MITALI THAKOR

Assistant Professor
Science in Society Program
Wesleyan University

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2018 -	**Wesleyan University**, Assistant Professor, Science in Society Program Affiliations: Anthropology; Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Co-Director (with Anthony Hatch) of Black Box Labs
2016-2018	**Northwestern University** Postdoctoral Fellow, Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) Department of Anthropology and Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies
2010-2016	**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Ph.D., Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology & Society *"Algorithmic Detectives Against Child Trafficking: Data, Entrapment, and the New Global Policing Network"* Committee: Heather Paxson, Michael Fischer, Graham Jones, and Mary L. Gray
2005-2009	**Stanford University** B.A. Anthropology with Honors, B.A. Feminist Studies with Honors Michelle Rosaldo Prize for Social Science Research in Gender & Sexuality Studies

AWARDS & GRANTS

2023	Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Wesleyan University
2022	Faculty Grants in Support of Scholarship, Project Grant and Student Researcher Grant
2020	Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Wesleyan University
2020	Wesleyan Creative Campus Initiative Grant for Guest Visiting Artists
2019	Faculty Grants in Support of Scholarship, Wesleyan University
2019	Quantitative Analysis Center Data Analysis Apprenticeship Program
2018	Faculty Research Grant, Northwestern Undergraduate Research Program
2016	Finalist, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA) student paper prize
2016	Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (awarded/declined)
2016	Siegel Essay Prize for Science & Technology Studies, MIT
2015	HASTS Siegel Teaching Prize for "Human Trafficking & Modern-Day Slavery"
2015	Kelly Douglas Fund and MIT Graduate Student Council Traveling Fellowships
2014-2016	Hugh Hampton Young Memorial Fund Research Fellowship, MIT
2015	MIT Karl Taylor Compton Prize (highest student honor)
2015	Woodrow Wilson Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Women's & Gender Studies
2014-2015	Harvard Berkman Center for Internet & Society Research Fellowship
2013-2015	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, STS Division
2013	Futures Without Violence, National Campus Leader
2012	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
2010-2012	MIT Presidential Fellowship

RESEARCH & WRITING

Book Project	Facing the Child: The Digital Policing of Child Pornography (advance contract with *MIT Press*)

Journal Articles (Published and In Preparation)

Under revision	'You Can't End What You Can't Measure:' Data, Infrastructure, and the Transnational Labor of Policing Child Pornography. *Current Anthropology.*
In preparation	Artifice Intelligence: Deep Fakes, Didactic Fakes, and the Pleasure of Exposure. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory.*
	Digital Abolitionism: Artificial Intelligence, White Supremacy, and the Evangelical Anti-Trafficking Movement. *Cultural Anthropology*.
	Book Review of *Technologies of Human Rights Representation*, ed. Alexandra S. Moore and James Dawes. *H-Net.*
2020	Between Hope and Hype: Critical Evaluations of Technology's Role in Anti-Trafficking. Co-authored with Jennifer Musto and Borislav Gerasimov. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, 14: 1-15.
2018	Digital Apprehensions: Policing, Child Pornography, and the Algorithmic Management of Innocence. *CATALYST: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience.* Series on "Whiteness and Technoculture."
2018	A Conversation: Queer Digital Media Resources and Research. *Co-authored* Fischer, M., Haimson, O. L., Rios, C., Shaw, A., Thakor, M., Gieseking, J. J., & Cockayne, D. *First Monday*, *23*(7).
2017	"Genealogies and Futures of Queer Science and Technology Studies." Co-authored with Stephen Molldrem. Special issue on "Science Out of Feminist Theory," Ed. Banu Subramanian and Angie Willey. *CATALYST: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* 3(1): 1-15.
2017	How to Look: Apprehension, Forensic Craft, and the Classification of Child Exploitation Images. IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Apr-June, pp. 6-8.
2016	Book Review of *Trafficked Children and Youth in the United States: Imagining Survivors*, by Elżbieta M. Goździak. Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees, 32:3, pp. 150-151.
2013	Networked Trafficking: Reflections on Technology and the Anti-Trafficking Movement. Co-authored with danah boyd (Microsoft Research). Dialectical Anthropology, Special Issue on "Anti- Anti-Trafficking," 37:2, pp. 277-290.

