
Ayushi Khemka

PhD Student

Department of Philosophy

Department of Women's & Gender Studies

University of Alberta

khemka@ualberta.ca, khemkaayushi@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Alberta, Canada - *Doctorate of Philosophy (Pursuing)*

JAN 2022 - PRESENT

Department of Philosophy, and Women's & Gender Studies

GPA: 4.00/4.00

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India - *Master of Philosophy (Women's Studies)*

JUL 2016 - AUG 2018

Dissertation: Violence in the Internet Age: Gender and Trolling

GPA: 7.38/9.00

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India - *Master of Arts (English)*

JUL 2014 - JUN 2016

GPA: 7.5/9.00

University of Delhi, India - *Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (English)*

JUL 2011 - JUL 2014

Percentage: 65.09%

EXPERIENCE

University of Alberta, Canada - *Research Assistant*

JAN 2022 - PRESENT

- Placed at the department of Vice-President Research Innovation-Signature Research Areas
- Researching policies, academic engagement and industry innovations on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information Accessibility (IA)
- Conceptualizing and hosting a podcast on AI and IA, adjacent to a global conference on the same theme hosted by UNESCO
- Curating a global guest list for the podcast and liaising with the speakers

University of Alberta, Canada - Graduate Research Assistant

JAN 2022 - PRESENT

- Conducting Social Justice Network Analysis (SJNA) for the university's Cluster for Analysis of Relational Data (CARD) laboratory
- Researching archival data for major events in the last 20 years and their effect on gender related policies in cultural industries in Canada, Germany and the U
- Training, documentation and testing of Voyant Tools and Spyral
- Internationalizing TAPoR through inclusion of tools by BIPOC, specifically focusing on South Asian languages and cultures
- Conducting research on social media research ethics and writing positionality statement for the laboratory
- Conducting social network analysis of Twitter data on #Gamergate
- Managing and maintaining the lab's Slack workspace and ensuring effective communication

Schizophrenia Awareness Association, India - ESSENCE Service User Fellowship

JUL 2021 - APR 2022

- Conducted research on mental health advocacy on social media in India and its socio-political ramifications
- The fellowship was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), USA

Sangath, India - Youth Advisor

AUG 2021 - OCT 2021

- Identified mental health advocacy priorities and provided lived experience expertise for the Speak Your Mind India campaign, as part of the Young People's Advisory Group
- Guided the mental health toolkit development, contents and design
- Advised on tackling mental health stigma and getting involved in mental health systems in one's local and state government bodies
- The project was supported by Comic Relief (UK) and Mariwala Health Initiative (India)

Wellcome Trust & Science Practice Ltd. (UK), Remote - Lived Experience Expert

JUL 2021 - AUG 2021

- Provided insights on how young people could be best involved in shaping mental health research in India
- Explored ways in which Wellcome could support young people with lived experience of mental health challenges to shape mental health research and innovation

Surge Impact Foundation, India - Freelance Content Creator

SEP 2020 - FEB 2021

- Researched and edited articles on skill building initiatives and government employment schemes in the Indian state of Telangana

Mental Health Talks India, India - *Founder and Creator*

APR 2018 - PRESENT

- Founded the mental health initiative on advocacy model through a lived experience lens, centering on sociopolitical systems and structures. Built a mental health community with 10.9k+ members on Instagram alone
- Conducted workshops in Hindi and English in Indian colleges and universities on mental health and led digital collaborations with different funding agencies and brands, including but not limited to Wellcome Trust UK

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Remote - *Translator and Transcriber*

SEP 2016 - DEC 2016

- Translated and transcribed audio recordings of focus group discussions and key informant interviews for the “Comprehensive Evaluation of Technology: Selection and Use by Low-Income Individuals in South and Southeast Asia” project
- Supported the research collaboration between MIT CITE (Comprehensive Initiative on Technology Evaluation) and SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) Bharat

