My Experiences with Community Building

Mohammad Emtiyaz Khan
RIKEN Center for AI Project, Tokyo
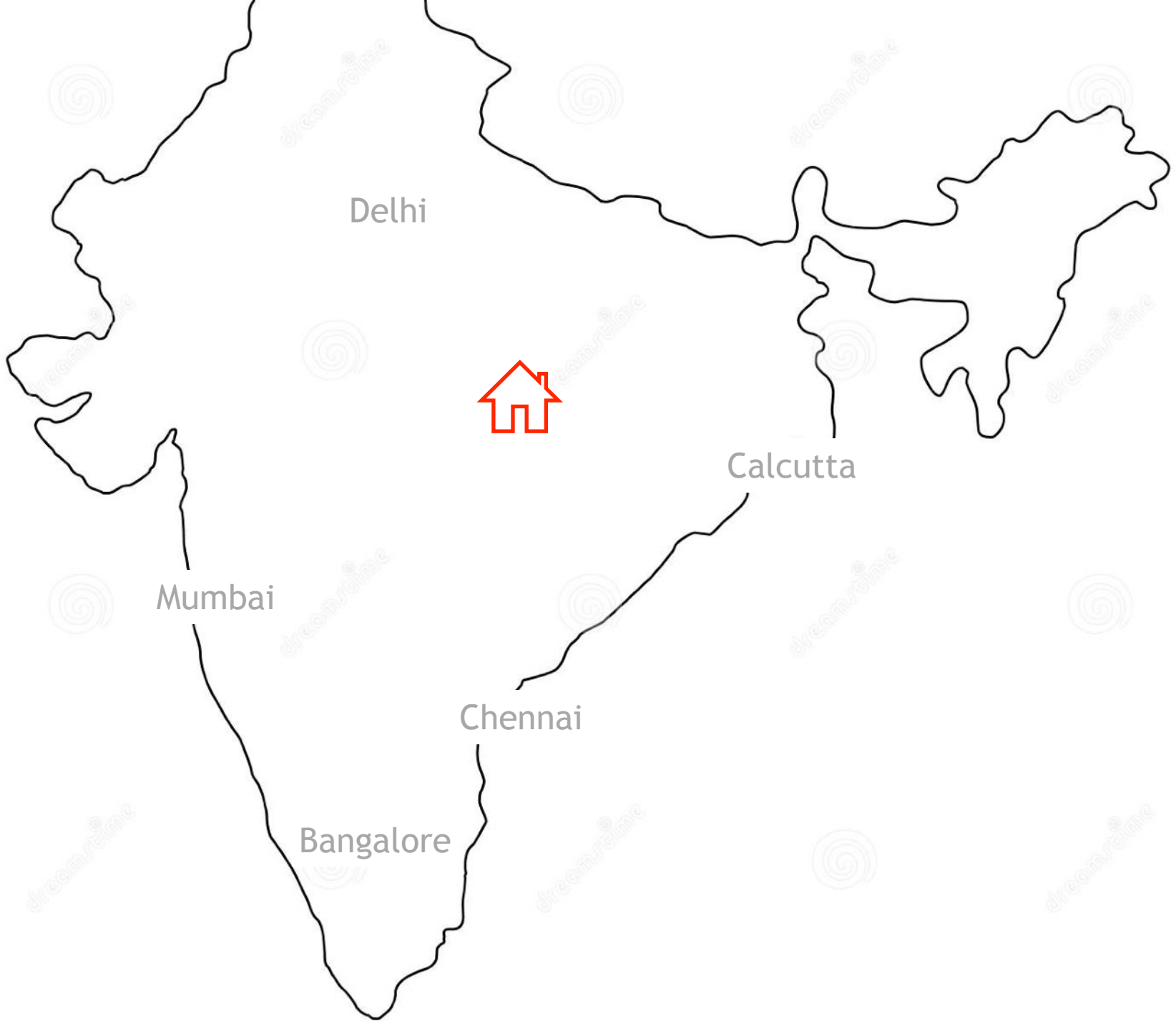http://emtiyaz.github.io