Chapter Publications in Edited Collections

2021	"Capture is Pleasure." Your Computer is On Fire!, ed. Thomas Mullaney. Marie Hicks, Ben Peters, and Kavita Philip. (Stanford University Press)
2019	"Deception by Design: Carceral Lures and Interventions into Child Sexual Exploitation." Captivating Technology: Reimagining Race, Resistance, and Carceral Technoscience, ed. Ruha Benjamin (Duke University Press)
2017	"The Allure of Artifice." Queer Feminist Science Studies: A Reader. Ed. Cyd Cipolla, Kristina Gupta, David A. Rubin, Angela Willey. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press. Pp. 141-156.

Policy Publications

2015	"Problematizing the Dominant Discourse on Children & the Internet,"

Article commissioned by Association for Progressive Communications for Global Information Society Watch, special issue on "Sexual Rights & the Internet." Presented at 10th annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum 2015 in João Pessoa, Brazil.

Web-Based Publications

2018   "A Feeling for Robotic Skin: Ethnographic explorations, with sex dolls, robots, and their makers." Platypus Blog of the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing.

2014   "Between Protection & Privacy: Anti-Trafficking & Data Science"
            UN Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons, Bangkok, Thailand

2012   Human Trafficking & Technology: A Framework for Understanding the Role of Technology in the Commercial Exploitation of Children in U.S.
            Co-authored with danah boyd, Heather Casteel, and Rane S. Johnson. Microsoft Research Human Trafficking Project. Cambridge, MA and Redmond, WA

TEACHING

Spring 2023   **Technologies of Care**

Fall 2022   **AI, Algorithms, & Power**

               Anthropology of Science

Spring 2021   **Queer Robotics: Cyborgs in Science Fiction and Anthropology**

               Anthropology of Science

Fall 2020   **AI, Algorithms, & Power**

               Anthropology of Science

Spring 2020   **Algorithmic Revolutions: Fakery, Race, & Labor in the New Artificial Age**

Fall 2019   **Anthropology of Science**

               Queer Robotics: Cyborgs in Science Fiction and Anthropology

Spring 2019   **Anthropology of Science**

               Queer Robotics: Cyborgs in Science Fiction and Anthropology

Fall 2018   **Introduction to Science as Culture**, Wesleyan University

               Skin, State, Sex, Software: Surveillance & Society, Wesleyan University, Freshman Seminar

Spring 2018   **Sex and Surveillance**, Northwestern University. Cross-listed under Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies

Fall 2017	**Queer Robotics: Cyborgs in Science Fiction and Anthropology**, Northwestern University. Cross-listed under Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies
Spring 2017	**Risky Borders: Sex, Race, Surveillance, and Techniques of Border Control**, Northwestern University, Cross-listed under Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies
Winter 2017	**Queer Robotics: Cyborgs in Science Fiction and Anthropology,** Northwestern University. Cross-listed under Anthropology and Gender & Sexuality Studies
Spring 2015	**Slavery and Human Trafficking in the 21st Century** Designed syllabus and taught an undergraduate seminar with 19 students on feminist studies of trafficking, labor exploitation, capitalism, and sex work. Cross-listed under MIT Anthropology and MIT Women's & Gender Studies. Open to MIT and Wellesley College undergraduates. Awarded MIT STS Siegel Teaching Prize by faculty and student nomination. Published on MIT OpenCourseWare: http://tinyurl.com/traffickingMIT
Fall 2013	**The Anthropology of Capitalism (Teaching Assistant)** Instructor Prof. Christine Walley, MIT Anthropology. Advising/Grading role.
Spring 2013	**The Stakes of International Development (Teaching Assistant)** Instructor Prof. Christine Walley, MIT Anthropology. Teaching/Advising role.
Spring 2012	**Introduction to Anthropology (Teaching Assistant)** Instructor Prof. Graham Jones, MIT Anthropology. Teaching/Advising role.
Fall 2011	**Language and Technology (Teaching Assistant)** Instructor Prof. Graham Jones, MIT Anthropology. Advising/Grading role.

