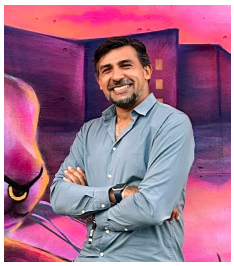
Nitin Sawhney
Professor of Practice
Professorship Sawhney
Department of Computer Science
Email: nitin.sawhney AT aalto.fi



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., Drobotowicz, K., Rannisto, A., Kajava, K., Gonzalez Torres, A. P. & Lee, S.
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., Vitiugin, F. & Chizhikova, A.
01/10/2022 → 30/09/2025

-: Profi6 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., Paakki, H. & Nariman Zadeh, H.

21/08/2020 → 30/11/2023

-: THL Sawhney 2023
Sawhney, N.
01/01/2023 → 01/05/2024

Research outputs

Tracing the dynamics of misinformation and vaccine stance in Finland amid COVID-19
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Unlu, A., Truong, S., Sawhney, N. & Tammi, T., 23 Feb 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In: NEW MEDIA AND SOCIETY. 25 p.

Long-term assessment of social amplification of risk during COVID-19 : challenges to public health agencies amid misinformation and vaccine stance
Unlu, A., Truong, S., Sawhney, N., Sivelä, J. & Tammi, T., 12 Feb 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In: Journal of Computational Social Science.

Invisible Lives, Visible Determination: Creative Agency as Resilience among Palestinian Children under Siege in Gaza
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Language of Algorithms: Agency, Metaphors, and Deliberations in AI Discourses
Kajava, K. & Sawhney, N., Nov 2023, *Handbook of Critical Studies of Artificial Intelligence.* Lindgren, S. (ed.). Edward Elgar, 15 p.

Participatory Design for Whom? Designing Conversational User Interfaces for Sensitive Settings and Vulnerable Populations
Houben, M., Van As, N., Sawhney, N., Unbehaun, D. & Lee, M., 19 Jul 2023, p. 1-4. 4 p.

Collaborative Sensemaking in Crisis : Designing Practices and Platforms for Resilience
Varanasi, U. S., Leinonen, T., Sawhney, N., Tikka, M. & Ahsanullah, R., 10 Jul 2023, *DIS '23 : Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference.* ACM, p. 2537–2550

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, *LIMITS'23, June 2023, Everywhere All at Once.* ACM, p. 1-4 4 p. 91

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.

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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).

Emerging AI Discourses and Policies in the EU: Implications for Evolving AI Governance
Gonzalez Torres, A. P., Kajava, K. & Sawhney, N., 2023, *Artificial Intelligence Research - 4th Southern African Conference, SACAIR 2023, Proceedings: CCIS.* Pillay, A., Jembere, E. & J. Gerber, A. (eds.). Springer, p. 3-17 (Communications in Computer and Information Science; vol. 1976).

Role of AI Regulatory Sandboxes and MLOps for Finnish Public Sector Services
Gonzalez Torres, A. P. & Sawhney, N., 2023, In: The Review of Socionetwork Strategies. 17, p. 297–318 22 p.

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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.

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Contestations in urban mobility: rights, risks & responsibilities for Urban AI
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Language of Algorithms: Agency, Metaphors and Deliberations in AI Discourses
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Ylirisku, S., Jang, G. & Sawhney, N., 15 Aug 2021, *Proceedings of Nordes 2021: Matters of Scale.* Design School Kolding , Vol. 9. 10 p. (Nordic Design Research Conference).

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Sawhney, N., de Klerk, C. & Malhotra, S., 2015, In: Planning Practice and Research. 30, 3, p. 337-354

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Voices Beyond Walls: The Role of Digital Storytelling for Empowering Marginalized Youth in Refugee Camps
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Merging the Benefits of Paper Notebooks with the Power of Computers in Dynomite
Schilit, B. N., Wilcox, L. D. & Sawhney, N., 1997, p. 22–23.

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