

Graduate Research Assistantship on the Societal Implications of New and Emerging Technologies

I am seeking a highly motivated and collaborative PhD student to join our [Public Interest Technology Lab](#) at Virginia Tech. The mission of the Public Interest Technology lab is to advance research, education, policy, and practice on the governance, design, and deployment of emerging technologies to serve the public interest. We engage across departmental, disciplinary, sectoral, and cultural boundaries to generate public policy-relevant actionable knowledge on the governance, design, and deployment of existing and emerging technologies to advance opportunity and promote the creation of a fair, free, just, and equitable society.

The PhD student will join a highly collaborative multi-institutional team of faculty, students, and stakeholders. Individuals with interests in science, technology, and society, biopsychosocial implications of digital technologies, sustainability, resilience, or social and environmental justice are encouraged to apply.

Position details:

- (1) Three-year guaranteed funding (100% tuition remission and 12-month stipend)
- (2) The PhD position is in [Planning, Governance and Globalization \(PGG\) \(Urban and Environmental Design and Planning track\)](#) at the [School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech](#).
- (3) Start date: Fall 2025 (student must apply and be admitted to the PGG PhD program)
- (4) The position will be based at the [Virginia Tech Research Center \(VTRC\) in Arlington, VA](#).

Desired qualifications:

- (1) Master's degree in any discipline (STEM, Social Sciences, or Humanities). Background in social science disciplines or interdisciplinary training is highly desirable.
- (2) Interest in cross-disciplinary, community-engaged research.
- (3) Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- (4) Experience with quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.
- (5) Highly developed critical thinking skills.
- (6) Ability to meet deadlines.
- (7) Desire to work as part of a highly collaborative team.
- (8) A creative mindset and approach to research.
- (9) Meets the [admissions requirements of the PGG program](#).

If you are interested in applying for this position, please email Dr. Shalini Misra (shalini@vt.edu) with your: (1) CV; and (2) 1-page cover letter describing how your background, interests, and experience align with the position requirements and the work of the Public Interest Technology lab by **Jan 15, 2025**. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview and if successful will be invited to apply to the PhD

program. Please review the [detailed admission requirements to the PGG program](#) here before sending your CV and cover letter to Dr. Misra.