ADVISING

Thesis Students	Leila Henry (2022-23); Zoe Reifel (2020-21) – Awarded University Honors, highest distinction for Wesleyan undergraduate thesis students; Lucas Eras Paiva (2020-21, co-advised with Prof. Anu Sharma); Carina Bolaños-Lewen (2019-20)
Tutorial	Sarah Osborn (2019): "Sound Studies and STS"
Thesis Reader	Melisa Olgun (2020), Alea Laidlaw (2020), Teresa Naval (2019), Sam Morreale (2019)

INVITED TALKS

Oct 2022	**MIT Anthropology Colloquium,** Cambridge, MA
Sept 2022	**Law & New Media**, Conference sponsored by the Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA
April 2021	**Beyond Surveillance: The Capacity and Creep of Caring Relations**, co-sponsored by Digital Integrative Liberal Arts Center (DILAC) and Ethics, Technology, and Human Interaction Center (ETHIC[X]) at Georgia Tech in collaboration with the Center for Racial Justice at UC Santa Cruz

March 2021	**Invited Speaker, Shasha Seminar for Human Concerns on 'Truth (and Lies) In Our Time,'** Wesleyan University. Lecture on "Deepfakes in the Age of Misinformation"
Nov 2020	**Lecture (virtual),** UC Berkeley class on 'Ethnographies of the Digital'
Oct 2019	**Keynote, "Objects, Inhumans, and Robotics: Queer STS Futures,"** Interdisciplinary Conference on the Relations of Humans, Machines and Gender, TU Braunschweig, Germany
Oct 2019	**Keynote, "Robotic Flesh: The Racial Erotics of the Real,"** Diffracting AI and Robotics: Decolonial and Feminist Perspectives, Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Oct 2019	**Invited Speaker, Weizenbaum Lecture Series**, TU Berlin, Germany
May 2019	**"Making the Future of Work,"** University of Michigan
Jan 2019	**Feminist & Queer Technoscience**, University of Goettingen, Germany
Nov 2018	**Situated Knowledges Symposium**, UC Berkeley
March 2018	**Your Computer is On Fire**, Special Interest Group for Computing, Information and Society (SIGCIS), Stanford University
Sept 2017	**University of Michigan Bicentennial Symposium on the Digital Future**, Invited speaker, Ann Arbor, Michigan
March 2017	**Digital Vigilantism and the Pleasure of Outing Pedophiles**, Invited talk at California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA
March 2017	**"Command Lines: Software, Power, and Performance,"** Invited panelist at meeting for Special Interest Group for Computing, Information and Society (SIGCIS) of Society for the History of Technology, Computer History Museum, Mountain View, CA
Feb 2017	**"Queer STS, Sex Trafficking, and Digital Media**," Invited panelist at Queer Internet Studies Symposium, hosted by Jessa Lingel and Jack Gieseking, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Oct 2016	**"Algorithmic Detectives, Artifice, and Entrapment in the Digital Porno-Tropics,"** Buffett Institute Faculty and Fellows Colloquium, Northwestern University, IL
Feb 2016	**"Making Sweetie: Artificiality, Digital Sex Decoys, and Virtual Policing"** "Feminist and Queer Perspectives on the Computational Turn" seminar series, Bates College, Lewiston, ME
Oct 2015	**"Avatar Design and the Policing of Child Exploitation Online"** Feminist STS Initiative, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, MA
June 2015	**"Toward Critical Feminist Technology Studies of Youth Safety"** Harvard Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Cambridge, MA
Oct 2013	**"Carceral Feminism and Child Pornography"** Harvard Berkman Cyberscholars Meeting. Cambridge, MA
Jan 2013	**Human Trafficking and Technology Panel**, Invited panelist for Human Trafficking Awareness Day, New England Law School, Boston, MA

