Leading Practices for Improving Accessibility and Inclusion in Field and Laboratory Science: A Conversation Series (Conversation # 4): Keynotes and Panelists

Dr. Nicholas Giudice, *Keynote*

Nicholas Giudice is Professor of Spatial Computing in the School of Computing and Information Science at the University of Maine and founder and Chief Research Scientist of the Virtual Environments and Multimodal Interaction (VEMI) Lab (https://umaine.edu/vemi). VEMI is a leading experiential research facility combining immersive virtual reality, augmented reality, and interactive technologies for studying multisensory human-technology interactions and developing bio-inspired information access technologies. Nicholas's specific research deals with the design and evaluation of accessible technology supporting multisensory graphical access, mapping, and autonomous navigation. His work is relevant to blind and visually impaired (BVI) people, older adults experiencing vision loss, and sighted folks in eyes-free situations. He has published over 150 scientific papers in these areas and has supervised over 100 graduate and undergraduate students. He is also on the editorial board of two accessibility journals (Transactions on Accessible Computing and Assistive Technology), the board of directors of ACB of Maine (as well as the Iris Network), the scientific advisory board of two information-access companies (Aira and Click&Go maps), and the co-founder and Chief Research Officer of UNAR Labs, a Maine-based start-up company designing innovative multisensory technologies promoting inclusive information access.

Dr. Shiri Azenkot, *Keynote*

Shiri Azenkot is an Associate Professor of Information Science at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech, Cornell University, where she directs the Enhancing Ability Lab. She is also an affiliate faculty member in the Computer Science Department at the Technion--Israel Institute of Technology. Her research interests are in accessibility and interaction on new platforms. In 2019, she co-founded XR Access, a community dedicated to making augmented and virtual reality accessible to people with disabilities. Shiri frequently publishes at top HCI and accessibility conferences, including CHI, ASSETS, UIST, and UbiComp. She is the recipient of the NSF CAREER and CRII awards, and multiple best paper awards and nominations. Currently, her research is funded by the NSF, AOL, Verizon, and Facebook. Before arriving at Cornell Tech, she was a PhD student in Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington, where she was advised by Richard Ladner and Jacob Wobbrock.

Dr. Sathya Gopalakrishnan, *Panelist*

Sathya Gopalakrishnan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. She is a founding member of the STEAM Factory at OSU and is on the faculty of the Environmental Science Graduate Program. She completed her PhD in Environmental Economics and Policy from Duke University in 2010. She also holds a M.S in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University and an M.A in Economics from the University of Hyderabad. An interest in understanding ubiquitous interdependencies between human decisions and biophysical processes that impact natural resources, specifically coastal and water resources, motivates her research. How can coastal communities adapt to climate? Are current policies sustainable? Are local short-term adaptation strategies maladaptive at regional or national scales and over longer time horizons? In answering these policy-relevant questions, Sathya's work pushes disciplinary boundaries by demonstrating that the evolution of the coastal economic zone cannot be fully understood by methods in economics or coastal science alone, but in fact depends intricately on complex interactions between economic and coastal

systems. Her research is funded through national and state grants from the National Science Foundation and the Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center. She serves as an associate editor for the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and on the board of directors of the *Association of Environmental and Resource Economists* (AERE).

S. Andrea Sundaram, *Panelist*

S. Andrea Sundaram received his Bachelors from Harvard College, where he studied physics and Italian, and his Masters in Italian Studies from the University of Toronto. He subsequently worked as a research scientist in the advanced product development group for a Fortune 200 company producing consumer appliances. He is inventor or coinventor on 25 US patents. He is currently a PhD student in Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Laboratories, where he works on the development of assistive technology.