

# NISHITA KARUN

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## EDUCATION

### Harris School, University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

Master's in Public Policy; MPP (STEM) – Behavior Sciences & Tech Policy

Expected June 2024

- Relevant Coursework: Energy & Human Behavior, RCT Design, Advanced HCI, Booth: Competitive Strategy, Managerial Decision Modelling
- Board member HarrisTech | Graduate Affiliate, [Chicago Centre on Democracy](#) | Podcast Editor, [Root of Conflict](#) (Pearson Institute)

### Projects & Publications

- Root-Cause Analysis of Farmer Suicides in India, Global Semi-Finalist out of 100+ Universities, for [Oxford Map the System Challenge](#)
- Designing (UI/UX) an Citizen-Govt. digital discourse platform 'Reviving Trust in Indian Democracy (Primer)' in Chicago Policy Review
- RCT proposal on [Digital Grievance Redressal in India](#), selected (under review) by the Democracy & Society Journal at Georgetown University
- Building a visualization tool for load planning for a US Military brigade at Hacking for Defense lab at Booth School of Business

### National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

Mumbai, India

Bachelor in Communication Design (B.A) | All India Rank 103 / Premier state-led institution for design in India

Aug 2014 - May 2018

- Relevant Coursework: Design thinking, User behavior & usability testing, UI/UX Research, Graphic and Service design
- Student of the year 2017 | Extraordinary contribution to NIFT 2018 (Both awarded to 1 student in 2500)

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## EXPERIENCE (5+ YEARS, 4+ in UX Research )

### Head Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

- As head admin TA managed an 18-member team to conduct Microeconomics course I and II for 400+ graduate students

Sep 2023 - Present

### Research Assistant, Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC), University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

- Published data visualizations for the [AQLI \(Air Quality Life Index\) report](#) and the [Top 10 Energy Charts 2023](#)

Sep 2023 - Present

### Summer Fellow, World Bank (Development Impact and Monitoring Evaluation)

Washington D.C.

- Analyzed surveys and developed data viz on Health facilities admin of Madagascar Govt. in Bureaucracy Lab

Jun 2023 – Sept 2023

- Designed the Government Analytics Handbook website with Dr. Rogers and wrote case studies to highlight best practices

### Policy Design Consultant

Multiple Cities, India

- Developed curriculum for 2M+ users on 'Design Thinking in Governance' for UpGRAD Education

Jan 2021 – Aug 2022

- Managed a 1000+ team in 500 villages of rural Bihar as Project Manager to build and deploy Behavioral Change Communication ([BCC](#)) strategy for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose hesitancy in COVID Vaccination
- UI/UX for an Integrated Patient Management system for the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital with 5000+ registrations per month
- Led a state-wide pilot (1B+) program in 10+ schools in Jharkhand to strategically encourage 'Good Gossip' around health as a BCC product
- Systemic behavior analysis on child adoption system with Ministry of Women and Child Development mentored by Director, Designit Tokyo

### Senior Design Consultant, Lopez Design

New Delhi, India

- Led a team of 15+ to deliver end-to-end products with UI/UX, Strategy, and Design Deliverables

Jul 2018 - Oct 2020

- Business strategy and UX Research for [Magic EdTech](#) building an engaging portal for K-12 education
- Led the UI/UX for [Indian Institute of Art & Design](#) to be recognized as a premier design school in New Delhi
- [Brand Design and UX](#) for [Nestaway Homes](#), India's fastest growing rental start-up for a youthful appeal
- Developed AR development to interactively showcase 70 years of [UNICEF India](#) through Illustration and storytelling
- Transitioned the company focus from communications to delivering strategic interventions in products and businesses
- Initiated a [Design thinking forum](#) with 50 + industry and academic professionals and key speaker [Mr. Amitabh Kant](#) (NITI Aayog)
- Conducted 10+ purpose driven workshops for foundations in Human-Centered Design for start-ups and successful businesses

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## SKILLS

- UI/UX - Adobe Creative Suite, Figma, Tableau, Flourish, Card Sorting, HCD toolkit, User Testing, Ethnographic Research
- Programming & Modelling – R, Python, & Excel: Precision Tools (Decision Tree), Tornado Charts (Sensitivity), AutoCAD
- Languages - English (Native), Hindi (Native), Japanese (Beginner)

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## LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- STEM leader to a Panel for UN's GirlUp Foundation to discuss 'Biased by Design'
- (Fully Funded) Residential Fellow at Summer Institute of Sustainability & Energy (SISE)'19, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Selected (rate 6%) as a Teach for India (TFI) Fellow'18 | Remote teacher at [VidyaKansha](#) during the pandemic for High schools
- Published paper 'Developing English as an Emotional Language' with Linguistic Society of University of Andhra Pradesh
- National Finalist for NSE Young Pioneers with History TV18 for developing a [Political Rating Application](#) in 2014