

Sanna Jamila Ali

sannaali@stanford.edu • sannaali.com

EDUCATION

PhD in Communication | September 2017 – present

Stanford University

Advisor: Angèle Christin

MS in Information & Computer Science | March 2017

University of California, Irvine

Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

Department of Informatics

BS in Science, Technology, & Society, with Honors | 2012

Stanford University

Study abroad at Oxford University, Magdalen College, 2010

Thesis: "Unlocking the Power of Your Genome: Financial & Regulatory Challenges"

Thesis Advisor: Russ B. Altman

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Science & technology studies (STS), digital media and culture, politics of platforms, critical data studies, digital access and distribution, geographies of information, digital labor, knowledge production

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Facebook, Menlo Park, CA | May 2017 – August 2017

User Experience Research Intern, Search

Conducted remote unmoderated study analyzing user search behavior in order to identify candidates for success metrics. Conducted two usability studies on designs to improve user experience of consuming unconnected content on search results page.

Amazon, Seattle, WA | June 2016 – September 2016

User Experience Research Intern, Marketplace Design

Conducted baselining study of core tasks of Seller Central experience, using quantitative metrics and qualitative insights and recommendations.

UC Irvine Department of Informatics | March 2016 – June 2016
Reader, ICS5: Global Disruption and Information Technology.

Amazon, Seattle, WA | June 2015 – September 2015

User Experience Research Intern, Vendor Systems

Conducted usability study for vendor item management workflow, heuristic evaluation of Vendor Central interface, and phone interview study to better understand motivations for Vendor Express onboarding.

Sage Hill School, Newport Coast, CA | April 2014 – June 2015

Alumni Relations Liaison, Development

Led launch of online alumni directory. Managed existing database and social media platforms. Oversaw pilot program of alumni-initiated regional events. Planned local alumni events. Prepared inaugural report of alumni college completion outcomes.

Pinterest, San Francisco, CA | Sept 2012 – April 2013

Community Specialist, Operations

Conducted cognitive walkthroughs, surveys, task flow analysis, quantitative analysis to deliver user insights, top issues, design recommendations to engineers, designers, product managers. Performed QA testing and technical troubleshooting.

HONORS/AWARDS

Chair's Award UC Irvine Department of Informatics | 2016

Firestone Medal for Excellence in Research Stanford University | 2012

Departmental Honors Stanford Program in Science, Technology, & Society | 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Chen, Y., Mark, G., Ali, S., and Ma, X. (2017). Unpacking Happiness: Lessons from Smartphone Photography among College Students. *Proceedings of The Fifth IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI 2017)*.

Chen, Y., Mark, G., and Ali, S. (2016). Promoting Positive Affect through Smartphone Photography. Special Issue on Positive Computing: A new partnership between psychology, the social sciences, and technology, *Psychology of Well-Being: Theory, Research and Practice*. June 2016.

Ali, S. (2012). Debating a Proposed Moratorium on Synthetic Biology Research. *Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology, & Society*.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conferences

Data & Society Workshop on Work, Labor, & Automation Discussant | 2017

CSCW Reviewer | 2017

CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshop Participant | 2016

Ubicomp Student Volunteer | 2015

Ubicomp Broadening Participation Workshop Participant | 2015

iConference Student Volunteer | 2015

Biomedical Computation at Stanford Organizing Committee | 2011-2012

Society of Women Engineers Region A Conference Student Volunteer | 2009

Organizations

Informatics Graduate Student Association Communications | 2015 – 2016

Girls Who Code Workshop Mentor | 2015

ACM Student Member | 2014 – present

ACM SIGCHI Member | 2014 – present

Stanford Muslim Alumni Association Vice President | 2012 – 2013

Stanford Society of Women Engineers Vice President | 2009 – 2010

Stanford Society of Women Engineers Treasurer | 2008 – 2009

SKILLS

Methods

Research: ethnographic observation, experimental design, interviews, survey design and analysis, literature review

Design: card sorting, cognitive walkthrough, competitive analysis, contextual inquiry, focus groups, heuristic evaluation, personas and scenarios, task flow analysis, think-aloud studies, usability testing

Code

Python, Java, C++, HTML, R, MySQL

Languages

English (native), Spanish (proficient), Urdu (limited)