Broadening Research Collaboration

Creating self-sustaining communities

Today's talk

- A bit about myself
- Two communities I helped create
  - Been running more than 15 years
  - Focus on self-sustenance
- Several ongoing efforts
- A failure story
- Main message: focus on self-sustenance, rather than growth/quality
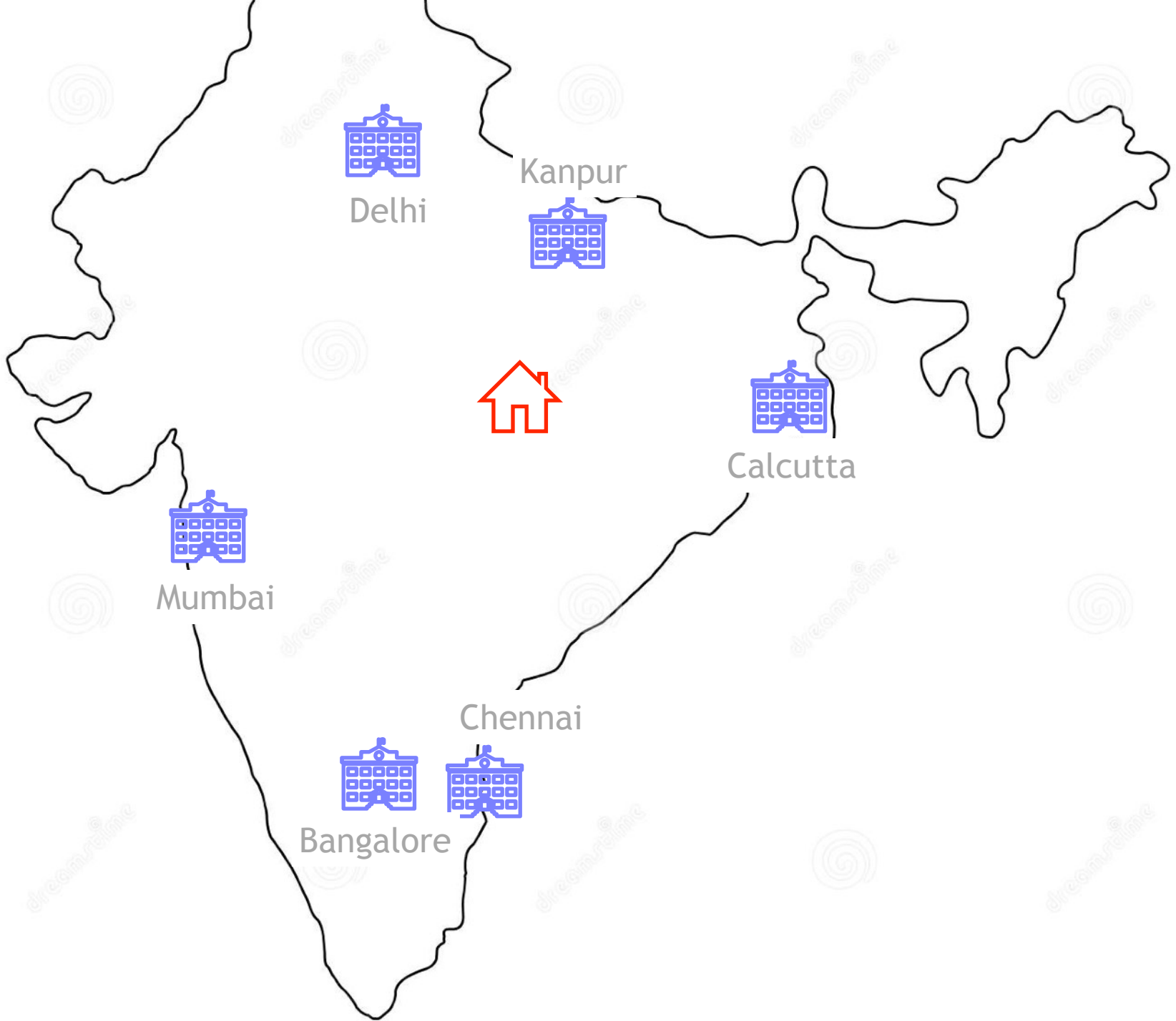
Delhi

