

AMBA KAK

EDUCATION

B.C.L., Bachelor of Civil Law (Post-graduate degree), Faculty of Law, University of Oxford
Rhodes Scholar; Chair, Global Scholars Symposium

M.Sc., Social Science of the Internet (with distinction), Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford
Thesis: *Unbundling the internet* (Research on user response to Facebook “FreeBasics”)

B.A., L.L.B (Hons.), National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), India
Editor, *NUJS Law Review*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-Executive Director, **AI Now Institute**, NY 2022 - ongoing

Research Scholar and Director of Global Policy and Programs, **AI Now Institute at New York University**, NY 2019 - 21

Senior Affiliate Fellow, **Khoury College of Computer Science, Northeastern University**, 2021 -

• *Sr. AI Advisor*, **Office of Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission**, Wash. DC 2021 - 22

Fellow, **Engelberg Center, New York University School of Law**, NY 2019 - 21

Global Policy Advisor, **Mozilla Corporation**, San Francisco/New Delhi 2016-19

Visiting Scholar, **IViR Institute of Information Law, University of Amsterdam** 2016-17

Government Consultant, **National Institute of Public Finance & Policy**, New Delhi 2016-17

Campaign Coordinator, **National Campaign for Peoples’ Right to Information**, Delhi 2012

Summer Associate, **Allen & Overy, LLP**, London 2012

HONORS, AWARDS, AND BOARD INVOLVEMENT

“100 Most Influential People in AI”, **TIME** 2024

Member, *Board of Directors*, **Signal Foundation**, 2023 -

Member, *Strategy Advisory Board*, **Mozilla Foundation**, Toronto 2019 -

Member, *Working Group (Future of Data Regulation)*, **Ada Lovelace Institute**, London 2021 -

Mozilla Technology Policy Fellow 2016-17

Rhodes Scholar (Constituency: India)

2014

Google Policy Fellow

2013

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, AND GOVERNMENT TESTIMONY

Amba Kak, Sarah Myers West, and Meredith Whittaker, “Make no mistake—AI is owned by Big Tech”, MIT Tech Review, December 5 2023

Amba Kak, Written Testimony Before The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, “The Need to Protect Americans’ Privacy and the AI Accelerant.”, July 11 2024

Amba Kak, Written Testimony Before The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, “Safeguarding Data and Innovation: Building the Foundation for the Use of Artificial Intelligence.”, October 18 2023

Rashida Richardson and **Amba Kak**, “Suspect Development Systems: Databasing Marginality and Enforcing Discipline”, 55 Michigan Journal of Law Reform (2022)

Amba Kak, “Lessons From a Pandemic: Three Provocations for AI Governance” *in* A DIGITAL NEW DEAL, IT for Change ed. (2021)

Amba Kak (ed.), “Regulating Biometrics”, AI Now Institute (2020)

Amba Kak, Rashida Richardson, and Roel Dobbe, “Submission to the European Commission on White Paper on AI - A European Approach”, AI Now Institute (2020)

Amba Kak and Rashida Richardson, “Written Comments to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada on Proposals for Ensuring Appropriate Regulation of AI”, AI Now Institute (2020)

Amba Kak, “The Global South is everywhere, but also always somewhere: National Policy Narratives and AI Justice”, AIES: Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (2020)

Amba Kak, Kate Crawford, and Jason Schultz, “Written Comments to Australian Human Rights Commission on AI Governance Framework”, AI Now Institute (2020)

Amba Kak, “The Emergence of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018: A Critique”, Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 53, No 38 (2018)

Amba Kak, “Cambridge Analytica & the Political Economy Of Persuasion”, Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 53, No 20 (2018)

Amba Kak, Vinod Kotwal and Smriti Parsheera, “Open Data & Digital identity: Lessons for Aadhaar”, IEEE Xplor, 27-29 Nov (2017)

Daniel O’Maley and **Amba Kak**, “‘Free internet’ and the costs to media pluralism; The hazards of zero-rating the news”, CIMA Digital Report, (2018)

Amba Kak, “Report: Assessing zero rating: How regulators have picked good from bad”, supported by Mozilla Foundation, (available online)

Locke, Chris, Jonathan Donner, Bryan Pon, Savita Bailur, Francis Hook and **Amba Kak**, “Digital Access in Africa”, Caribou Digital, 2016 (available online)

Amba Kak and Maggie Huang, “Mobile music: affordable access and the copyright regime it needs to sur-

vive”, Pervasive Technologies, ed. Prof. Jorge Contreras and Sunil Abraham (submitted 2014, forthcoming, Sage).

