watsonville, CA, USA. 2018. (poster)
- [c•3] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Kurt Luther. **The Absence of Racial Bias in Content Evaluation (on Amazon Mechanical Turk)**. *34th Annual Graduate School Assembly Research Symposium, Virginia Tech*. Blacksburg, VA, USA. 2018. (poster)
- [c•2] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Kurt Luther. **The Absence of Racial Bias in Content Evaluation (on Amazon Mechanical Turk)**. *Designing Socio-Technical Systems of Truth, 3rd Annual Virginia Tech Workshop on the Future of HCI*. Blacksburg, VA, USA. 2018. (poster)
-  [c•1] [Sukrit Venkatagiri](#), Deepika Anna, Vimal Patel. **A Graph Theoretical Analysis of Mentor-Mentee Relationships in Indian Classical Music**. *PES University (Electronic City) Final Year Project Exhibition*. Bangalore, KA, India. 2017. (poster, demo) **(Outstanding Final Year Project)**

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES

- November 2019 **GroundTruth: Augmenting Expert Image Geolocation with Crowdsourcing and Shared Representations**
1. CS5724: Social Computing and CSCW. Virginia Tech. Instructor: Sang Won Lee.
 2. Center for HCI Hack n' Snack. Virginia Tech.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Conference Organizing and Volunteering *Student Volunteer Co-Chair*, ACM CSCW 2020. Minneapolis, MN, USA.
Student Volunteer, ACM CSCW 2019. Austin, TX, USA.
Student Volunteer, ACM CSCW 2018. Jersey City, NJ, USA.
Student Volunteer, ACM CHI 2018. Montréal, QC, Canada.

- Reviewing Note: ‡ indicates one Excellent Review recognition.
 ACM IUI: 2020
 ACM CSCW: 2019‡, 2020
 ACM CHI: 2019‡, 2020

- Virginia Tech *Student Panel Member*, Alumni Advisory Board, Department of Computer Science, 2019
Volunteer, Algorithms That Make You Think, 4th VT Workshop on the Future of HCI, 2019
Volunteer, Department of Computer Science Recruiting Weekend, 2018
Volunteer, Socio-Technical Systems of Truth, 3rd VT Workshop on the Future of HCI, 2018

Reviewer, Graduate School Travel Fund Program, 2017

PES University (Electronic City) *Treasurer, ACM Student Chapter, 2016 – 2017*
Organizing Committee Member, ACM Student Chapter, 2014 – 2016
Secretary, IEEE Student Branch, 2016 – 2017
Organizing Committee Member, IEEE Student Branch, 2014 – 2016

TEACHING

As Graduate Teaching Assistant at Virginia Tech:
Spring 2018 CS2505 Computer Organization I (undergraduate, 262 students)
Fall 2017 CS2506 Computer Organization II (undergraduate, 177 students)

As Instructor at PES University (Electronic City), held informally after class:
Fall 2016 Introduction to Python (undergraduate, 50 students)
Spring 2015 Introduction to Processing and Arduino (undergraduate, 75 students, with Suryoday Basak)


ADVISING

2020 **Paul Blackburn**, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech

2019 [c•7] **Sarwat Kazmi**, B.S. Information Science & B.A. Government & Politics, University of Maryland
- *NSF REU Intern, Virginia Tech, Summer 2019*

[c•7] **Efua Akonor**, B.S. Computer Science, Wellesley College & S.B. Computer Science, MIT
- *NSF REU Intern, Virginia Tech, Summer 2019*

David Mitchell, B.S. Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- *NSF REU Intern, Virginia Tech, Summer 2019*

 [c•6] - *Best Poster/Demo Award, AAAI HCOMP 2019*

Daniel Ocheltree, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech
- Now: *Software Engineer, Capital One, 2019 – present*


Puriwat Lahpong, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech
- Now: *Software Engineer, Northrop Grumman, 2019 – present*

2018 **Levi Shipley**, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech
- Now: *Software Engineer, Capital One, 2018 – present*

Ben Hinkle, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech,
- Now: *Software Engineer, Capital One, 2019 – present*

[w•1] **Aliza Camacho**, B.A. Computer Science & B.A. Anthropology, Wellesley College
- Now: *Undergraduate Researcher, Space Enabled, MIT Media Lab, August 2018 – present*
- *NSF REU Intern, Virginia Tech, Summer 2018*

Anne Hoang, B.S. Computer Science, Virginia Tech
- Now: *Software Engineer, Ntrepid Corp., June 2018 – present*

 - *3rd Place, Faculty Choice Award, VTURCS Symposium 2018*

2015–2017 **Ankush Arunkumar**, B.E. Computer Science, PES University (Electronic City)
- Now: *Business Technology Analyst, Deloitte, 2019 – present*

Aditya Agarwal, B.E. Computer Science, PES University (Electronic City)
- Now: *Software Engineer at Endurance International Group, 2018 – present*

PRESS

December 2019 *Voice of America (Russia): AI Comes to the Rescue of Journalists and Intelligence Agencies*
<https://www.golos-ameriki.ru/a/usa-technology-face-recognition-ai-photo-geotag/5189483.html>

November 2019 *Forbes: The Future of Crowdsourcing*
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/chrisancialosi/2019/11/21/the-future-of-crowdsourcing/>

October 2019 *KOMO News*: How Crowd Sourcing Helps Police Solve Cold Cases
<https://komonews.com/news/local/law-enforcement-turns-to-the-public-for-help-in-solving-cold-cases>

ARLNow: Startup Monday: Virginia Tech Professor Develops Image Geolocation Program
<https://www.arlnow.com/2019/10/28/startup-monday-virginia-tech-professor-develops-image-geolocation-program/>