The University of Texas at Austin, Remote - *Research Assistant*

JUN 2016 - JUL 2016

- Assisted on a research project conducted by the university on globalization and Hindi film industry as soft-power
- Researched and found archival data for the project at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi, India

AWARDS

- Part of the Voyant Tools team that was awarded the Zampolli Prize, 2022.
- SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation India) Media for Mental Health Award for excellence in reporting on mental health, 2021.
- Scholarship for Low and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) individuals to attend the 13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, co-hosted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and AcademyHealth, 2020.
- Kauran Roop Rai Memorial Scholarship for being the Best Student in English at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi, 2014.
- Best Student Award at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi, 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

- Khemka, Ayushi. "My Journey With Anxiety: No, It Is Not Nervousness". *Age of Anxiety: How to Cope*. Ed. Amrita Tripathi and Kamna Chhibber. New Delhi, India: Simon and Schuster, 2021, p. 90-98.
- Khemka, Ayushi. "Schoolchildren and Mental Health Care: Two Worlds That Rarely Meet". The Delek Archives. September 8, 2020.
- Khemka, Ayushi. "Mental Health Talks India: Lived Experience, Marginalities, and Social

Media". Digital Humanities Alliance for Research and Teaching Innovations (DHARTI) India Medium Blog. September 6, 2021.

- Khemka, Ayushi. "Lonely And Depressed? We Need To Talk About Care Networks". The Health Collective. August 2021.
- Khemka, Ayushi. "We Need to Talk: Care-giving and Self Care". The Health Collective. March 2021.
- Khemka, Ayushi. "Cyberbullying and Mental Health: The Twin Tower Problem". Centre for Social Research. May 2020.
- Khemka, Ayushi. "9 AM Lamotrigine". Muse India: the literary ejournal. Issue 81: Sept-Oct 2018.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- June, 2022: Part of a panel on "Understanding Mental Health and Owning the Narrative" at the India International Centre, New Delhi, organized by The Health Collective India.
- June, 2022: Part of a panel on "Anxious Nation: Why We Talk About Mental Health" at the India International Centre, New Delhi, organized by The Health Collective India.
- May, 2022: Co-presented on "Announcing Spyral: Introduction and Official Release of Spyral Notebooks" at the DH Unbound 2022 Conference held virtually with Kayling Land, Geoffrey Rockwell, Andrew MacDonald, Bennett Kuwan Tchoh and Elliot Damasah.
- May, 2021: Part of a panel on "Impact of Positive+ Conversations on Mental Health of Children Living through the COVID-19 Pandemic" at the Centre for Social Research, India.
- April, 2021. Part of a panel on "Living in the Age of Anxiety: A Panel Discussion on How to Cope" at Simon and Schuster, India.
- October, 2020: Presented a paper on "Social Media as an Everyday Space: Hierarchies, Contestation and Resistance" at 'digital + humanities: a symposium of the Digital Humanities in the Indian Rim project' held virtually by Western Sydney University, University of Kent, IIT Kharagpur and Pondicherry University.
- September, 2020: Invited to deliver a talk on "Bridging the Gap in Mental Health Care", at the International Health and Well-being Town Hall, held virtually by Melton Foundation, India.
- March, 2020: Invited to participate in the two days lecture-workshop titled 'Digital Humanities: Research Tools and Methodologies' at the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, India, under the aegis of the SPARC Digital Humanities Project. The workshop was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- November, 2019: Invited to conduct a mental health workshop 'Dost, Dost Na Raha' (tr. 'The Friend is a Friend No More') on kinship networks and their psychosocial implications in the lives of the youth at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- October, 2018: Presented a paper on "Violence in the Internet Age: Gender and Trolling" at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India.
- March, 2017: Presented a paper on "Violence Against Women in Indian Cyberspaces: Understanding the Trolling of Barkha Dutt" at the Central University of Rajasthan, India

