Swati Pandita

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Research Interests

Human Computer Interaction: virtual reality, avatars, identity, & mental health

Education

2017-present	PhD	**Communication**, Cornell University	

Committee: Profs. Andrea Stevenson Won (Chair), Lee Humphreys, Natalie Bazarova, and JoAnn Difede

2020	MS	**Communication**, Cornell University
2016	MPS	**Information Science**, Cornell University
2015	BS	**Neuroscience**, Rhodes College

Research Experience

8/2017-present	**The Virtual Embodiment Lab**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
	Graduate research assistant
1/2017-6/2017	**The Yau Lab**, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
	Research assistant
4/2016-11/2016	**Pairade (now Current)**, Chicago, IL
	Research assistant
5/2016-8/2016	**Psycomm Lab**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
	Graduate research assistant
2/2016-5/2016	**Communication & Collaborative Technologies Lab**, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
	Graduate research assistant
8/2015-12/2015	**Visual Cognition Lab,** Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
	Undergraduate research assistant
5/2014-7/2014	**Cognition and Aging Lab**, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
	Undergraduate research assistant
9/2013-5/2014	**Learning Technologies Lab**, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
	Undergraduate research assistant

Awards

2020	Media Studies Graduate Working Group Grant ($1,000), Cornell University
2017	Cornell Fellowship ($28,036), Cornell University
2014	Cognitive Aging Fellowship ($4,329), Rhodes College

Publications

2021   Boydstun, C., **Pandita, S.**, Finkelstein-Fox, L., Difede, J. "Harnessing Virtual Reality for Disaster Mental Health: A Multidisciplinary Systematic Review" in Translational Issues in Psychological Sciences *(Forthcoming).*

2020   Won, A.S., **Pandita, S.,** Kruzan, K. (2020). "Social Interaction and Pain Threshold in Virtual Reality." In Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking *(Forthcoming).*

2020   Madden, J. H., **Pandita, S.**, Won, A.S., Schuldt, J.P., Kim, B., & Holmes, N.G. (2020). "Ready student one: Exploring the predictors of student learning in Virtual Reality." In *PLoS ONE, 15*(3). https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0229788

2020   **Pandita, S**., & Won, A.S. (2020). "Clinical Applications of virtual reality in patient-centered care." In J. Kim & H. Song (1), *Technology and Health: Promoting Attitude and Behavior Change* (pp. 129-148). Academic Press.

Conference Presentations

2020   **Pandita, S.**, Yee, J., & Won, A.S. (2020) "Affective Embodiment: Embodying emotions through postural representation in VR." Poster presented at *27th IEEE Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces*, March 22-26, Atlanta, GA.

2020   **Pandita, S.** (2020) "Affective Embodiment: The effect of avatar appearance and gesture representation on emotions in VR." Doctoral Consortium at *27th IEEE Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces*, March 22-26, Atlanta, GA.

2019   **Pandita, S.**, Humphreys, L., & Won, A.S. (2019) "Expectations of the self in virtual reality: A qualitative analysis of virtual avatar creation." Paper presented at *24th Annual CyberPsychology, CyberTherapy, and Social Networking Conference*, June 24-26, Norfolk, VA.

2019   **Pandita, S.**, Celikors, E., Rojas, N., et al. (2019) "Visualizing Movement with Learning Outcomes in Educational VR Environments." Poster presented at *24th Annual CyberPsychology, CyberTherapy, and Social Networking Conference*, June 24-26, Norfolk, VA.

2019   Won, A.S., Kruzan, K., & **Pandita, S.** (2019) "As long as you're with me: the effects of social presence and distance on pain perception in virtual environments." Paper presented at *24th Annual CyberPsychology, CyberTherapy, and Social Networking Conference*, June 24-26, Norfolk, VA.

2018   Madden, J. H., Won, A. S., Schuldt, J. P., Kim, B., **Pandita, S.**, Sun, Y., et. al. (2018). "Virtual Reality as a Teaching Tool for Moon Phases and Beyond." In *Proceedings of the Physics Education Research Conference,* Aug 1–2, Washington, DC.

2018   Sun, Y., **Pandita, S.**, Shaikh, O., Kim, B. & Won, A. S. (2018). "Personalized Avatars and Self-presence." In *Proceedings of the International Society for Presence Research Annual Conference,* May 21–22, Prague, Czech Republic.

2017   Schrader, D., Tallapragada M., **Pandita S.**, Etri C., & Shore A. (2017). "Self Efficacy and Social Aggression." Paper presented at *43rd Association for Moral Education Annual Conference*, St. Louis, MO.

2017   Schrader, D., Tallapragada M., **Pandita S.**, Etri C., & Shore A. (2017). "Personality, Trust, and the Privacy Creep." Paper presented at *43rd Association for Moral Education Annual Conference*, St. Louis, MO.

2016   **Pandita, S.**, Suresh, S., & Haberman, J. (2016). "Average Size Estimation of Dots Completing behind an Illusory Surface Is Precise." Poster presented at *16th Annual Meeting of Vision Sciences Society.*

2014   Person, S., **Pandita S.**, & Schonhoff A. (2014). "Politeness Strategies in Expert Tutoring." Poster presented at *24th Annual Meeting of Society for Text & Discourse*, Chicago, IL.

Manuscripts in Preparation

2021   Boydstun, C., Won, A. S., **Pandita, S.**, & Difede, J. "Navigating the therapeutic misconception in Virtual Reality."

2021   **Pandita, S.**, Won, A.S., Humphreys, L. "Satisficing self-presentation: navigating "multiple choice" in avatar creation and identification."

2021   **Pandita, S.**, Won, A.S., Difede, J. "Breathing Room: designing mood regulation spaces for depression."

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Summer 2019	COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology. Cornell University.
Fall 2019	COMM 2010 Oral Communication. Cornell University
Spring 2020	COMM 2010 Oral Communication. Cornell University

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2017	COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology. Cornell University.

Guest Lecturer

Spring 2018	COMM 1300 Visual Communication. Cornell University
Spring 2019	COMM 1300 Visual Communication. Cornell University

Invited Talks, Workshops, & Panels

Fall 2020	Visual Cognition Lab, Rhodes College
Fall 2019	Organized Workshop, "Hands-on Workshop in Immersive Technology for Beginners." 2019. Immersive Media in Medicine Symposium. New York, NY.
Fall 2019	Panel Moderator, "VR for Beginners." 2019. Immersive Media in Medicine Symposium. New York, NY.

Service

Volunteer

2018	Connecting Opportunities Summer Event, organized by Lesa Carter and Kathy Dimiduk of Cornell Engineering, Cornell University.

Reviewing

2020	Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking (Adhoc)

Media Mentions

2019	[Episode 65: Jack Madden and Swati Pandita](#). *Leading Lines Podcast*. Oct 7.

2019	[Study Finds No Difference in VR Learning Outcomes Compared to Other Modes](#). *Campus Technology*. Feb 7.
2019	[Study probes effect of virtual reality on learning](#). *Cornell Chronicle*. Feb 5.

Association Membership

2019-present	International Communication Association
2019-2020	IEEE
2015-2016	Vision Sciences Society