

Yerina S. Ranjit

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication
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Education/ Training

- 2019-** **Assistant Professor**
Department Communication, University of Missouri
Affiliate Faculty
Department of Public Health
- 2016-2019** **Post-Doctoral Associate**
Department of Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, AIDS Program
Yale University
Principal Investigator and Supervisor: Frederick L. Altice
- 2010- 2016** **Ph. D. in Communication**
Dissertation title: "Using self-determination theory in understanding risk behavior of reckless driving in Nepal."
Advisor: Leslie B. Snyder
Committee members: Rajiv N. Rimal and Mark A. Hamilton
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
- 2008** **M.A. in Journalism**
Worked with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Water V. Robinson for an investigative report on the abuse of the guardianship system in Massachusetts. Published in The Boston Globe. Jan. 13, 2008.

Contributed to research for "Faith, Politics and Press In our Perilous Times" by Stephen Burgard (Kendall Hunt, 2010)
Northeastern University, School of Journalism, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2000** **Bachelor's in Social Work**
Worked closely with women addressing health and sanitation issues in the vibrant and vast slums in Mumbai, India. Responsibilities also included working with college students on issues of anti-violence and religious tolerance.
Nirmala Niketan, College of Social Work, Mumbai, India

Research

Journal Articles

- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Lachlan, K.A., Basaran, A-M.B., Snyder, L.B., Houston, JB. (2020). Needing to know about the crisis back home: Disaster information seeking and disaster media effects following the 2015 Nepal earthquake among Nepalis living outside of Nepal. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2020.101725>

- Shrestha, R., Altice, F.L., DiDomizio, E., Sibilio, B., **Ranjit, Y.S.**, Copenhaver, M. (2020). Feasibility and acceptability of an mHealth-Based approach as an HIV prevention strategy among people who use drugs. *Patient Preference and Adherence*. <https://doi.org/10.2147/PPA.S236794>).
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Shrestha, R., Copenhaver, M., Altice, F.L. (2019). Online HIV information seeking and pre-exposure prophylaxis awareness among people who use drugs. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2019.12.010>.
- Brown, S-E., Krishnan, A; **Ranjit, Y.S.** Marcus, R.; Altice, F.L. (2019). Assessing mobile health feasibility and acceptability among HIV infected cocaine users and their healthcare providers: guidance for implementing an intervention. *mHealth*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/mhealth.2019.09.12>
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Dubov, O., Polonsky, M., Fraenkle, L., Rich, K. M., Ogunbajo, A., & Altice, F.L. (2019). Dual motivational model of pre-exposure prophylaxis use intention: model testing among men who have sex men in Ukraine. *AIDS Care*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2019.1640845>.
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Azbel, L., Krishnan, A., & Altice, F. L & Mayer, J.P. (2019). The HIV Care Continuum among incarcerated women in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine: A nationally representative cross-sectional study. *AIDS Care*. <doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2019.1573969>
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Dubov, O., Polonsky, M., Ogunbajo, A., Fraenkle, L., Mayer, K., & Altice, F.L. Pre-exposure Prophylaxis among Men who have Sex with Men: Dual Motivational Model of PrEP Use Intention. (2018). *AIDS and Behavior*. doi: 10.1007/s10461-018-2214-2
- Ranjit, Y. S.**, Snyder, L.B., Hamilton, M.A., Rimal, R.N. (2017). Self-Determination Theory and Risk Behavior in a Collectivistic Society: Preventing Reckless Driving in Urban Nepal. *Journal of Health Communication*. doi: 10.1080/10810730.2017.1341569
- Nowak, K. L., Fox, J. and **Ranjit, Y. S.** (2015). Inferences about avatars: Sexism, appropriateness, anthropomorphism, and the objectification of female virtual representations. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. doi: 10.1111/jcc4.12130.
- Michael, M; Denes, A; Diaz, B; **Ranjit, Y.S.** (Sept. 2013) Touch attitudes in cross sex friendships: We're just friends. *Personal Relationships*, 21, 2, p. 309 – 323.

Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Lachlan, K.A., Basaran, A-M.B., Snyder, L.B., Houston, JB. (2020). Needing to know about the crisis back home: Disaster information seeking and disaster media effects following the 2015 Nepal earthquake among Nepalis living outside of Nepal. (ICA Virtual Conference, 2020)
- Ranjit. Y.S.**, Shrestha, R., Copenhaver, M., & Altice, F.L. Online information seeking and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis awareness among drug users without HIV. *National Communication Association*. Health Communication division, Baltimore, MD. (November, 2019)
- Ghassemlou, S., Chemi, C., Hu, L., **Ranjit, Y.S.**, Marini, C., Tofighi, B. A validated assessment and critical analysis of commercial smartphone applications targeting alcohol and illicit substance use. *Addiction Health Services Research*. Savannah, Atlanta (October, 2018)
- Zhou, X., Krishnan, A., **Ranjit, Y.S.** A Stratified Analysis of Smokers and their Perceptions of E-Cigarettes. Presented at *American Association of Public Health Conference 2018*, San Diego (November, 2018)

- Krishnan, A., Zhou, X., **Ranjit, Y.S.** Association between e-cigarette information seeking behavior and beliefs about cigarettes. Presented (Oral) at the *HINTS Data User Conference 2018*, Bethesda, MD (September, 2018)
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Azbel, L., Krishnan, A., Meyer, J.P., and Altice, F.L. HIV and Drug Use Among Women in Prison in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. Presented at 2018 *NIDA International Forum* (poster session) (June, 2018).
- Ranjit Y.S.**, Krishnan, A., Zhou, X. Online health information-seeking and attention to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warnings. Oral presentation at the 68th *International Communication Association (ICA) Conference 2018*, Prague, Czech Republic. Interactive session. (May, 2018).
- Brown, S-E., Krishnan, A; **Ranjit, Y.S.** Marcus, R.; Altice, F.L. Assessing feasibility and acceptability of mHealth among underserved HIV+ cocaine users and their healthcare provider. *Connected Health 2017*, Boston. (October, 2017)
- Ranjit, Y. S.**, Snyder, L.B., Hamilton, M.A., Rimal, R.N. Self-Determination Theory and Risk Behavior in a Collectivistic Society: Preventing Reckless Driving in Urban Nepal. Paper accepted for oral presentation at *International Communication Association Conference*, Fukuoka, Japan. (2016, May)
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Snyder, L. B, Shrestha, M. *Compliance to behavioral directives based on traditional health beliefs in Nepal*. Paper to be as top student paper in health communication to be presented at *National Communication Association Conference (NCA)*, Chicago (2014, November).
- Ranjit, Y.S.**, Nowak, K. L. *Perceived self-expertise and its influence on source expertise and message clarity in online communication*. Scholar to scholar presentation to be presented at *National Communication Association Conference (NCA)*, 2014
- Nowak, K. L., Fox, J., **Ranjit, Y.S.** *The Role of Sexism in Perceptions of Female Images and Credibility*. Paper presentation at ICA, Seattle. Paper presentation at ICA, 2014.
- Ranjit, Y. S;** Snyder, L. B, Borsai A.M. (2013, November). *HIV/AIDS related misconception, media exposure, and stigma: A study of women in Nepal*. Paper presented at NCA, D.C.
- Ranjit, Y. S;** Milham, M.H (2013, November). *Watch the road, not your phone...wait to text: the effectiveness of the extended parallel process model on anti-texting while driving campaigns*. (Poster presented at NCA, D.C., 2013)

Honors and Awards

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Travel Award. 2018 NIDA International Forum*. San Diego, June 7-14, 2018
- Top Five Student Paper in Health Communication*. National Communication Association Conference. Nov. 2014
- 2014 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*, awarded by Graduate School, University of Conn.
- Pre-doctoral Fellowship*, awarded by Department of Communication, University of Conn. 2014
- Dean's Graduate Fellowship in Social Sciences*, awarded by College of Liberal Art and Sciences, UConn. 2013
- Pre-doctoral Fellowship*, awarded by Department of Communication, University of Conn. 2013

Paul E. Hirshson Byline, Award for Academic Excellence and Professional Ethics, awarded by Northeastern University. 2008

