

HUMMD ALIKHAN

Research Assistant and PhD Student

My research is defined by a steadfast commitment to exploring the intersections of data sovereignty, personhood, and the societal impacts of smart city initiatives, with a vision to drive positive change.

EDUCATION

- 2022-2027 **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA, USA
Ph.D. in Information Science
Advisor: Lindah Kotut
- 2016-2020 **Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA
B.A. in Information Science and Government, Minor in Law

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present **Research Assistant**, Advisor: Lindah Kotut
I conduct research on data sovereignty, personhood conceptualizations, and the socio-economic impacts of smart city initiatives, while also pulling in conceptualizations of privacy.
- 2021-2022 **Senior Analyst**, Aleada Consulting
Led comprehensive project management for up to 9 clients concurrently, including drafting deliverables and providing regular status updates to clients such as Atlassian and Wikimedia. Applied rigorous privacy research methodologies to inform and drive both internal strategies and external recommendations, ensuring data protection compliance and strategic alignment with industry standards.
- 2020-2021 **Privacy Analyst**, Aleada Consulting
I spearheaded the establishment and meticulous maintenance of intricate Data Inventories for our esteemed clients, demonstrating a commitment to comprehensive data management solutions. Furthermore, I conducted extensive research on forthcoming privacy legislative changes, delivering timely insights to ensure the firm remained ahead of regulatory shifts and maintained operational excellence.
- 2020-2021 **Privacy Analyst**, Aleada Consulting
As Principal Investigator, I developed the materials for the company's application of a prestigious grant, showcasing adept leadership and strategic acumen in securing crucial funding for the company's initiatives. Additionally, I provided invaluable guidance to the Research and Development team through rigorous research and ethical considerations, ensuring the ethical integrity of our technology design and privacy protocols. Moreover, I played a pivotal role in enhancing cybersecurity measures by meticulously editing CSIRP documents for HaloSentient clients as part of the cybersecurity consulting team, contributing to fortified defenses against emerging threats.
- 2020-2021 **Intern**, Human Rights Watch
I engaged in advocacy efforts, adeptly managing databases and spearheading various outreach initiatives to advance organizational goals effectively. Additionally, I conducted in-depth research on coal mining practices, making substantial contributions to Human Rights Watch's pivotal 2018 report, thereby amplifying awareness and advocating for positive change in human rights and environmental spheres.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2024 **Travel award to attend the Computing Research Association Grad Cohort (CRA-WP)**
- 2023 **Travel award to attend the CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Conference**
- 2022 **Nominee for Forbes 30 Under 30**

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Begone, Orhot: A Near-Future Exploration of Bodily Autonomy

H. Alikhan, L. Kotut (2024)

ACM CHI 2024

This design fiction explores the societal impacts and ethical dilemmas of the Febris Suite™ implant technology, touching on bodily autonomy, socioeconomic gaps, and corporate influence. Through parallels with real-world trends like bio-hacking and historical cyborg contexts, it prompts deep reflection on the integration of artificial systems into human bodies.

Begone, Orhot: A Near-Future Exploration of Bodily Autonomy

L. Kotut, H. Alikhan (2024)

ACM CHI 2024: Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems

Delves into the dynamics of single and multi-device ownership and sharing in Kenya, revealing insights into the barriers to ownership, power differentials, and ethical implications, particularly in developing economies, thereby informing strategies for designing technology with a focus on access and mitigating associated risks.

INVITED TALKS AND POSTERS

- 2024 **Cornell University CIS Department Jedi Dialogues, Digital Marble: Chiseling Data Sovereignty into Tomorrow's Technology**
- 2024 **CRA-WP: Computing Research Association's Committee on Widening Participation Poster Session, Clear: On Cyborgs, Liability, Equity, Access, and Regulation**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- TEACHING ASSISTANT** **Gender and Technology, UW INFO 102 (Spring 2023)**
Facilitated discussions and assisted in course delivery for a class delving into the social construction of gender within the context of information technologies' historical and contemporary development. Emphasized the significance of diversity and difference in designing innovative IT solutions while challenging prevailing perceptions regarding participation in the field, fostering critical dialogue and inclusive learning environments.
- Design Methods, UW INFO 360 (Winter 2023)**
Emphasized concepts of design justice, critically examining the inclusivity of design processes and outcomes to ensure equitable access and representation for all stakeholders while teaching the skills necessary for designers.
- Research Methods, UW INFO 300 (Fall 2022)**
guided students through the exploration of research methods essential for understanding human interactions with information, technology, and systems. This included delving into topics such as epistemology, scientific theory, and research ethics, while offering practical insights into a diverse array of qualitative, quantitative, and design methodologies. By fostering an understanding of these methodologies, I empowered students to tackle complex questions and challenges within both academic research and practical settings.
- Designing Technology for Social Impact, Cornell University INFO 4240 (2018-2019)**
Emphasized concepts of design justice, critically examining the inclusivity of design processes and outcomes to ensure equitable access and representation for all stakeholders while teaching the skills necessary for designers.
- GUEST INSTRUCTOR** **Special Topics in Cybersecurity: Risk Assessment, UW INFO 415 (Fall 2023)**
Led engaging and insightful discussions as a guest instructor, delving into the nuanced intersections of equity and the Internet of Things. Through thought-provoking dialogue and interactive sessions, I encouraged participants to examine the differential impacts of IoT technologies on various demographics and communities by emphasizing the importance of inclusive design and ethical considerations.
- Design Methods, UW INFO 360 (Winter 2023)**
Utilizing a blend of theoretical frameworks and hands-on activities, I guided participants through the iterative design process, fostering their ability to rapidly iterate and refine product concepts. By incorporating real-world examples and interactive exercises, I ensured that participants gained a thorough understanding of the methodologies and tools essential for effective product prototyping and wire-framing.

SERVICE

OFFICER	Diversity and Inclusion Chair , UW iSchool Doctoral Student Association (2023-24) <i>Organized and disseminated information internally to doctoral students, including meeting minutes; oversaw internal DSA officer elections.</i>
CHAIR	Executive Board Member , Cornell Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity (2023-24) <i>Contributed to strategic decision-making and program development initiatives, fostering a supportive and inclusive community for members to excel academically and professionally.</i>
WEB DESIGN TEAM LEAD	Cornell Thread Magazine (2016-17) <i>Research-driven initiatives were spearheaded to enhance digital presence and user experience, employing strategies to align design aesthetics with audience preferences. Collaborative efforts and data-driven insights informed the seamless integration of editorial content and visual storytelling, resulting in the elevation of the magazine's online presence to new heights.</i>
PEER MENTOR	Cornell Arts and Sciences Student Services (2017-2020) <i>Worked in student services to transition students to the job market. Provided empathetic support and guidance to fellow students, assisting them in navigating academic challenges and personal growth opportunities. Through initiatives that I designed and a commitment to empowerment, I fostered a supportive community where all students could thrive.</i>