

Samir Passi

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OVERVIEW Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Information Science at Cornell University.
Graduating: May 2020
Doctoral Committee: Steve Jackson, Phoebe Sengers, Solon Barocas, and David Mimno.


RESEARCH INTERESTS Critical Data Studies; Human-Centered Data Science; Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency; Human-AI Collaboration; Ethics of AI; Science & Technology Studies


EDUCATION Ph.D., Information Science | 2013—2020 (Expected)
Cornell University, USA

M.Sc. (Research), Science & Technology Studies | 2012
Maastricht University, The Netherlands

B.Tech., Information & Communication Technology | 2010
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information & Communication Technology (DAIICT), India

PUBLICATIONS **Passi, S.,** & Barocas, S. (2019). Problem Formulation and Fairness. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAT*)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 39-48.

 **Passi, S.,** & Jackson, S. (2018). Trust in Data Science: Collaboration, Translation, and Accountability in Corporate Data Science Projects. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, Vol. 2, CSCW, Article 136 (November 2018), 28 pages. **Best Paper Award.**

 **Passi, S.,** & Jackson, S. (2017). Data Vision: Learning to See Through Algorithmic Abstraction. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '17)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 2436-2447. **Best Paper Award.**

Salah, A., Wyatt, S., **Passi, S.,** & Scharnhorst, A. (2013). Mapping EINS: An Exercise in Mapping the Network of Excellence in Internet Science. *Conference Proceedings of the First International Conference on Internet Science*, Brussels, 75-78.

Passi, S., Wyatt, S., Pierson, J., De Wolf, R., Heyman, R., Mostmans, L., et al. (2012). Overview of Online Privacy, Reputation, Trust, and Identity Mechanisms. *Research Report, European Union FP7-funded Research Project — Network of Excellence in Internet Science, 103 pages.*

ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS Muller, M., Feinberg, M., George, T., Jackson, S., John, B., Kery, M., & **Passi, S.** (2019). Human-Centered Study of Data Science Work Practices. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '19)*, May 4-9, 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK. ACM, New York, NY. 8 pages.

WORKSHOP PAPERS Passi, S. (2018). Collaboration as Participation: The Many Faces in a Corporate Data Science Project. *Workshop 'The Changing Contours of "Participation" in Data-driven Algorithmic Ecosystems: Challenges, Tactics, and an Agenda' in the ACM conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW)*.

Passi, S. (2018). The Stakes are high: But, do we know what they look like? 'Lives of Data 2.0' workshop in SARAI Programme, Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), India.

Passi, S., & Sengers, P. (2016). "From what I see, this makes sense:" Seeing Meaning in Algorithmic Results. *Workshop 'Algorithms at work: Empirical Diversity, Analytic Vocabularies, and Design Implications' in the ACM conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)*.



Passi, S. (2013). 'Slide to Unlock?' - Mobile Convergence and Collapsing Contexts. *Excellence in InterNet Science (EINS) workshop in Lausanne, Switzerland*. **Best Presentation Award**.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2018 | CSCW Best Paper Award
2017 | CSCW Best Paper Award
2016 | Cornell Information Science Award for Outstanding Service to the Department
2014 | Intel Science & Technology Center for Social Computing (ISTC) Fellowship
2013 | Cornell University Department of Information Science Fellowship
2012 | EINS Best Presentation Award
2011 | Maastricht University High Potential Scholarship
2010 | Maastricht University High Potential Scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Internship: Microsoft Research | June 2019 - August 2019

Worked at Microsoft Research AI (MSR AI) on a project to study how corporate product teams scope and resolve the ethical and responsible dimensions of their AI systems. This research project fell under the purview of Microsoft's AI and Ethics in Engineering and Research (AETHER) initiative.

Supervisor: Saleema Amershi

Collaborators: Hanna Wallach, Jenn Wortman Vaughan, Sarah Bird, and Ben Olsen.

Data Scientist | June 2017 - December 2017

Worked as a data scientist at a US-based technology company, simultaneously conducting ethnographic research on corporate data science practices. *The company's name is retracted to preserve anonymity of research participants as per Cornell Institutional Review Board's (IRB) guidelines.*

Researcher: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences | September 2012 - August 2013

Worked on the European Union (EU) project: Network for Excellence in InterNet Science.