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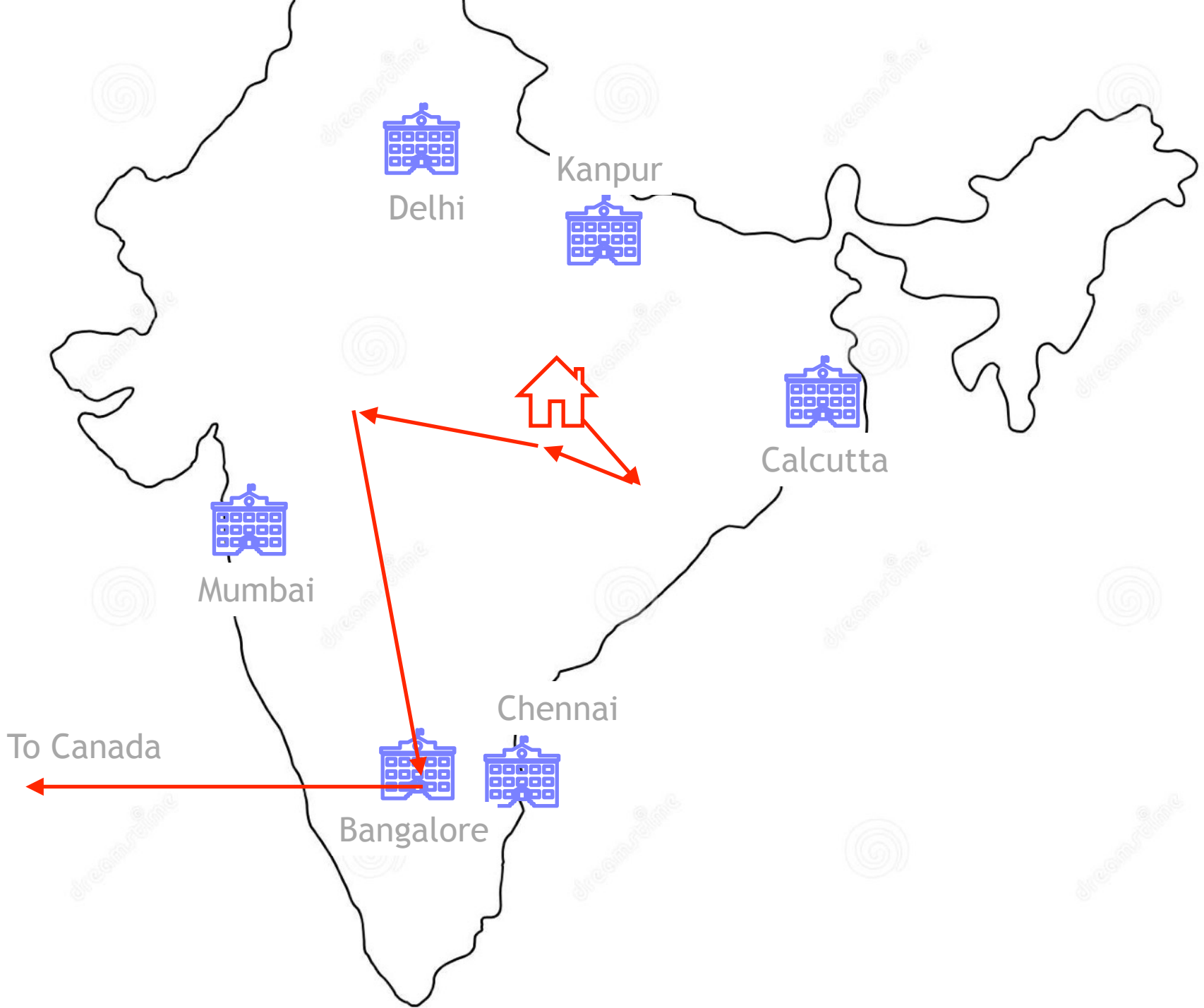
Chennai

