

Faisal M. Lalani

GLOBAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

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Work & Research Experience

Tech Global Institute

Remote

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

May 2024 - Current

- Managing partnerships and coalition building for Global South civil society organizations all over the world involved in tech policy and digital governance.
- Organized and hosted a South Asia Digital Rights Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal in which tech policy experts all over the region came together to build a coalition to support digital rights-related projects that cover collaborative internet governance.

New America

New York, NY

NON-RESIDENT FELLOW

May 2024 - Current

- Working with the Digital Futures Task Force and the Planetary Politics group under the Technology and Democracy wing on organizing civil society organizations, research labs, and policymakers from all over the Global South to collaborate on joint AI governance efforts.
- Coordinating the launch and content of a massive symposium on AI global governance consisting of policymakers, journalists, lawyers, and technologists from all over the world.

Factum

Colombo, Sri Lanka

VISITING RESEARCHER

Oct 2023 - Jan 2024

- Facilitated and helped coordinate think tanks, civil society organizations, journalists, lawyers, researchers and other activists in combating a landmark draconian Online Safety Bill while collaborating on outlining potential sustainable tech legislation, Internet governance, and content moderation models for Sri Lanka.
- Collaborated with the United Nations Development Program and other development groups (as well as major media organizations, celebrities, and social media influencers) on building civic awareness and advocacy in matters of tech policy and social inclusion/exclusion.

Snowflake

New York, NY

SOLUTIONS CONSULTANT

Apr 2022 - Sept 2023

- Facilitated high-end corporate clients and led internal development teams in a variety of significant projects through applications of cloud data platforms, artificial intelligence, data engineering, data ingestion, security, and data science through Snowflake.
- Led the development of a mass migration interface to translate programming languages to Snowflake SQL that allowed completion of product 7 months in advance.
- Hosted internal machine learning courses for the entire professional services team and provided org-wide support for AI-focused client work.

Dimagi

Remote

RESEARCH AND DATA FELLOW, SENIOR PROJECT ANALYST

Jun 2020 - Dec 2021

- Helped lead the project implementation and integration of CommCare, an intuitive data collection platform that allowed the Department of Health in various states (Colorado, Alaska, New York) to manage their COVID-19 case management and contact tracing efforts.
- Worked on the value-add global health data initiative as part of the Research and Development team by designing outlier detection algorithms, predictive models, and other machine learning techniques to support digital health projects around the globe.

Microsoft Research

Bangalore, India

RESEARCH INTERN

Jun 2018 - Aug 2018, Jan 2019 - Jul 2019

- Worked with the Technology for Emerging Markets group on the study of technologies used for global development.
- Conducted research on the digital political landscape in India during the historic 2019 general elections through computational analysis and interviews with politicians.
- Collaborated with other researchers on their own respective projects, such as helping conduct interviews of counselors to study the state of mental health care for underserved populations.

Fellowship & Volunteer Experience

Internet Law & Policy Foundry

Remote

TECH POLICY FELLOW

Mar 2024 - Current

- Part of a cohort comprised of public policy experts, attorneys, lawyers, and technologists focused on the most pressing tech policy and internet law issues of the digital age.

All Tech is Human

Remote

AFFILIATE

Nov 2023 - Current

- Partnering with a cohort of responsible AI leaders from all over the world on tackling tech & democracy issues through community building, multidisciplinary education, tech policy analysis, and other collaborations.

Aga Khan Education Board

Remote

U.S. NATIONAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAD

Aug 2020 - Jul 2023

- Created a fellowship and led a team in a national effort to design and implement a grassroots framework that assists faith-based communities around the country to engage with their local schools and develop sustainable interventions for school improvement.
- Conducted and coordinated in-depth primary and secondary research through a combination of qualitative interviews with educational experts around the country and heavy reading of case studies, policies, and publications of existing education reform models.

