

## **Statement of Research Interest**

Viplav Tuladhar

My primary research interests are aimed towards increasing the understanding of the human behaviour and how their cognition is a part of that behaviour, with the use of theoretical, experimental, meta-analytical and more types of inquiries. My ultimate aim being to understand and communicate the role of relatively less understood cognitive structures on human behaviour. My past research experience lies in social cognition, with both my masters and MPhil dissertations being based in the effect of social cognitive structures on visual cognition. Furthermore, I am well versed in the methodology of eye-tracking experiments, statistical software such as SPSS and R, and statistical analyses.

### **Masters and MPhil Dissertations**

As mentioned before both my dissertations are based on how social cognitive structures effect the eye movements of individuals. The master's dissertation was titled "Are our eyes sexist too? A study to see the effect of occupational gender role (in)consistency on eye gaze fixations". It was based on how the gender role effected the eye movements, an experimental study using an eye-tracker to measure the effects. The idea being that social cognitive structures would have a major effect on how one viewed the world.

My MPhil thesis was likewise based on a similar note, but with a different cognitive structure. It was titled "Impression and Eye Movements: An Eye-Tracking Investigation Among Youth in Sikkim", trying to understand the effect of impression formation (the process) on eye movements. It had two eye-tracking experiments with the intention to measuring not only the effect of the impression formation process on eye movements but also various characteristics which would affect impressions.

### **Prior Research**

Other than my masters and MPhil dissertations, I have also worked on a project and multiple research papers. Due to my work on a project granted to Dr. Saurabh Maheshwari by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, India (Grant No.: SR/CSRI/31/2014); I have become well versed in various research methodologies, analysis techniques and more. With major experience

with eye-tracking software and eye tracking methodology. I have also become well acquainted with decision making process, thought suppression, attitude and thinking patterns, due to my time while working in the project. I have one published and one accepted (under proof) research article, in both of which I am a co-author. The published article is titled “Do mindsets help in controlling eye gaze? A study to explore the effect of abstract and concrete mindsets on eye movements control” published in the Journal of General Psychology.

### **Future Direction and Why IIT Kharagpur**

Throughout my study life I have had multiple ideas of research to pursue some bad, some good but many unfeasible in the location where I was. I do believe that the future of social psychology is understanding the cognitive structures that build our understanding of the world i.e., stereotypes, impressions, attitudes, etc. and how the future of technology might change social situations. I also believe that an interdisciplinary approach will provide a more cogent understanding as well, since studying a phenomenon from only one viewpoint will only strengthen the researchers' individual beliefs rather than provide a holistic view. Therefore, I think IIT Kharagpur would be a good place to start a journey of such discoveries, as it has a strong research culture and ethic with well-known interdisciplinary culture.