

# **Crafting Decolonial Futures: Nurturing Youth Agency through Maker Education in India**



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Tuesday, September 17th, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 PM

BMI Classroom 4004

Woodruff Memorial Research Building

or

Join us on Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94621165064?pwd=GDMjtoiktOpQNS2Mq0LK70erIKe2R8.1>

Meeting ID: 946 2116 5064

Passcode: 562672



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**Abstract:** The prevailing conversation around the future of work often emphasizes digital advancements shaped by a select few, especially in hubs like Silicon Valley. The increasing global inequalities we see today remind us of the need to decentralize technology development and access. So how do we move towards crafting more democratic technological futures? In this talk, I will reflect on our experiences at MakerGhat in creating spaces for underserved youth to exercise their imagination through hands-on making. I invite us to think about how we can build more equitable futures, by addressing who gets to meaningfully participate in creating technology, and the role of education (and educators) in getting us there.

**Bio:** Dr. Azra Ismail is an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Informatics at Emory University, and the co-founder of MakerGhat, an education nonprofit in India that aims to nurture the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs from underserved communities. MakerGhat's goal is to build youth agency and nurture a grassroots movement of 'making' and entrepreneurship in India. Along with a team of researchers, partner non-profits, and government institutions, the team implements curriculum, teacher training programs, and assessment rubrics for hands-on learning. MakerGhat has reached over a million students across government schools and community programs across 7+ states.