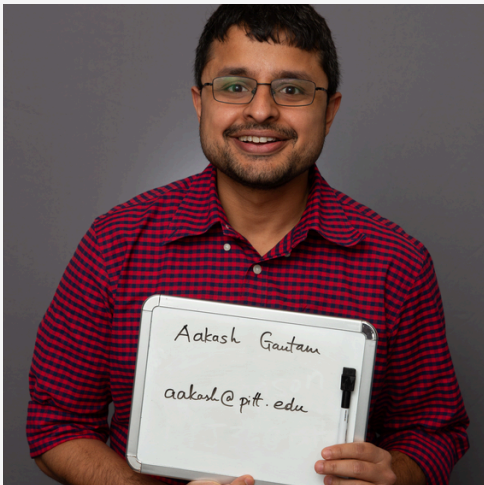


RECONFIGURING FOR IMPACT: REFLECTIONS ON COMMUNITY-BASED DESIGN

Prof. Aakash Gautam



Abstract: In this talk, Prof. Gautam reflects on two participatory design projects: one in Nepal with anti-trafficking survivors, and another in the U.S. supporting formerly incarcerated individuals. Both highlight stigma, structural barriers, and technology's potential and limits. Emphasizing assets-based design, they question the right actions, tangible impact, and how academic work translates into public good, bridging research and community-driven change.

Bio: Prof. Aakash Gautam is an assistant professor with dual appointments in the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship. He completed his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 2021 for which he received the SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation award. He is interested in designing socio-technical approaches to supporting dignity, well-being, and the collective capacity of marginalized communities. Learn more about him and his work at <https://aakash.xyz/>.

Time: 21 March 2025, 11AM - 1PM

Location: Learning Hub, 4th Floor, Bissell Building

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4iD40SM>

