

# POOJA CASULA

PhD Student at Georgia Institute of Technology

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## EXPERIENCE

### Research Intern

#### Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT)

📅 June 2021 - August 2021    📍 Washington D.C.

- Worked on CDT's Research and Free Expression teams on two projects focusing on election and gendered disinformation.

### Graduate Research Assistant

#### Georgia Tech, Digital Integrative Liberal Arts Center

📅 August 2020 - present    📍 Atlanta, GA

- Working to create a labeled data set of tweets that threaten violence against U.S Congresswomen.
- Helped organize a series of panels and events relating to Ethics and Technological Futures.
- Collaborated with graduate fellows on a workshop on AI, Ethics and Bias.

### Product Research Intern

#### Virtru

📅 June 2019 - August 2019    📍 Washington D.C.

- Designed and executed qualitative user research studies in collaboration with the Virtru UX and Data Analysis teams.
- Performed a heuristic evaluation and shared actionable insights with the Product Development team.

### Undergraduate Research Assistant

#### Carnegie Mellon University, Human Computer Interaction Institute

📅 June 2018 - May 2020    📍 Pittsburgh, PA

- Re-designing and re-implementing educational materials to help middle school students understand math concepts.
- Analyzing student performance data on an educational game in order to provide insight into design decisions to promote various learning strategies.

### Software Developer Intern

#### Kavayah Solutions, Inc.

📅 June 2017 - August 2017    📍 Princeton, NJ

- Developed a nodeJS module to analyze music trends from various music streaming services to develop a top 10 list for tracks and albums for a mobile app called WILT.
- Implemented and connected MongoDB, Pymongo and Mongoose databases to work with different nodeJS and Python modules.

## EDUCATION

### Georgia Institute of Technology

#### PhD in Digital Media

📅 2020 - 2024 exp.    📍 Atlanta, GA

Advisor: Dr. Nassim Parvin

### Carnegie Mellon University

#### B.S. in Cognitive Science

#### Minor in Human Computer Interaction

📅 2016 - 2020    📍 Pittsburgh, PA

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Media

Free Expression

Technology Policy

Feminist Research

HCI

Social Computing

## PUBLICATIONS

(Click title to read)

**"We found no violation!": Twitter's Violent Threats Policy and Toxicity in Online Discourse.**

Pooja Casula, Aditya Anupam, and Nassim Parvin.

In Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Communities Technologies - Wicked Problems in the Age of Tech. Association for Computing Machinery  
DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/3461564.3461589>

**A Lie Can Travel: Election Disinformation in the United States, Brazil, and France**

William T. Adler, Dhanaraj Thakur

Contributing Authors: Pooja Casula, Lehman Montgomery, Elora Raad Fernandes, Paulo José Olivier Moreira Lara, Rafaela Cavalcanti de Alcântara, and Jean-Baptiste Jeangène Vilmer

CDT Report published by KAS

**Applying Rhetorical Structure Theory to Student Essays for Providing Automated Writing Feedback.**

Shiyan Jiang, Kexin Yang, Chandrakumari Suvarna, Pooja Casula, Mingtong Zhang, and Carolyn Rosé.

In Proceedings of the Workshop on Discourse Relation Parsing and Treebanking 2019, Association for Computational Linguistics  
DOI:<https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/W19-2720>

## PROJECTS

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### Covid-19 Conspiracy Theories and Misinformation

#### Georgia Tech

📅 Summer 2021

- Mentored a group of 4 undergraduate students to analyze a corpus of Covid-19 related misinformation tweets.
- Conducted a thematic analysis of the tweets to understand how strains of misinformation split and morphed into other strains.

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"Twitter Twitter on the wall, to remove these tweets, who do I call?"

#### DILAC - Georgia Tech

📅 Ongoing

- Using the Twitter API to compile a corpus of threat tweets that target U.S Congresswomen to create a labeled data set
- Conducting a thematic analysis of the tweets using legal and philosophical frameworks regarding free speech and 'intent'

### Contrasting Different Forms of Feedback in Intelligent Tutoring Systems

#### Advanced Topics in Personalized Online Learning - Carnegie Mellon

📅 Spring 2019

- Collaborated on a team to investigate different forms of feedback in self-directed environments using Cognitive Tutoring systems.

### Practical RST Tutor

#### Personalized Online Learning - Carnegie Mellon

📅 Fall 2018

- Collaborated on a team to design and build an intelligent tutoring system to train human annotators to apply Rhetorical Structure Theory (RST) to text in order to provide feedback for improving writing quality across genres.

## SELECT COURSEWORK

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### Graduate

The Computer As an Expressive Medium  
Social Justice and Ethical Imagination in Design

Principles of Interaction Design

Whiteness and Technoculture

Global Politics of Technology (ongoing)

### Undergraduate

Human AI Interaction

Principles of Imperative Computation

Principles of Functional Programming

Human Information Processing and Artificial Intelligence

Applications of Cognitive Science

Cognitive Modeling

## SKILLS

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### Programming

Python C HTML JS CSS  
SML Jira

### Research

Usability Testing Tweet Analysis  
Heuristic Evaluation IBM SPSS  
Cognitive Task Analysis Writing

### Design

Prototyping Wireframing InVision

# TEACHING AND MENTORING

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## Teaching Assistant

### Interaction Design Studio - Carnegie Mellon HCII

📅 Spring 2020

- Worked to ensure student success in learning material by holding office hours and providing written feedback on assignments and exams.

## Teaching Assistant

### Cognitive Psychology - Carnegie Mellon

📅 Fall 2018, Fall 2019

- Worked to ensure student success in learning material by holding office hours and providing written feedback on assignments and exams.

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## Undergraduate Writing Consultant

### Carnegie Mellon Global Communications Center

📅 Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

- Provide academic tutoring for CMU students in writing and revising various forms of written works.

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## Peer Advisor

### Carnegie Mellon Dietrich Academic Advisory Center

📅 Fall 2017, Fall 2018

- Worked with incoming Dietrich freshmen to ensure smooth college transition.
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