

SIVA MATHIYAZHAGAN

sivam@upenn.edu

Education

Postdoctoral Research Scientist | 2021 | SAFE Lab | Columbia University (USA)

Mentor: Prof. Desmond U. Patton, Columbia School of Social Work, Columbia University.

Ph.D. in Social Work | 2015 | Department of Social Work | Pondicherry University (India)

Dissertation Topic: A Situation Analysis of Community-Based Child Participation and Protection Mechanisms

Chair: Prof. Satheesh Kumar, Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University.

UGC-NET | 2010 | University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test for Lectureship in Social Work

Master of Social Work (MSW) | 2010 | Community Development | Pondicherry University (India)

Thesis Topic: Implementation of Child Protection Policy in Government Schools of Puducherry

Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com) | 2008 | Thiruvalluvar University (India)

Work Experience

Research & Practice

Sep. 2022- Present | SAFE Lab | University of Pennsylvania
Associate Director

Feb. 2020- August 2022 | SAFE Lab | Columbia University
Associate Director- Strategies and Impact

Sept. 2018- Jan. 2020 | SAFE Lab | Columbia University
Affiliate Researcher

Dec. 2018- Present | Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) International Inc.
Founder-Director

Mar. 2011- March 2022 | Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) - India
Founder-Director

Sept. 2018- Present | United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
TYCL Main Representative to the UN Headquarters New York, Geneva, and Vienna.

Teaching

Sept. 2019- Present | **Lecturer & Field Instructor** in Social Work
Columbia School of Social Work

Sept. 2016- May 2017 | **Guest Faculty - Department of Social Work | Pondicherry University**
Faculty for Human Rights and Social Legislations | Social Work with Communities | Social Entrepreneurship and Social Work Practice

June 2015- 2018 | **Indra Gandhi National Open University | Pondicherry Study Centre**
Social Work Academic Counsellor | MSW Field Work Facilitation | MSW Research Facilitation

Tech Policy

Mathiyazhagan, S., Salam, M., Willis, H. A., & Patton, D. U. (2022) [**Social Work in Metaverse: Addressing Tech Policy Gaps for Racial and Mental Health Equity.**](#) Internet Policy Review.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Kleiner, S., & Patton, D. (2021, March 16). To Make Good Policy on AI, Talk to Social Workers. *Tech Policy Press*. <https://techpolicy.press/to-make-good-policy-on-ai-talk-to-social-workers/>

Fellowship

RSM Assembly Fellow (2022-23) at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University.

Recent Research Grants

2022 **Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab (Lab)**
InterpretMe 2.0: A Web Tool for Community-Centered Interpretation of Social Media Posts
Co-Principal Investigator
Direct Costs: \$25,000

2021 **Brown Institute- Magic Grant / Columbia Journalism School &**
[*Interpret Me: An Immersive Simulation Education for Community-Centered Understand of Social Media Content*](#)
Co-Principal Investigator
Direct Costs: \$100,000

Selected Publications

Aguilar, N., Landau, A., **Mathiyazhagan, S.**, Auyeng, A., Dillard, S., Patton, D. (2023-In Press). Applying Reflexivity to Artificial Intelligence for Researching Marginalized Communities and Real-World Problems. *In Proceedings of the 56th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*.

Mathiyazhagan, S. & La Fors, K. (2022). Children's Right to Participation in AI: Transnational Co Creative Approaches to Foster Inclusive AI Policy and Practice. *Information Polity*.

Ramalingam, K., Jiar, Y. K., & **Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2022). Speaking Skills Enhancement through Digital Storytelling among Primary School Students in Malaysia. *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 21(3), 22–35. <https://doi.org/10.26803/ijlter.21.3.2>

Mathiyazhagan, S. (2021). Field Practice, Emerging Technologies, and Human Rights: The Emergence of Tech Social Workers. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41134-021-00190-0>

Patton, D. U., **Mathiyazhagan, S.**, & Landau, A. Y. (2021). Meet Them Where They Are: Social Work Informed Considerations for Youth Inclusion in AI Violence Prevention Systems. In *Algorithmic Rights and Protections for Children*. <https://doi.org/10.1162/ba67f642.646d0673>

Mathiyazhagan, S., & Wang, Z. (2021). N'KaNa-my dream: community action towards the holistic child development in India. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 122, 105924. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.105924>

Mathiyazhagan, S. (2020). Participatory Youth-Led Community Development: A Child-Centered Visual SWOT Analysis in India. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 104963. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104963>

Gabel, Shirley Gatenio; **Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2019). Using evidence to protect and promote human rights in the UN system. *Behavioral Science in the Global Arena, Volume 1: Addressing Timely Issues at the United Nations and Beyond* (1st ed.; E. P. Congress, H. Takooshian, & Asper Abigail, eds.). Retrieved from <https://www.infoagepub.com/series/International-Psychology>

Mathiyazhagan, S. (2014). Gender, Caste, and Violence: Are Dalit Women Vulnerable? *Journal of Social Vision*, 217-226.