Oct 2012   **"Networked Trafficking"**
                Working Group on Human Trafficking & Modern-Day Slavery,
                Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Dec 2022   **Artificial Intimacies: Eldercare Robots and Animate Companionship**, 4S
                Conference Mexico City

March 2020   **Algorithmic Detectives Across the Globe: Data Territories and the Policing of
                Child Pornography**, Panel on "Data/Sovereignty," AES/APLA conference (cancelled
                due to COVID19 pandemic)

Nov 2019   **Sex Dolls, Robotic Flesh, and the Limits of the Human**, AAA Vancouver

Sept 2019   **Exposed: The Digital Detection of Deep Fakes Through Digital Forensics,** 4S
                Conference New Orleans

Nov 2018   **Intimate Artifice: AI Companions, Erotic Labor, and Racial Materiality**, Panel
                presenter and Chair, AAA Meeting San Jose

Nov 2018   **Roundtable, "Whiteness & Technoculture,"** American Studies Association, Atlanta

Dec 2017   **A Feeling for the Image: Content Moderation and Review of Child Pornography**
                All Things in Moderation: The People, Practices, and Politics of Online Content
                Review—Human and Machine, UCLA, CA

Nov 2017   **Queer Robots, Digital Vigilantism, and the Pleasure of Outing Pedophiles**
                Panel, "Digital Deception and the Queer Life of Data" at American Anthropological
                Association Meeting, D.C.

Sept 2017   **Deception by Design: Carceral Lures and Interventions into Child Sexual
                Exploitation**
                Panel, "Captivating Technology: Race, Technoscience, and the Carceral Imagination"
                at Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Meeting, Boston

Sept 2017   **Digital Apprehensions: Content Moderation and the Policing of Child
                Pornography**
                Panel on Whiteness and Technoculture at 4S Meeting, Boston

Nov 2016   **Avatars Unbound: Digital Policing, Algorithmic Detectives, and the New
                Surveillance of Child Sexual Abuse**
                Panel, "Policing Un/Bound" at American Anthropological Association Meeting,
                Minneapolis, MN

Sept 2016   **The New Global Policing Network: Algorithmic Detectives, Artifice, and
                Entrapment in the Digital Porno-Tropics**
                Panel, "Disciplining Unruly Bodies," at MidweSTS Workshop, Chicago, IL

Aug 2016	**Proximate Evil: Algorithmic Detectives and the New Digital Surveillance of Child Exploitation** Panel, "Cybersecurity" at 4S Meeting, Barcelona
Nov 2015	**"The Work of Anti-Trafficking"** Panel, "Activist Politics" at American Anthropological Association Meeting, Denver
Nov 2015	**"'Proactive Policing' of Child Exploitation Online"** Panel, "Policing Online Identities" at 4S Meeting, Denver, CO
April 2015	**"Queering Science & Technology Studies; Avatars, Algorithms, and the Policing of Child Sexual Abuse Images"** Panel, "Speculative Visions and Visual Speculations in Art, Film, and Digital Media" at Queer Speculations Conference, Univ. of Maryland. College Park, MD
Dec 2014	**"CGI Pornography, Carcerality, and Queer Viewing"** Panel, "Digital Media and Visual Ethics," at American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington DC
Oct 2013	**"Carceral Feminist Technologies & the Automated Detection of Child Pornography."** Panel, "Feminism & Media Infrastructures," at Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Meeting. San Diego, CA
April 2012	**"Trafficking Networks & Corporate Social Responsibility"** Panel, "Regime as Technology," at Gender, Bodies and Technology Conference. Roanoke, VA
Nov 2011	**"Technosociality, Trafficking Networks, & Corporate Responsibility"** Panel, "Cunning Tools for Crafting Futures," at American Anthropological Association Meeting. Montreal, QC, Canada

