**MITALI THAKOR**

Assistant Professor

Science in Society Program

Wesleyan University

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Allbritton Center* |  *Middletown, CT 06457* |
| *www.mitalithakor.com* | *mthakor@wesleyan.edu* |

EXPERIENCE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *2018 -*  | **Wesleyan University** |
| *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 HonorsMichelle Rosaldo Prize for Social Science Research in Gender & Sexuality Studies  |

AWARDS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **2018** | Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Wesleyan University |
|  **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 university-wide contest |
|  **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 (Solicited, *Duke U Press*, *U Minnesota Press, MIT Press*) |
|  |  |

***Journal Articles (Published and In Preparation)***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *In Preparation* | Policing Child Exploitation Across Digital Territory. STHV: Science, Technology, and Human Values. Series on “Cybersecurity and Digital Territory: Nation, Identity, and Citizenship.” (in preparation; editors Winnie Poster and Norma Möllers)  |
| 2018 | Digital Apprehensions: Policing, Child Pornography, and the Algorithmic Management of Innocence. Catalyst. Series on “Whiteness and Technoculture” (compilation of 4S 2017 panel with Neda Atanasoski, Lilly Irani, Patrick Keilty, Lilly Nguyen, Felicity Schaeffer-Gabriel, and Kalindi Vora)  |
| 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. |
|  | 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 Contributions***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *In Preparation* | “Recognition is Pleasure.” Your Computer is On Fire!, ed. Thomas Mullaney. Marie Hicks, Ben Peters, and Kavita Philip. (Stanford University Press) |
|  | “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***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fall 2019 | 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.  |

# INVITED TALKS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nov 2018 | , Panel on Artfir |
| 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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, Association for Feminist Anthropology, Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Studies Association

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Gujarati (oral fluency), 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)