

RINKY MAHAJAN

Human-Centered AI Researcher | Explainable & Responsible AI, AI Ethics

[linkedin.com/in/rinky-mahajan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rinky-mahajan) | rinkymahajan.com | [ORCID 0009-0002-4023-8390](https://orcid.org/0009-0002-4023-8390)

rinkymahajan99@gmail.com | +1 (516) 591-7977 | Rochester, NY

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-centered AI in education, especially culturally responsive and fair AI-mediated assessment, generative AI and multilingual learners, and transparent AI whose sources and limits people can check.

EDUCATION

M.S., Human-Computer Interaction | Rochester Institute of Technology | Rochester, NY *Expected Dec 2026*

- **GPA: 3.88/4.00; Thesis:** *CARE Framework (Cultural Responsiveness, Assessment Alignment, Readiness and Governance, and Ethics)*; **Advisor:** Prof. Catherine Beaton
- **Study abroad:** Université de Paris 8, France *May 2025*

B.Tech, Electronics & Communication Engineering | SMVD University | India *May 2020*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant | Rochester Institute of Technology | Rochester, NY *Jan 2024 - Present*

Supervisor: Prof. Catherine Beaton

- **CARE Framework** (thesis; lead researcher): Designed and led a mixed-methods study of AI adoption in higher education assessment: interviewed eight educators and administrators in France, India, the UK, and the US, ran a thematic analysis, and surveyed 31 students (28 evaluated the framework); all research phases complete. [C1]
- **Multilingual learners and generative AI** (collaborator; co-author): Collaborated on studies combining qualitative interviews with task-based comparisons of independent and AI-supported work, examining literacy, reliance on AI, and how faculty interpret AI-supported submissions. [C2], [A1]
- **Norman AI teaching assistant** (UX researcher; co-author): Conducted the UX research, interaction design, and usability testing for a course-grounded RAG assistant built by an RIT team; evaluated the initial version with 16 students and found visible sources increased trust without enabling verification. [C3]
- **Faculty diversity** (co-author): Co-authored an analysis of underrepresentation among higher education faculty and its effects on equity, belonging, and retention in STEM. [C4]

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Papers

- [C1] **Mahajan, R.**, & Beaton, C. (2026). CARE: A Framework for Cultural Assessment of Responsive AI through an Ethical Lens. In *INTED2026 Proceedings* (research in progress), Valencia, Spain. DOI: [10.21125/inted.2026.1277](https://doi.org/10.21125/inted.2026.1277)
- [C2] Beaton, C., & **Mahajan, R.** (2026). Barriers and Bridges: Generative AI for Multiple Language Learners. In *INTED2026 Proceedings*, Valencia, Spain. DOI: [10.21125/inted.2026.1274](https://doi.org/10.21125/inted.2026.1274)
- [C3] Donovan, M., Shadangi, S., Ganskop, D., Beaton, C., & **Mahajan, R.** (2026). NORMAN: A Retrieval Artificial Intelligence Augmented Teaching Assistant for Higher Education. In *EDULEARN26 Proceedings*, Palma, Spain. DOI: [10.21125/edulearn.2026.0944](https://doi.org/10.21125/edulearn.2026.0944)
- [C4] Iwamoto, Y., Roberts, A., **Mahajan, R.**, & Beaton, C. (2025). Importance of Diverse Role Models in Education to Support Equal Education Opportunity and Inclusivity. In *2025 IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference (ISEC)*, Princeton, NJ. IEEE. DOI: [10.1109/ISEC64801.2025.11147317](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISEC64801.2025.11147317)

Published Abstracts

- [A1] Beaton, C., & **Mahajan, R.** (2026). Multiple Language Learners in an Artificial Intelligence World: Faculty Perceptions and Pedagogical Challenges in Education. In *EDULEARN26 Proceedings*, Palma, Spain. DOI: [10.21125/edulearn.2026.0918](https://doi.org/10.21125/edulearn.2026.0918)

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Presentations

- Virtual presentations of [C3] and [A1], *EDULEARN 2026, Palma, Spain* Jun 2026
- Oral presentations of [C1] and [C2], *INTED 2026, Valencia, Spain* Mar 2026
- Paper presentation of [C4], *IEEE ISEC 2025, Princeton University, NJ* Mar 2025

Workshops

- AI-based digital storytelling workshops on responsible AI use, *Université de Paris 8, France* May 2025
- ‘AI Applications in K-12’ workshop for K-12 educators, *IEEE ISEC 2025, Princeton University, NJ* Mar 2025

HONORS & AWARDS

- Nominated for the RIT Outstanding Graduate Student Achievement Award (master’s category), 2024 - 2025.
- Received 80% tuition support per semester through a research assistantship and RIT Merit Scholarship combined (2025 - 2026 appointment).
- Won BrickHack 2025 for the EcoWaze project in the ‘Most Sustainable One’ category.
- Won WiCHack 2025 team award for the Blobzz project in the ‘WiC: Fan Favorite’ category.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

UX Researcher | Confidential healthcare organization Jul 2024 - Dec 2024

- Conducted usability research; client identity and project results are withheld under a non-disclosure agreement.

Assistant Product Manager | Tata Consultancy Services | India Jul 2023 - Mar 2024

- Led UX research for the Ministry of Finance's national public portal, identifying pain points across a culturally and linguistically diverse user base.
- Redesigned user flows and information architecture to improve clarity and task completion for public-sector users.

UI/UX Designer | Infosys Ltd. | India Jan 2021 - May 2023

- Developed front-end components in AngularJS, HTML, and CSS for a finance client's investment workflows, improving accessibility and consistency in a regulated environment.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **Praxis: At-Home Rehabilitation Coach:** (*In progress, high-fidelity wireframes*)
Designed to make exercise instructions, camera setup, and recovery from interruptions clear for patients doing rehabilitation at home. Completed the user flow and high-fidelity wireframes, including safety and accessibility decisions.
- **E-Val: AI Evaluation Tool:** (*In progress, early UX work*)
Designed to help practitioners interpret AI evaluation scores, inspect failed test cases, and compare configurations without treating a score as proof of quality. Reviewed the early interface and framed the comparison experience.

SKILLS

Research Methods: Mixed-Methods Research, Semi-Structured Interviews, Focus Groups, Observation, Case Studies, Contextual Inquiry, Thematic Analysis, Secondary Data Analysis, Survey Design and Validation, Quantitative Data Analysis, Usability Testing

AI & HCI: Responsible AI Design, Generative AI, Human-Centered Design, User Research, Interaction Design, Prompt Engineering

Tools: Figma, Figma Make, Claude Design, Codex, ChatGPT Sites, Claude Code, Antigravity, Python (pandas, Jupyter), Tableau