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Dec 2021	**Search Committee**, Science in Society Program tenure-track hire, Wesleyan University
Dec 2020	**Interviewed** two candidates for Anthropology tenure-track search, Wesleyan University
Spring 2018	**Search Committee,** Science in Society Program lecturer position, Wesleyan
Sept 2019-	**Advisory Board Member,** Center for the Humanities at Wesleyan University
2019-2020	**Mellon Faculty Seminar on Race & Pedagogy**, Wesleyan University
March 2019-	**External Advisory Board Member,** Center for Ethics, Society, & Computing at University of Michigan
Sept 2018- June 2020	**Guest Co-Editor,** *Anti-Trafficking Review,* with Jennifer Musto

Fall 2018	**Faculty Seminar on the Teaching of Writing**, Wesleyan University
April 2018	**Co-Organizer, Annual Workshop of the Sexualities Project at Northwestern**
Aug 2017	**Co-Organizer of Queer STS Meetup at 4S Conference, Boston, MA**
April 2017	**Co-Organizer, Annual Workshop of the Sexualities Project at Northwestern** On "Stigma," featuring keynote speaker Prof. Kane Race. Evanston, IL
March 2017	**National Selection Committee, TheDream.US** Scholarship and college access program for DREAMer students
Aug 2016	**Co-Organizer of Queer STS Meetup and Roundtable at 4S Conference** Fundraised and organized second annual Queer STS gatherings at 4S, with 100 attendees, at annual meeting held in Barcelona, Spain. With Stephen Molldrem (University of Michigan American Studies)
Nov 2015	**Co-Organizer of Queer STS Meetup at 4S Conference** Coordinated and fundraised for first student and early career scholar workshop on Queer STS at annual meeting for the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Denver.
Nov 2015	**Chair of "Materialities of the Digital" panel series, 4S Conference** Coordinated and co-chaired three-panel session track at annual meeting of 4S, Denver
Oct 2015	Invited Rapporteur for **Data & Civil Rights: A New Era of Policing and Justice**, co-hosted by Data & Society Research Institute, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Upturn. The Newseum, Washington, DC.
Feb 2014	**Co-Organizer of MIT Symposium on Gender & Technology** First student and faculty symposium at MIT on Feminist STS research. Presented research paper, "Carceral Biopolitics and the Traffic in Child Pornography"
April 2013	**Organizer of MIT Workshop on Sex Trafficking & Technology** Lead organizer of first activist-academic symposium at MIT on sex trafficking
2013-Present	**Co-Founder of MIT Working Group on "Digital STS"** MIT graduate students and early career scholars workshopping and reviewing new literature on digital studies, media theory, Internet studies, and science and technology
Jan 2013	**Faculty Search, World History (South Asian History), Student Representative**
Oct 2012	**Co-Organizer of MIT Workshop on Gender, Technology, & Development** Convened by MIT Anthropology, D-Lab, and Women's & Gender Studies
Fall 2012	**Research Assistant, World History Online Course with SUTD** Compiled syllabi and materials for "The World since 1400," MIT History Department course in partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design
2011-2013	**MIT Women's & Gender Studies Steering Committee** Graduate student representative at meetings on curriculum and event planning

| 2012-Present | **PLEASURE @ MIT** |
| | Founding member of student peer educator organization on healthy relationships, sexuality, and sexual health. Formerly named SAFER2. Supported by MIT Office of Violence Prevention and Response |

| 2011-2013 | **Graduate Women @ MIT** |
| | Co-President of 1,500-member student-led group to promote personal and professional development and make MIT a more inclusive & supportive community |

| 2011-2013 | **MIT Graduate Resident Tutor** |
| | Resident tutors are live-in mentors and leaders on various health, wellness, and educational issues for undergraduate students. Maseeh Hall is MIT's largest and most diverse student dormitory |

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association, Society for the Social Studies of Science, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Studies Association

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Gujarati (native bilingual speaker; some written proficiency), Spanish (3 years of instruction; working proficiency), Hindi (2 years of instruction; working proficiency), Thai (six months of instruction; novice)

Professional Birth Doula (Chicago Volunteer Doulas; Third Coast Birth Center Chicago)