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## Artistic and research interests

**Prof. Nitin Sawhney** leads the *CRAI-CIS* (CRITICAL AI and Crisis Interrogatives) research group in the Department of Computer Science at Aalto University. Working at the intersection of Human Computer Interaction (HCI), responsible AI, and participatory design research, he examines the critical role of technology, civic agency, and social justice in society and crisis contexts. Prof. Sawhney has previously conducted research in speech/audio interaction, wearable computing, distributed open source collaboration, civic/participatory media at the MIT Media Lab and The New School.

At Aalto University, he is the principal investigator for a 3-year Research Council of Finland project on *Reconstructing Crisis Narratives for Trustworthy Communication and Cooperative Agency*, jointly conducted with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). It aims to analyze crisis narratives using mixed-methods, combining qualitative research with computational data analytics of crisis discourses in news, health communications, and social media. In December 2021, he received an award from the Kone Foundation for a 4-year research project *Civic Agency in AI? Democratizing Algorithmic Services in the City (CAAI)*, which was subsequently awarded an additional 4-years of funding from the Research Council of Finland in June 2023. In September 2022, he was awarded a Strategic Research Council grant for the project *Designing Inclusive & Trustworthy Digital Public Services for Migrants in Finland (Trust-M)*.

Prof. Sawhney is a member of the research program on AI and Society at the Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence (FCAI). At Aalto University he helped establish the research areas on *Digital Ethics, Society and Policy* (Digital ESP) and *Human-Computer Interaction and Design* (HCID). His work has been published in journals including *IEEE Multimedia*, *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*, *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing*, *Planning Practice & Research*, *AI & Society: Knowledge, Culture and Communication*, and *Digital Creativity*. He is an associate editor for the *International Journal of Child Computer Interaction*.

He has previously been involved in several tech startups in clinical data platforms and real-time news and social media analysis in Cambridge and New York, and co-directed two feature-length documentary films in Gaza and Guatemala.

CRAI-CIS Research Group: <https://crai-cis.aalto.fi/>  
Personal Website: <http://www.NitinSawhney.org>

## Projects

### **CAAI: Citizen Agency in AI: Democratizing Algorithmic Services in the City**

Sawhney, N., Drobotowicz, K. & Kajava, K.  
01/01/2022 → 31/12/2025

### **CAAI-AoF: Civic Agency in AI? Democratizing Algorithmic Services in the Public Sector**

Sawhney, N.  
01/09/2023 → 31/08/2027

### **Co-Creative Artificial Intelligence of Music**

Tahiroglu, K., Sawhney, N., Baffy, B. & Murhu, M.  
01/01/2022 → ...

### **STN / Trust-M / Sawhney: Designing Inclusive & Trustworthy Digital Public Services for Migrants in Finland**

Sawhney, N., Eskelinen, V., Serpytyte, R. & Truong, N.  
01/10/2022 → 30/09/2025

### **-: Profif6 Sawhney T31300**

Naukkarinen, O. & Sawhney, N.  
01/01/2021 → 31/12/2026

**-: Reconstructing Crisis Narratives for Trustworthy Communication and Cooperative Agency**

Sawhney, N., Leinonen, T., Paakki, H., Nelimarkka, M., Villaman, N., Hyökki, S., Viitanen, J., Aledavood, T., Kajava, K., Tikka, M., Kajava, K., Tikka, M., Truong, L., Varanasi, U., Lares, S., Paakki, H. & Nariman Zadeh, H.  
21/08/2020 → 30/11/2023

**-: THL Sawhney 2023**

Sawhney, N.  
01/01/2023 → 01/05/2024

## Research outputs

**Role of AI Regulatory Sandboxes and MLOps for Finnish Public Sector Services**

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**Collaborative Sensemaking in Crisis : Designing Practices and Platforms for Resilience**

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**A User-Centered Lens into Digital Excess: Exploring the Superfluity and Environmental Burden of the Digital World**

Olsson, T., Pyyhtinen, O., Rantasila, A., Laaksonen, S-M., Vigren, M., Ylipulli, J. & Sawhney, N., 14 Jun 2023.

**Practitioners' Perspectives on Inclusion and Civic Empowerment in Finnish Public Sector AI**

Drobotowicz, K., Truong, N. L., Ylipulli, J., Gonzalez Torres, A. P. & Sawhney, N., 29 May 2023, *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Communities and Technologies - Humanization of Digital Technologies 2023, C&T 2023*. ACM, p. 108-118 11 p.

