

Anita Gurumurthy
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Anita Gurumurthy is a founding member and executive director of [IT for Change](#) (ITfC) where she leads research on emerging issues in the digital context such as the platform economy, data and AI governance, democracy in the digital age and feminist frameworks on digital justice. She also directs ITfC's [field resource centre](#) that works with grassroots rural communities on 'technology for social change' models. Anita actively engages in national and international advocacy on digital rights and contributes regularly to academic and media spaces.

Current Research Projects

- Project director of 'Re-wiring India's digitalising economy for women's rights and well-being', an action-oriented knowledge project to build a cutting edge, interdisciplinary feminist research network spanning India, Africa and the EU, and influence policy debates on women and the future of work through close collaboration with social enterprises.
- Lead researcher of a global study on the organising and business models of workers in the platform economy, for the ILO.
- Coordinator of the [Digital Justice Project](#) with DAWN, a Southern feminist network.

Past Research Projects

- Led [Righting Gender Wrongs](#), a study of young women's experience of cyberviolence in South India (2018-19).
- Led a five-part research project on [AI governance and development](#) (2019).
- Principal investigator of ITfC's multi-country policy research project on [platform governance](#). The project covered 14 countries across Asia, Africa, EU and Latin America (2017-19).
- Led a multi-country research project, [Voice or Chatter?](#), examining the conditions under which ICT-enabled citizen engagement can produce [transformatory outcomes for citizenship](#) (2016-17).
- Worked with the Asia-Pacific regional office of the UN to develop a [toolkit](#) for policymakers on e-government and gender equality (2014-16).
- Brought together practitioners, activists and scholars to discuss and deliberate upon the vital theme of [Inclusion in the Network Society](#) (2014).
- Set up a pan-Asian network on gender and citizenship through the [CITIGEN](#) research network in Asia, set up by IT for Change (2010-12).

Advocacy Work

- Co-founder of the [Just Net Coalition](#), a leading global platform for social justice in the digital age.

- Contributes regularly to policy related processes in several global arenas, such as the [WTO Public Forum](#), [UN Human Rights Council](#), [UN-CEDAW](#), [UN-CSW](#), [UNCTAD](#), [UNWOMEN](#), [UNESCO](#) and other venues, also contributing to the work of [Special Rapporteurs of the UN](#).
- Represented civil society positions in global events on many occasions including the UN Internet Governance Forum (plenary session on [Cybersecurity](#) at IGF 2017, [opening session](#) and [main session](#) on human rights and the Internet at IGF 2016 and [closing session](#) of IGF 2008).
- Briefed ambassadors from the G77 countries at South Centre, Geneva, in October 2018.
- Part of the [expert group](#) set up by UNWOMEN towards CSW 64.
- Part of the FES-initiated global project, Feminist Visions for the Future of Work.
- Invited by Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation to advise on their program strategy in 2019.
- Speaker at the [Digital Development Forum 2018](#) organised by the Asian Development Bank.
- Part of the Karnataka Government committee on SDGs implementation.

Academic Engagements

- Invited as keynote speaker at the inaugural Festival on Communication for Social Change, hosted by Loughborough University London, May 2020.
- Keynote speaker at the [AAAI/ACM conference](#) on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Society in February 2020.
- [Keynote speaker](#) at the Data Justice Conference organised by Cardiff University, in May 2018.
- [Keynote speaker](#) at academic conferences such as the HCI India Conference in December 2018.
- Plenary speaker at the [International Association for Media and Communications Research 2016 conference](#) (IAMCR) at Leicester, UK and IAMCR's [2014 conference](#) in Hyderabad.

Publications

Book Chapters

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2020) Towards a political practice of empowerment in digital times: a feminist commentary from the Global South. In McGee, R. and Pettit, J. (eds.) [Power, empowerment and social change](#). London: Routledge.
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2020) Institutional listening. In Tacchi, J. and Tufte, T. (eds.) [Communicating for change: Concepts to think with](#). Palgrave MacMillan.
- Gurumurthy, A. (2019). Digital globality and economic margins: Unpacking myths, recovering materialities. In Graham, M. (ed.) [Digital economies at global margins](#), MIT Press.

Research Reports

- Gurumurthy, A. and Bharthur, D (forthcoming). Techno-disruptions and travel: Examining the impacts of platformisation in the Indian tourism sector. Bread for the World.

- Gurumurthy, A., Chami, N. and Bharthur, D. (forthcoming). Platform labour in search of value: A study to map worker organising practices and business models in the gig economy. Geneva: ILO.
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2020). [The intelligent corporation](#), State of Power Report, Transnational Institute.
- Gurumurthy, A. (2019). [Platform planet: Development in the intelligence economy](#). Bengaluru: IT for Change.
- Gurumurthy, A. and Bharthur, D. (2019). [Taking stock of artificial intelligence in Indian agriculture](#). *Artificial Intelligence in India Vol 3*, New Delhi: FES India.
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2019). [The wicked problem of AI governance](#). *Artificial Intelligence in India – Vol 2*, New Delhi: FES India.
- Alemany, C. and Gurumurthy, A. (2019). [Governance of data and artificial intelligence](#). *Spotlight on Sustainable Development*.
- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2019). [From ill-founded delusions to real possibilities: An e-commerce agenda for women's empowerment](#). IT for Change.

Journals

- Gurumurthy, A. and Bharthur, D. (2018). [Democracy and the algorithmic turn – Issues, challenges and the way forward](#), *SUR International Journal on Human Rights*.
- Gurumurthy, A. (2018). [Where is the 'struggle' in communication for social progress?](#), *Special issue for Global Media and Communication*, Vol 14, Issue 2, pp. 193 – 200.

Policy Briefs

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2019). [Digital public goods: A precondition for realising the SDGs](#), Global Governance Spotlight, Development and Peace Foundation Bonn.
- Gurumurthy, A, Chami, N. and Anwar, I.A. (2019). [Making the digital economy work for informal sector women in India](#), IT for Change.

Media articles

- [Debating political ads on social media](#), Firstpost, November 2019.
- [Digital economy deserves more](#), Hindu Business Line, July 2019.
- [Misleading takedowns: Facebook needs to be a lot more transparent when it comes to banning pages, groups](#), Firstpost, April 2019.
- [How the online space for women is in a crisis and what needs to be done about it](#), Firstpost, March 2019.
- [Why the debate on e-commerce must move beyond FDI rules](#), Hindustan Times, January 2019.
- [Are India's laws on surveillance a threat to privacy?](#), The Hindu, December 2018.
- [What datafication means for the right to development](#), Open Global Rights, September 2018.
- [Hidden figures: A look at technology-mediated violence against women in India](#). GenderIT.org, June 2018.