Mathiyazhagan, S. (2012). A Child Right-Based Critical Analysis of Crime Against Children: Issues and Measures for Community-Based Child Protection. *Indian Journal of Human Rights and the Law*, 9(2), 147-158.

Recent Invited Lectures

October 2021 | Keynote Speaker | ***COVID-19 & Tech Social Work Practice for Youth Mental Health*** at the Colombian Social Workers Day Celebration in the Universidad Santiago de Cali, Colombia.

March 2021 | Invited Speaker | ***Identity and social determinants of youth suicide in India*** at the Eastern Psychology Association International symposium in New York.

March 2020 | Guest Speaker | ***Adolescents Wellbeing and Emotional Extremisms on Social Media*** at the New School, New York.

October 2019 | Expert talk | ***Emerging Technology and Media for Youth Suicide Prevention: learning from India and the US*** at the UN NGO Committee on Mental health, UN HQ New York.

March 2019 | Keynote Speaker | ***IFSW Student Forum, Social Work Day at the United Nations***, New York.

March 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Women in Non-formal Financial Institutions and Impact Investments*** at the Columbia School of Social Work, New York.

February 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Youth-led Safe and Inclusive Spaces for Young People*** at the School of Social Services, Fordham University.

February 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Adolescents and Emotional Extremism on Social Media*** at the New School, New York.

International Programs

Honors10 Speaker at the ***University of California Riverside, Claremont School of Theology, and the University of La Sierra*** with support from the Honors Program, University of California, and Child Leader Project. California, USA (2012 & 2011).

Participation in ***the International Leadership Training program: A Global Intergenerational Forum***, organized by UNESCO, the Institute of Comparative Human Rights, and Mahidol University. Bangkok, Thailand (2012).

Participation in ***Clinton Global Initiative University Conference***, organized by the Bill Clinton Foundation and the University of California, San Diego. California, USA (2011).

Peer Reviewer

Taylor & Francis Group | *Journal of Technology in Human Services*

ELSEVIER | *Children and Youth Service Review*

Springer | *Journal on Human Rights and Social Work (JHRW)*

BRILL | *Youth Voice Journal (YVJ) UK*

Social Innovations

- **Village Innovation and Incubation Lab (ViiL)** with STREAM curriculum in India
- **Youth Helpline with Mobile Application** – A Safe Space for Youth Feelings!
- **N' KaNa** – Mentorship Program Children in Difficult Circumstances
- **INAGI: A Visual SWOT** – Child-Centered Visual Media-Based SWOT for Community Development
- **Holistic Self-Defense for Girls** – An E-Learning Curriculum and Web tool for Simulation Learning

Selected Media Coverages

[Responsible Tech Guide by All Tech is Human](#)

[Creative Arts for Positive Mental Health – Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

[Youth helpline mobile app launched in Puducherry - The Hindu](#)

[Overcoming childhood trauma through art - The Hindu](#)

[Why Does a Quaint Town in India Have the World's Highest Suicide Rate -OZY](#)

[Working Together to Prevent Suicide | Dianova International](#)

Awards & Recognitions

2015 **Best Youth Award**

Youth Educational Centre, Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIIER). Auroville, India.

2010 **Senior Research Fellowship for Doctoral Research (Ph.D. Fully funded)**

University Grants Commission. New Delhi, India.

2008 **Merit Scholarship for Professional Courses for MSW program (MSW Fully funded)**

University Grants Commission. New Delhi, India.

Memberships

Program Committee Member, AMC Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2021& 2022)

Active Member of Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)

Active Member of American Psychological Association (APA)

Executive Member-at-Large, UN NGO Committee on Mental Health (2020-2023)

Convener – The UN NGO Working Group on Children, Youth and Mental Health (2020-2023)

International Member of Society for Community Research and Action-Division 27 of the American Psychological Association-USA

Languages

Tamil & English

A self-made and motivated social work practitioner-scholar, thought leader, speaker, social tech policy analyst, institution builder, and a rational community worker with proven leadership across transnational borders.