Amba Kak and Malavika Jayaram, “Legal legacies of identity production, In the Wake of Aadhaar: The Digital Ecosystem of Governance in India”, ed. Ashish Rajadhyaksha (Bangalore, CSCS, 2013)

Amba Kak, “Privacy and the National Identification Authority of India Bill: Leaving Much to the Imagination”, 3(4) NUJS Law Review, 2011

PRESS MENTIONS (selected)

Foreign Policy, “The Problem With Public-Private Partnerships in AI”, 12 Feb, 2024
The Guardian, “Top tech firms commit to AI safeguards amid fears over pace of change”, 21 July, 2023
Time, “Big Tech is Already lobbying to water down EU’s AI Rules”, 21 April, 2023
Australian Broadcasting Corporation, “What to do about AI development?”, 14 April, 2023
Washington Post, “Biden Administration is trying to figure out how to audit AI”, 11 April, 2023
The New York Times, “As A.I. Booms, Lawmakers Struggle to Understand the Technology”, 3 March, 2023
Washington Post, “Former FTC Advisors urge swift action to counteract AI Hype”, 14 April, 2023
Washington Post, “AI Experts urge the EU to tighten laws on chatGPT”, 13 April, 2023
The Atlantic, “AI Isn’t Omnipotent. It’s Janky.”, 3 April, 2023
Quartz, “Amba Kak on the tech future impacted by covid-19”, 30 June, 2023
Nature, “Resisting the rise of facial recognition”, 18 November, 2020
MIT Tech Review (interview with Karen Hao), “Eight case studies on regulating biometric technology show us a path forward”, 4 September, 2020
Quartz, “The EU’s agenda to regulate AI does little to rein in facial recognition”, 20 February, 2020
BuzzFeed News, “India Is Creating A National Facial Recognition System”, 9 October, 2019
Forbes US, “Interview with Amba Kak on India’s proposed rules to govern social media”, 22 January, 2019
The Wired, “India’s Plan to Curb Hate Speech Could Mean More Censorship”, 18 January, 2019
LA Times, “India proposes tough new laws to censor online content”, 11 January, 2019
The Telegraph, “Legal loopholes in draft privacy law”, 4 January, 2019
Deccan Chronicle, “Mozilla red flags changes in IT Act”, 4 January, 2019
The Financial Express, “Government’s proposal to amend IT rules ‘blunt and disproportionate’, says Mozilla”, 3 January, 2019
The Indian Express, “Why Mozilla is advocating for Lean Data practices in India”, 27 December, 2018
Quartz, “Mozilla advises India’s tech startups to respect user privacy”, 6 December, 2018

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (selected)

<i>PrivacyCon (Federal Trade Commission)</i> , “Panel 2 - Commercial Surveillance”	2021
<i>AI Governance Symposium (Yale Law School)</i> , “Global AI Governance”	2021
<i>Forward Slash Podcast (The Australian)</i> , “Episode 5 on AI”	2021
<i>Asia Pacific Institute Podcast</i> , Episode on “Implications of biometric and emotion recognition”	2021
<i>Yale China Centre and AI Now Institute</i> , Presented on “Global data law trends in the EU, China, and India” (with Samm Sacks)	2020
<i>Citizen Trade Campaign Call</i> , Talk on “Digital trade rules and AI”	2020
<i>CPDP, Brussels</i> , USTR Panel on global fragmentation of privacy frameworks	2019
<i>MozFest London</i> : Lightning talk on data and digital rights in Asia, (available online)	2018
<i>IGF, Paris</i> , Presentation on ‘device neutrality’	2018
<i>IGF, Geneva</i> , Panel on data protection law; zero-rating and media freedom	2017
<i>Mobile World Congress, Barcelona</i> , Talk on data localization and digital ID in Asia	2017
<i>ICDPPC, Hong Kong</i> , Panel on comparative privacy law	2017

ITU Academic Conference, Nanjing, China, Paper presentation on open data and Aadhaar 2017
Global Congress on Intellectual Property and Public Interest, Paper presentation, Macau (2016); Delhi (2015), Cape Town (2013)

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Amba Kak and Noopur Raval, "A New AI Lexicon: Responses and Challenges to the Critical AI discourse", *AI Now Institute Medium Blog*, January 15, 2021

Rashida Richardson and Amba Kak, "It's Time for a Reckoning About This Foundational Piece of Police Technology", *Slate*, September 11, 2020

Amba Kak and Rashida Richardson, "Artificial Intelligence Policies Must Focus on Impact and Accountability", *Centre for International Governance Innovation*, May 1, 2020

Amba Kak, "Privacy law needs public debate", *The Times of India*, July 30, 2019

Amba Kak, "(The government must not) move fast and break things", *The Times of India*, January 9, 2019

Amba Kak, "The Sobering Reality of the draft data protection law", *The Times of India*, July 31, 2018

Amba Kak, "How to plug a Cambridge Analytica shaped hole in India's privacy law", *The Times of India*, March 27, 2018

Jason Schultz and Amba Kak, "Big Data, Large concerns", *The Indian Express*, February 12, 2018

Amba Kak, "Net neutrality: TRAI does well to hard code into license", *Business Standard*, November 29, 2017

Amba Kak, "We need a strong law on privacy", *Business Standard*, June 4, 2018