Grant Application Experience

- Formative research to develop mHealth intervention for HIV prevention among female sex workers in Nepal. Submitted in October 2019 to University of Missouri, Research Council. My role: PI. \$10,000 (Funded)
- mHealth intervention to improve care for people with HIV and opioid use disorder (OUD). Submitted to Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), Yale. My role: PI. \$30,000. (Unfunded)
- *Developing mHealth Intervention for female sex workers in Nepal*. Submitted to NIDA R03. My role: Co-Investigator. \$50,000/year (Unfunded) Score 69.
- *Developing and testing mHealth intervention to reduce HIV and HCV among clients of the New Haven Syringe Service Program*. PI: Frederick L. Altice, MD. Submitted to NIH, Yale. My role: Collaborator. \$250,000 (Unfunded).
- *Formative Research on HIV prevalence, access and utilization of health care, acceptability of combination pre-exposure prophylaxis and mHealth for HIV prevention among female sex workers in Nepal*. Submitted to CIRA, Yale. My role: PI. \$30,000. (Unfunded)
- *Assessment and Usability Testing of a mHealth Intervention and Social Media to Improve Antiretroviral Adherence among HIV-infected cocaine users*. My role: PI. Submitted to Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CIRA, Yale). My role: PI. \$20,000 (Unfunded).
- *Developing and testing mHealth intervention to reduce HIV and HCV among clients of the New Haven Syringe Service Program*. PI: Frederick L. Altice, MD. Submitted to CIRA, Yale. My role: Collaborator. \$30,000 (Unfunded).

Research Positions

Research Consultant

Center for Communication Programs (CCP)
Johns Hopkins University
2016

Research Assistant

Human Interaction Laboratory, Department of Communication
University of Connecticut
Supervisor: Kristine Nowak, Ph.D.
2013

Research Assistant

School of Journalism, Northeastern University, Boston
Supervisor: Steven Burgard, Ph.D.
2008

Teaching

University of Missouri

Instructor, Health Communication
Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Graduate seminar on health communication
Spring 2020

University of Connecticut

Instructor of Record, Public Speaking, Honors Section
Spring 2016, Summer 2014

Discussion Instructor, Public Speaking+
2011, 2012
Supervisor: Rory McGloin, Ph.D.

Instructor of Record, Cross Cultural Communication
Spring 2016, 2015, 2013, Spring 2014
Supervisor: Diana Rios, Ph.D.

Instructor, Introduction to Human Communication
May 2012, 2013

Discussion Instructor, Introduction to Human Communication
Fall 2010 – Spring 2014
Supervisors: Alice Veksler, Ph.D., Mike Miller, Ph. D.

Guest Lecturer on Influence of Culture on Health
Spring 2014
Course: Health Communication
Invited by Lecturer Anne Borsai

Guest Lecturer on Accent in Intercultural Communication
Fall 2011
Course: Cross Cultural Communication
Invited by Lecturer Milton Stokes, RN. Ph.D.

Guest Lecturer
Course: Public Relations
Fall 2013

Course: Intercultural Communication
Fall 2013

Course: Health Communication
Spring 2013

Course: Intercultural Communication
Fall, 2011

Professional Development

Global Health Conference, Unite for Sight, Yale University. Attended in April, 2014

Eastern Region Campus Compact Conference. Attended in October, 2014.

D.C. Health Communication Conference. Attended in May, 2013.

Kentucky Conference on Health Communication. Attended in April, 2012, 2020.

Academic and Other Services

Reviewer

Health Communication (2018)
Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly (2019)
AIDS and Behavior (2017-2019)
International Journal of STD and AIDS (2019)
HIV/AIDS - Research and Palliative Care (2020)

Member and Reviewer

International Communication Association (ICA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
National Communication Association (NCA)

Affiliate

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)
Yale

Vice President (2012)

Communication Graduate Student Association

Other Professional Experience

Program Manager (Graduate Assistant)
New England University Assisted Community School Collaborative
Office of Public Engagement
University of Connecticut
August 2014-September 2015

Staff Reporter at Reminder News, Weekly Community Newspaper now a part of the Hartford Courant
February 2009 - September 2009

News Intern at WBUR, Boston's NPR station
May 2008 - August 2008

Staff Reporter at New England Press Association Bulletin
January 2008 - May 2008

Writer for 80108 (now go2media), Boston