Research Internship: Cardiff University | August 2011 - November 2011

Worked at Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences on the European Research Council project: 'A new method for cross-cultural and cross-temporal comparison of societies: Imitation Games' with Harry Collins, Robert Evans, and Martin Weinel.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: Cornell University | Fall 2018

Course: INFO 4240 - Designing Technologies for Social Impact

Instructor: Phoebe Sengers

Teaching Assistant: Cornell University | Fall 2015

Course: INFO 1200 - Information Ethics, Law, and Policy

Instructor: Steve Jackson

Teaching Assistant: DA-IICT, India | Spring 2010

Course: Modernity, Modernism, and Art

Instructor: Shiv Visvanathan

Teaching Assistant: DA-IICT, India | Fall 2009

Course: Three Thinkers

Instructor: Tridip Suhrud

ADVISING Cornell University

Maya Klabin	Spring 2017	Undergraduate, Independent Research
Dou Mao	Spring 2017	Graduate, Independent Research
Dai Siqi	Fall 2016	Graduate, Masters Project
Chen Pan	Fall 2016	Graduate, Masters Project
Zhenyi Xia	Fall 2016	Graduate, Masters Project
Val Mack	Fall 2016	Graduate, Masters Project
Sherry Ge	Spring & Fall 2015	Undergraduate, Independent Research
Emily Zhang	Spring & Fall 2015	Undergraduate, Independent Research

GUEST LECTURES

Passi, S. (Fall 2016). What is Data Science Work? *Invited lecture at Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning for the course—Design Culture and Practices in the Digital Era.*

Passi, S. (Spring 2016). The Human Face of Big Data. *Invited lecture at Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning for the course - Design Culture and Practices in the Digital Era.*

MEDIA AND PRESS

Paul Gillin, "[Trust but verify: Machine learning's magic masks hidden frailties](#)," *siliconANGLE, AI Special Report*, February 10, 2019.

Karen Hao, "[This is how AI bias really happens - and why it's so hard to fix](#)," *MIT Technology Review Tech Policy / AI Ethics*, February 4, 2019.

Sondra Campanelli, "[Ethical AI Practices Offer Chance for Finance Reforms](#)," *machineByte platform*, March 11, 2019. (*Paywalled Article—contact me to request a copy*).

Louis DiPietro, "[To build trust in data science, work together](#)," *Cornell Chronicle*, November 6, 2018.

INVITED TALKS

Passi, S. (2018, May). Collaborating with Data Science Teams: Facilitating Trust between Data Scientists and Business Stakeholders. *Invited Talk at a US-based technology company (name retracted to preserve research anonymity as per Cornell IRB guidelines).*

Passi, S. (2017, November). A Business Guide to Machine Learning. *Invited Talk at a US-based technology company (name retracted to preserve research anonymity as per Cornell IRB guidelines).*

Passi, S. (2017, August). Leveraging Vision in Machine Learning. *Invited Talk at a US-based technology company (name retracted to preserve research anonymity as per Cornell IRB guidelines).*

RESEARCH TALKS

Passi, S. (2019, March). Data Science and Explication Work. *Presentation at the Artificial Intelligence, Policy, and Practice (AIPP) research seminar at Cornell University.*

Passi, S., & Barocas, S. (2018, September). Problem Formulation and Fairness. *Presentation at the Artificial Intelligence, Policy, and Practice (AIPP) research seminar at Cornell University.*

Passi, S. (2018, February). Collaborative Negotiations in Corporate Data Science. *Presentation in the Culturally Embedded Computing (CEMCOM) research group at Cornell University.*

Passi, S. (2017, September). Visual Thinking: Unpacking Use of Visuals in Data Analytic Learning and Beyond. *Paper presented at the 4S conference in the track on Studying Data Critically.*

Passi, S. (2016, September). Data Pedagogy: Learning to Make Sense of Algorithmic Numbers. *Paper presented at the 4S/EASST conference in the track titled Critical Data Studies in Barcelona.*

Passi, S. (2014). See *Tester Play: Situating Software within Sociology of Testing*.
Presentation in the Information Science Graduate Seminar Series at Cornell University.

Passi, S., & Singh, R. (2011). *Deconstructing the Time Traveling Identity*. *Paper Presented at the International Conference on the Philosophy of Computer Games, Athens, Greece.*

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Program Committee (PC) Member

ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FAT*)

Reviewer

Journals: Big Data & Society, Science & Technology Studies, and Engineering Studies.

Conferences: ACM FAT*, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), and Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI).

Cornell Graduate Students for Gender Inclusion in Computing | 2019-Present

Member of the student-run organization to advance gender inclusion in computing and related fields at Cornell University.

Cornell Graduate Seminar Series Coordinator | 2016-17

Organizer of Information Science Student Seminar Series at Cornell University.

Cornell Graduate Student Association President | 2015-16

President of Information Science Graduate Student Association (ISGSA)

PhD Admission Committee Representative | 2015-16

Member of the Information Science doctoral student admission committee at Cornell University.

Course Committee Representative | 2015-16

Member of the Information Science course curriculum review committee at Cornell University.

PhD Admission Committee Representative | 2014-15

Member of the Information Science doctoral student admission committee at Cornell University.

Course Committee Representative | 2011-12

Executive committee member in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University, The Netherlands involved in evaluating the Science & Technology Studies (STS) research master.

Indian Student Association Maastricht | 2011-12

Co-established the Indian Student Association at Maastricht University, The Netherlands.