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & COURSES

- June, 2021: Participated in the course “Pedagogy of the Digitally Oppressed: Anti-Colonial Critiques and Praxis” at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute 2021, held virtually by the University of Victoria, Canada.
- November, 2020: Participated in the Service Users’ Involvement In Mental Health Course, as part of the ESSENCE (Enabling translation of Science to Service to ENhance Depression CarE) project, Sangath, India.
- November, 2019: Participated in the Winter Institute in Digital Humanities co-hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, India, and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURES

- 2020, May. Started a podcast focused on Indian Academia, called “Academia BTS” (Behind the scenes), to create a community of young academics and talk about issues related to research, writing, university spaces and higher education in India.
- 2018, April. Founded a mental health awareness and advocacy based initiative called ‘Mental Health Talks India’ (MHTI). Through MHTI, I have been creating content and conducting events on social determinants of mental health in Hindi and English.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- March, 2022. Member of the organizing committee for Gender and Social Justice Graduate Conference, “Decolonizing Futurities, Radical Imaginaries” at the University of Alberta, Canada.
- March, 2022. Moderated the session on “Navigating Alternative Approaches to Stop Gender-Based Violence” at Gender and Social Justice Graduate Conference, “Decolonizing Futurities, Radical Imaginaries” at the University of Alberta, Canada.
- October, 2021. Served as a reviewer for the DH2022 Tokyo conference, organized by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO) and the University of Tokyo.
- November, 2017. Member of the organizing committee for 2017 Begum Rokeya Annual Lecture, “Resistance and Reform: Women’s Reservation and the Struggle for Gender Justice” delivered by Zoya Hasan at the Centre for Women’s Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

PRESS

- 2022, July 01. Interviewed by Rupsha Bhadra on intergenerational communication and mental health. Jagran New Media.
- 2022, March 04. Featured in “SCARF Media For Mental Health Awards Presented”. The

Hindu.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/scarf-media-for-mental-health-award-s-presented/article65191146.ece>

- 2020, October 14. Interviewed by Kelly Ng for Asian Mental Health Collective about implementing lived experience in mental health initiatives in Asia. <https://www.asianmhc.org/the-value-of-lived-experiences/>
- 2020, October 13. Prideaux, Ed. "The Biggest Threat to India's Economic Boom? A Mental Health Crisis." The Independent. <https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/long-reads/coronavirus-india-mental-health-crisis-suicide-modi-ptsd-b880708.html>
- 2020, August 05. Akundi, Sweta. "The Online Mental Health Market". The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-online-mental-health-market/article32274639.ece>
- 2020, April 12. Interviewed by Jane Jeyakumar on Radio One Bangalore, India about COVID-19 and Mental Health.
- 2020, March 29. Kuriakose, Simi. "Digital Divas." India Today. Featured as one of the top 5 young women in India using social media as a tool to educate and inform people. <https://www.indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/digital-divas-1660882-2020-03-29>
- 2020, February 27. Interviewed on "She Slays", a podcast run by a leading Indian national daily Hindustan Times about mental health and social media in India.
- 2019, November 20. Akundi, Sweta. "Does ASMR Work Against Anxiety and Insomnia?". The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/does-asmr-work-against-anxiety-and-insomnia/article30004848.ece>
- 2019, October 09. Thomas, Liffy. "Here's How They 'Mind Their Business'". The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/education/careers/heres-how-they-mind-their-business/article29625464.ece>
- 2019, August 09. Ghoroi, Trisha. "Creating A Social Media Haven". Asian Age: Mumbai.
- 2019, July 31. Akundi, Sweta and Vangmayi Parakala. "Need Someone To Talk To? Here Are A Few Safe Online Spaces To Find Kind Listeners". The Hindu. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/need-someone-to-talk-to-these-online-safe-spaces-have-got-your-back/article28759252.ece>

LANGUAGES KNOWN

- English (Proficiency in Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening)
- Hindi (Proficiency in Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening)
- Marwari (Proficiency in Speaking, Reading and Listening)
- Urdu (Proficiency in Speaking and Listening)
- Punjabi (Limited proficiency in Speaking and Listening)

REFEREES

Available on request.