Writings & Publications

- Lalani, F. M. (2024) **On Digital Rights in South Asia**. Tech Global Institute. In Review.
- Kommiya Mothilal, R., Lalani, F. M., Ahmed S. I., Guha S., & Sultana, S. (2024). **Talking About the Assumption in the Room**. Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. In Review.
- Lalani, F. M., Somer, E., & Abu-Rayya, H. (2024). **Dreamers of the Day: An Exploration of Identity, Shame, and Maladaptive Daydreaming**. Journal of Trauma & Dissociation. In Review.
- Kommiya Mothilal, R., Mishra, D., Nishal, S., Lalani, F. M., & Pal, J. (2022). **Voting with the Stars: Analyzing Partisan Engagement Between Celebrities and Politicians in India**. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 6(CSCW1), 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3512981>
- Arya, A., De, S., Mishra, D., Shekhawat, G., Sharma, A., Panda, A., Lalani, F. M., Singh, P., Mothilal, R. K., Grover, R., Nishal, S., Dash, S., Shora, S., Akbar, S. Z., & Pal, J. (2022). **DISMISS: Database of Indian Social Media Influencers on Twitter**. Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, 16(1), 1201-1207. <https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v16i1.19370>
- Khan, Z. U., Anwar, M. U., Pirani, S., Lalani, F., Adegoke, B., Tauqeer, T., & Naseem, M. (2020). **Design of an IOT-based water flow monitoring system**. Proceedings of the 26th Annual International Conference on Mobile Computing and Networking. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3372224.3418170>
- Pendse, S. R., Lalani, F. M., De Choudhury, M., Sharma, A., & Kumar, N. (2020). **“Like Shock Absorbers”: Understanding the Human Infrastructures of Technology-Mediated Mental Health Support**. Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3313831.3376465>
- Lalani, F. M., Kommiya Mothilal, R., & Pal, J. (2019). **The Appeal of Influencers to the Social Media Outreach of Indian Politicians**. Companion Publication of the 2019 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3311957.3359484>
- Lalani, F. M. (2017). **Retelling the Education Story: Bringing “Cool” to School Using Progressivism**. Capstone Collection. 3047. <https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/capstones/3047>

Education

University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

MEDIA POLICY SUMMER INSTITUTE

Aug. 2023

- Intensive program bringing together leading government officials, lawyers, journalists, activists, and technologists from all over the world to collaborate on the future of democracy through exploration and deliberation on AI regulation and governance, content moderation, social media and elections, surveillance technologies, and much more.

University of Colorado at Boulder

Boulder, Colorado

B.A. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Aug 2015 - Dec 2019

- **Relevant Coursework:** Case Studies in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICTD), Designing Social Innovations, Global Public Health, Islamic Studies, Algorithms, Applied Machine Learning, Fundamentals of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Intro to Data Science, Programming Project Workshop, Computer Systems, Data Structures, Discrete Structures, Field Methods and Ethics, Software Development Methods and Tools, Principles of Programming Languages
- **Organizations:** Curiosity (Founder & President), Education Abroad Committee (Only Student Representative), Computer Science Student Board (Member), CU Global Health Group, ATLAS BTU Lab (Member), Cape Town Computer Science Club (Member), Cape Town Ballroom Dancing Group, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (Member), CU Boulder Hacking Club (Member)

University of Cape Town

Cape Town, South Africa

CENTRE IN ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Feb. 2018 - Jun 2018

- Participated in UX research involving the development of a community network called iNethi designed to provide localized services to a township.
- Engaged in community organization meetings and group interviews with locals in townships around Cape Town.

School for International Training

Kathmandu, Nepal

DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Jan. 2017 - May. 2017

- Conducted independent fieldwork-based research on progressive pedagogies in rural education in the village of Lalu, located in one of the poorest districts in Nepal, and a thriving makerspace in Kathmandu.
- Participated in qualitative studies, interviews, and fieldwork in Chitwan National Park, the Himalayas, and Kathmandu.

General Information

- **Skills:** Community Organizing, Writing, Machine Learning, Tech Policy Analysis, Tech Diplomacy, International Relations & Foreign Policy, Statistical Analysis & Data Science, Research Paper Composition, Structured & Semi-Structured Interviewing, Fieldwork, Leadership & Coordination of Multi-Disciplinary Teams, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Mobile Development (iOS & Android), User Interface Design, Public Speaking, Adaptability in Extreme Environments
- **Languages:** English, Hindi, Nepali
- **Proficient Programming Languages:** Python, Snowflake/SQL, Swift, Javascript (and D3), C++, Java/Kotlin, HTML/CSS, Scala
- **Awards, Scholarships, & Certifications:** Dean's List for Academic Achievement, Chancellor's Achievement Scholarship, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar, Buffs Abroad Scholarship, CIEE Scholarship for International Students, Summa Cum Laude High School Graduate
- **Personal Accomplishments:** meditated with monks in a Nepali temple, trekked the Himalayas, bungee-jumped from the third-highest point in the world, surfed in African waters, hiked up Table Mountain, drove a motorcycle through Ladakh, rode a camel through the Sahara Desert, multiple sky-dives in a single day in Yosemite, hiked through the Alps, roomed in a cave in central Turkey, climbed to the top of Adam's Peak
- **Personal Interests:** traveling, reading, hiking, climbing, adrenaline sports, ballroom dancing, poetry, particle physics, microbiology