

# Alisha Mahen

**Social Designer + Researcher** // Designing with people to make a difference in their lives.

## / Education

**MFA Design for Social Innovation** / School of Visual Arts / GPA: 3.89

SEP 2018 - PRESENT // NEW YORK CITY, NY

**BA Economics (Honors)** / Lady Shri Ram College for Women / University of Delhi

JUN 2009 - MAY 2012 // NEW DELHI, INDIA

**Managerial Accounting**

**and Financial Control** / LSE Summer School

JUN 2010 // LONDON, UK

## / Master's Thesis

Using participatory research methods to create tools and services for female Yemeni immigrants in New York City to plan their own education and careers.

## / Skills

Human-Centered Design, Ethnography, Facilitation and Co-Creation, Experience Design, System Mapping and Visualization, Rapid Prototyping, Usability Testing, Storytelling, Synthesis, Ideation

## / Tools

Sketch, Tableau, Procreate, InVision, Keynote, Microsoft Office, Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign

## / Facilitation Experience

I facilitate conversations on diversity and inclusiveness, that give people a space to reflect on their own actions and ideate on actionable steps

**Otherness**, 40 people

NOV 2019 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

**Understanding Our Patients**, 8 people

OCT 2019 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

**Identity and Choices**, 25 people

APR 2019 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

**Claystation Community**, 10 people

DEC 2018 // NEW YORK CITY, NY

## / Professional Experience

**Eskolta** / Program & Design Intern

SEP 2019 - PRESENT // NEW YORK CITY, NY

Co-planning sessions to empower transfer schools in NYC with design research and PDSA methodology. Visualizing feedback from different sessions to determine next steps to improve trainings. Designing tools for facilitators to help them use the human-centered design process more effectively. Co-designing a conference for 1000+ transfer school educators to share best practices.

**hiCOLab** / Design Research Intern

JUN 2019 - AUG 2019 // BURLINGTON, VT

Applied strategies of human-centered design to define and design a system that integrates health and well-being into the workplace and daily experiences of 8500 employees at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Conducted research using ethnographic methods and prototyped potential solutions over two phases.

**EduStart** / Content Designer

MAY 2017 - AUG 2018 // MUMBAI, INDIA

Worked on the social-emotional development of K-8 children from marginalized communities. Designed UX and research-based, teacher-informed digital content for an online personalized learning platform. Implemented platform with the YMCA, Houston to get feedback on the teacher and student experience.

**3.2.1 Education Foundation** / Teacher

MAY 2014 - APR 2017 // MUMBAI, INDIA

Taught 400 elementary students from low-income households in an underserved community. Designed and implemented a school-wide SEL curriculum by integrating cognitive learning theories with the design-thinking framework. Facilitated independent reflection successfully for 60% of students on their experiences with the curriculum.

**Teach For India** / Fellow

JUN 2012 - MAY 2014 // PUNE, INDIA

Taught 47 students in grades 3-4 in a under-resourced private school. Reimagined and constructed technology-integrated visual learning spaces despite limited infrastructure. Achieved an average of 70% student mastery in mathematics and 2.35 years of student growth in reading levels.

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