

Shreya Kamath

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EDUCATION

Indiana University | Aug 2026 - Aug 2031

PhD in Human-Computer Interaction | United States

Indiana University | Aug 2024 - May 2026

Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction | GPA: 4.00 | United States

N. M. A. M. Institute of Technology | Aug 2018 - Jul 2022

Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communication Engineering | India

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SETH (Studying Empathy Technology and Humans) Lab, Indiana University | Aug 2024 - Present

Research Assistant | Indianapolis, Indiana

- **Collaborated with an interdisciplinary team** of designers, developers, school counselors and psychologists to design virtual reality (VR) experiences aimed at supporting children's social-emotional well-being.
- **Lead Researcher (2026-2027) on the NSF-funded project RITEL: Advancing Empathy Assessment for K-12 Learners through AI and Virtual Reality.** PI: Dr. Ekaterina Muravevskaia
 - Contributed to IRB protocol preparation and participant recruitment through community organizations, including Girl Scouts and Scouting America.
 - Conducted VR user studies of an empathy game with children using **think-aloud protocols**, and collaborated with school counselors and psychologists to understand the relationship between children's in-game actions and empathic behaviors.
- **Designed and led participatory design sessions with 25 children ages 7-14** to surface how they identify, represent, and interpret emotions in immersive VR experiences. Related publications: [1, 3].
- Analyzed design session transcripts in **ATLAS.ti** and video recordings in **NVivo** to identify challenges and opportunities in designing VR experiences for emotional understanding and empathy development. Manuscript under review.
- Analyzed interview transcripts using **Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)** to understand how social-emotional learning (SEL) is currently implemented in middle schools, and the challenges and opportunities for it. Manuscript under review; related publication: [2].
- **Designed and conducted focus groups with 15 children**, using role-play activities to inform the design of an interactive empathy assessment tool.

STEW (Socio-Technical Exploration of Wellbeing) Lab, Indiana University | Jan 2026 - May 2026

Independent Study Researcher | Indianapolis, Indiana

- **Conducted co-design sessions with 23 college students** to develop guidelines for artificial intelligence (AI) tools supporting student mental health and well-being. Manuscript under review.
- Conducted **reflexive thematic analysis in Excel** to examine how and why college students use AI tools for mental health support, informing design guidelines for safer and more helpful AI tools on campus. Related publication: [5].

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Kamath, S.**, Thomas, R. A., Vemula, H. R., & Muravevskaia, E. (2026). Designing VR games for emotional intelligence: Participatory design insights from children. *Proceedings of the 20th European Conference on Games Based Learning*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.34190/ecgbl.20.1.5260>

[2] **Kamath, S.**, Naidu, R., Shankar, S. K., Locklear, H., Saravanan, K., & Muravevskaia, E. (2026). Exploring educators' perspectives on VR and AI for social-emotional learning in middle schools. In *2026 IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies (ICALT)* (pp. 375-376). IEEE Computer Society. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICALT68022.2026.00114>

[3] **Kamath, S.**, Narayanappa, S., Verma, A., Vemula, H. R., Vemuri, S. S., Bonsignore, E., & Muravevskaia, E. (2026). "You need to know what not to do": Co-designing VR to support empathy and social decision-making in children. In *Proceedings of the 25th Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference (IDC '26)* (pp. 916-920). ACM. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3773077.3812168>

- [4] Narayanappa, S., **Kamath, S.**, Zhong, Y., Verma, M., Rao, V., Dickinson, P., & Muravevskaia, E. (in press). Towards emotionally-aware immersive technologies: Recognition of spontaneous emotional expressions in VR using in-built facial tracking. In *Proceedings of the 2026 Meaningful XR Conference*.
- [5] Dash, S. P., Peddi, J., **Kamath, S.**, Wang, P., & Yoo, D. W. (2026). The non-perceiving listener: General-purpose AI chatbots' distinctive affordance in student mental health support ecologies. In *Proceedings of the 2026 Companion of the Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW Companion '26)* (pp. 71-75). ACM. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3785651.3831492>

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to Using NVivo for Video Analysis | Feb 2026

Presentation for graduate students, SETH Lab, Indiana University

Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis Using ATLAS.ti | Dec 2025

Presentation for graduate students, SETH Lab, Indiana University

How to Read a Research Paper | Nov 2025

Presentation for graduate students, SETH Lab, Indiana University

Co-designing Emotionally Engaging VR Experiences for Children | Nov 2025

Poster Presentation, Luddy's 25th Annual Research Symposium, Indiana University

AWARDS

IU Indianapolis Graduate School Fellowship | Aug 2026 - Aug 2027

Awarded to outstanding IU Indianapolis graduate student scholars.

SKILLS

Data Collection: User interviews, user surveys, co-design, participatory design, focus groups, think-aloud protocols, diary studies, systematic literature review, usability testing, A/B testing

Data Analysis: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), thematic analysis, deductive and inductive coding, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, affinity mapping

Tools: Figma, FigJam, Mural, Qualtrics, NVivo, ATLAS.ti

RESEARCH ADVISING AND MENTORING

Mentored master's students in data collection, analysis and academic writing. Publications listed for mentees are papers they co-authored as a result of this mentorship (numbers refer to the Publications section above).

Current mentees

MS Cognitive Science, Amrita University, India | Feb 2026 - Present

Kaushik, Srujana Janga, M Vaishnavi, Harshitha K Dharam, Manikandan BK, Rahul Debnath

MS HCI, Indiana University | Aug 2026 - Present

Suhith Vasanth, Shashank Katariya

Past mentees | MS HCI, Indiana University

Sri Sushmita Vemuri | Co-authored publications: [3] | Jan 2025 - May 2026

Himavanth Reddy Vemula | Co-authored publications: [1, 3] | Jan - May 2026

Ruby Anne Thomas | Co-authored publications: [1] | Jan - May 2026

Shashidhara Narayanappa | Co-authored publications: [3] | Jan - May 2026

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

The Polis Center | Oct - Dec 2024

UX Researcher (Apprenticeship) | Indianapolis, United States

Capgemini Technology Services India Limited | Jul 2022 - Sep 2023

Associate Software Engineer | Bengaluru, India

CERTIFICATES

Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research | CITI Credential ID: 64753030

Social/Behavioral Researchers | CITI Credential ID: 64753031