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 Projects

- Principal researcher on Unskewing the Data Value Chain, a policy research project for equitable platform economies.

- Lead researcher, Centering Women in India's Digitalizing Economy, a policy research and learning exchange project spanning India, Africa and the EU on women and the future of work.

- Lead coordinator of Feminist Digital Justice, a collaborative project with DAWN, a Southern feminist network.

- Lead researcher on Recognise-Resist-Remedy, a project to address gender-based hate speech in the online public sphere.

Past Projects

- Lead researcher on a global study about the organising and business models of workers in the platform economy, for the ILO (2019-20).

- Lead researcher on Righting Gender Wrongs, a study of young women's experience of cyberviolence in South India (2018-19).

- Coordinator of 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).

- Lead researcher of a multi-country research project, Voice or Chatter?, which examined ICT-enabled citizen engagement (2016-17).

- Invited by the Asia-Pacific regional office of the UN to develop a toolkit for policymakers on e-government and gender equality (2014-16).

Policy Engagements

- Invited as a keynote speaker for the closing event of the CSO Forum of the UN Commission for Social Development, February 2021.

- Invited by the BRICS civil society working group on women and girls to speak on the theme of feminist pathways to digital transformation post-pandemic in August 2020.

- Part of the expert group set up by UN Women towards CSW 64.

- Part of the Karnataka Government committee on SDGs implementation 2019-2020.

- Invited by Ford Foundation and Open Society Foundations to advice on their program strategy in 2019.

- Contributes regularly to policy related processes in global policy arenas, such as the WTO Public Forum, UN Human Rights Council, UN-CEDAW, UN-CSW UNCTAD, UN Women, UNESCO and other venues, and the work of Special Rapporteurs of the UN.

- Has 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 at IGF 2008).

- Co-founder of the Just Net Coalition, a leading global platform for digital justice.

Academic and Civil Society Engagements

- Invited to speak at the opening panel of the (online) World Social Forum January 2021 in the thematic space of social justice on the digitalisation of the economy and labour.

- Invited to deliver a keynote at the B'AI Global Forum launch event at the University of Tokyo in March 2021

- Presented a paper on Unskewing the Data Value Chain at the Data Paradigm Forum co-organized by the Omidyar Network and Rockefeller Foundation in December 2020.

- Plenary speaker at the IAMCR's 2020 conference (online). Also spoke at IAMCR main plenaries - 2016 conference in Leicester, UK, and 2014 conference in Hyderabad, India.

- Has contributed to global civil society discussions on the post-Covid digital context including at the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development; the Transnational Institute's webinar series 'Taking on the Tech Titans', and FES' discussions on Gender and the Digital Economy in Asia.

- Keynote speaker at the AAAI/ACM conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Society in February 2020.

- Keynote speaker at the HCI India Conference in December 2018.

- Keynote speaker at the Data Justice Conference organised by Cardiff University, in May 2018.

- Member of Minderoo Tech & Policy Lab Advisory Board, University of Western Australia since October 2020.

Recent Book Chapters

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (forthcoming). A feminist policy agenda for the age of data governmentality in Gallagher, M. Montiel, A.V.(eds.) Handbook on Gender, Communication and Women's Human Rights. Wiley Blackwell and IAMCR.

- Gurumurthy, A. (2020). New cartographies of the digital commons: Going by feminist wisdom. In Jha, P., Kumar, A., and Mishra, Y. (eds.) Labouring women: Issues and challenges in contemporary India. Orient Blackswan.

- 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. Routledge.

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2020). Institutional listening: An essential principle for democracy in digital times. 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.

Recent Research Reports and Papers

- 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. ILO.

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2020). The deal we always wanted: A feminist action framework for the digital economy. FES.

- Gurumurthy, A., Chami, N., and Sanjay, S. (2020). The gig is up! Worker rights for digital day labour in India. FES India.

- Gurumurthy, A. and Bharthur, D (2020). Techno-disruptions and travel: Examining the impacts of platformisation in the Indian tourism sector. Bread for the World.

- Gurumurthy, A. (2020). A feminist future of work in the post-pandemic moment: A new social contract as if women matter. Feminist Digital Justice, IT for Change and DAWN.

- 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. IT for Change.

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2019). The wicked problem of AI governance. Artificial Intelligence in India – Vol 2. FES India.

- Gurumurthy, A., Vasudevan, A., and Chami, N. (2019). Born digital, born free? A socio-legal study on young women's experiences of online violence in South India. IT for Change.

- Gurumurthy, A.; Bharthur, D., and Chami, N. (2017) Voice or chatter? Making ICTs work for transformative engagement. Making All Voices Count Research Report. IDS.

Recent Journal Articles

- Gurumurthy, A., Zainab, K., and Sanjay, S. (forthcoming). The macro frames of microwork: A study of Indian women workers on AMT in the post-pandemic moment. *The Economic and Political Weekly*.

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (forthcoming). Towards a global digital constitutionalism – A radical new agenda for UN75. *Development.*

- Gurumurthy, A. and Chami, N. (2019). Development justice in the digital paradigm: Agenda 2030 and beyond. *Development*, Vol. 62, Issue 1, pp. 19 – 28.

- 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*.*

Recent Policy Briefs

- Gurumurthy, A. and Singh, P. J. (2020). Data sharing requires a data commons framework law. Data Governance Network Policy Brief.

- 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.

Recent Media Articles

- Feminist frames for a brave new digitality, Digital New Deal, November 2020.

- Profiteering from the pandemic: How India's lockdown paved the way for big e-commerce disaster capitalism, The Heinrich Boell Foundation, June 2020.

- The pandemic and public space: Seeing like a cyberfeminist, Firstpost, May 2020.

- A 3-Point agenda for platform workers; as if the South matters, Bot Populi, May 2020.

- How to make AI work for people and planet, Open Democracy, March 2020.

- In a new world order driven by AI, we need to rewrite the rules of data capitalism, Open Democracy, March 2020.

- Digital economy deserves more, Hindu Business Line, July 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.