**Re-evaluating Evaluation : Looking for Value-based Metrics in Public Service Design**

Varanasi, U., Serpytyte, R. & Sawhney, N., 29 May 2023. 3 p.

**Contextual Inquiry of Affordances for Collaboration in Crisis : Lessons from the Finnish Context**

Tikka, M., Ahsanullah, R., Varanasi, U., Härmä, V., Sawhney, N. & Leinonen, T., 2023, *Proceedings of the 20th International ISCRAM Conference*. University of Nebraska Omaha, p. 33-42 10 p. (ISCRAM Conference proceedings).

**Emerging AI Discourses and Policies in the EU: Implications for Evolving AI Governance**

Gonzalez Torres, A. P., Kajava, K. & Sawhney, N., 2023, (Unpublished).

**Devising Regulatory Sandboxes and Responsible Practices for Designing AI-based Services in the Finnish Public Sector**

Sawhney, N. & Gonzalez Torres, A. P., 14 Dec 2022, *International Workshop on AI Compliance Mechanism (WAICOM 2022), 35th International Conference on Legal Knowledge and Information Systems (JURIX 2022)*, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany.

**Language of Algorithms: Agency, Metaphors, and Deliberations in AI Discourses**

Kajava, K. & Sawhney, N., 20 Oct 2022, (Accepted/In press) *Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence*. Lindgren, S. (ed.). Edward Elgar, 15 p.

**Age Against the Machine: A Call for Designing Ethical AI for and with Children**

Sharma, S., Kinnula, M., Iivari, N., Ventä-Olkkonen, L., Hartikainen, H., Durall, E., Molin-Juustila, T., Okkonen, J., Kotilainen, S., Sawhney, N., Eden, G. & Monga, C., 8 Oct 2022. 6 p.

**Studying the potentials and pitfalls of ICT tools designed for crisis communication & management**

Tikka, M., Ahsanullah, R., Sawhney, N., Leinonen, T. & Varanasi, U., Oct 2022.

**An Approach to Computational Crisis Narrative Analysis: A Case-study of Social Media Narratives Around the COVID-19 Crisis in India**

Paakki, H., Sawhney, N. & Ghorbanpour, F., 14 Sept 2022, p. 263-266.

**Contestations in urban mobility: rights, risks & responsibilities for Urban AI**

Sawhney, N., 4 Jul 2022, In: *AI and Society*. 16 p.

**Invisible Lives, Visible Determination: Creative Agency as Resilience among Palestinian Children under Siege in Gaza**

Sawhney, N., 2022, (Accepted/In press) *Lived Resistance against the War on Palestinian Children*. Morrison, H. (ed.). University of Georgia Press, 20 p. (Children, Youth, and War Series).

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**Re-thinking Pedagogy and Dis-embodied Interaction for Online Learning and Co-Design**

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Leinonen, T., Brinck, J., Vartiainen, H. & Sawhney, N., 8 Jan 2021, In: *Digital Creativity*. 32, 1, p. 38-55 18 p.

**Te Awa Tupua: Sacred Rivers and Cooperative Urban AI Ecosystems**

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**Zona Intervenida: Performance as Memory, Transforming Contested Spaces**

Sawhney, N., 2019, *Rethinking Peace: Discourse, Memory, Translation, and Dialogue*. Rowman & Littlefield

**Audio Journaling for Self-Reflection and Assessment among Teens in Participatory Media Programs**

Sawhney, N., Graver, C. & Breitkopf, E., 2018, *IDC '18: Proceedings of the 17th ACM Conference on Interaction Design and Children*. ACM, p. 93-105

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**Guatemala Después: Rethinking the Past, Reimagining the Future**

Acevedo, A. & Sawhney, N., 2015, *Asociacion Ciudad De La Imaginacion*.

**Mobilizing Collective Urban Actions through MicroActs**

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**Ago for Mobile Media Narratives Created by Teens: Lessons from Co-Design, Prototyping and Evaluation**

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**New Directions in Participatory Video: Emerging Digital Technologies and Practices**

Dougherty, A. & Sawhney, N., 2012, *The Handbook of Participatory Video*. AltaMira Press

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**Aware Community Portals: Shared Information Appliances for Transitional Spaces**

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**Speaking and Listening on the Run: Design for Wearable Audio Computing**

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**Merging the Benefits of Paper Notebooks with the Power of Computers in Dynomite**

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**HyperCafe: Narrative and Aesthetic Properties of Hypervideo**

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