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Delhi

Calcutta

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To Canada

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Bangalore

Being a researcher is privilege

My goal is to make it easier for other to be a researcher than it was for me

Self-sustained communities

Two communities that have been running for over 15 years

Rhythmica (since 2002)

A community of music enthusiasts at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore

"In the 20 years of its existence, the club has not only enthralled its listeners, but has also honed the talent of numerous students, giving them a space to create, share and discuss music."

Log In   Sign Up

rhythmica.iisc ···

Follow   Message

Rhythmica IISc
Rhythmica is the official music group of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, since 2003. We perform 3 packed shows every year on campus.
youtu.be/yO2NgviKork

History   Info   People   Performa...   Unplugged
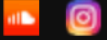
182 posts   **1,805** followers   **2,896** following
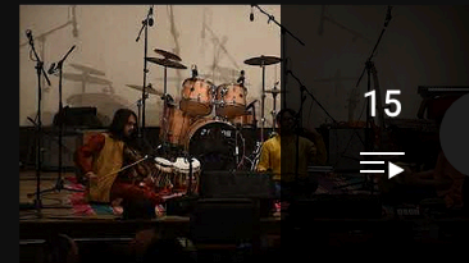
YouTube IN

Facebook

Rhythmica IISc
@RhythmicaIISc
548 subscribers

HOME   VID >

Created playlists

15

Unpause 2022 - Rhythmica

VIEW FULL PLAYLIST

Dissonance   ▶ PLAY ALL

How did it all start?

The culture of inclusion

Rhythmica follows a democratic enrollment process and is not restricted to freshers. Monmita Bhar, a PhD student in the Centre for Neuroscience and a former convener, says that all students on campus are welcome to participate and the auditions offer an opportunity to gauge potential members' interest and musicality. The panelists try to assess these as objectively as possible.

https://connect.iisc.ac.in/2021/12/setting-the-stage/

Rhythmica is highly coveted among the music lovers on campus. Kartikey Pratap Chauhan, a UG student who enjoys performing Indian semi-classical music, narrates that after entering IISc, he aspired to join this "prestigious" music club. He was not successful in his first attempt, but he trained harder, and to his joy, he qualified in the second attempt. This boosted his confidence as a singer. Rhythmica taught him to pay attention to technical aspects of singing, he says. Eventually, he got the chance to perform before an audience of more than 350 people, twice. He also feels confident about his organisational and interpersonal abilities now.

https://connect.iisc.ac.in/2021/12/setting-the-stage/

Self-sustaining communities

Beneficial to many for a long
period of time, and can also deliver
quality results

Un-Distinguished Lecture Series (since 2007)

A series of free, casual lectures by students at University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver

UDLS
The Un-Distinguished Lecture Series

Welcome!

The Un-Distinguished Lecture Series (UDLS) is a series of free, casual lectures on a variety of topics held Fridays at 5pm in the 8th floor boardroom (X836) of the ICICS/CS building at UBC, Vancouver. These are given by and for students, staff, and faculty at UBC. Although most speakers and attendees are from computer science, everybody is welcome.

The series has included 425 lectures over 15 years since it first began in early 2007 (see History of UDLS).

Questions?

Have a look at the FAQ.

Want to sign up?

Put your name in the signup spreadsheet.

Want to learn more?

Email Paulette Koronkevich, pletrec@cs.ubc.ca

Email Joe Wonsil, jwonsil@cs.ubc.ca

Date	Title	Speaker
Oct 14, 2022	Scary Lectures to Tell in the Dark	Joseph Wonsil
Oct 7, 2022	Apartment Vermincomposting	Nichole Boufford
Sep 23, 2022	How to Win Survivor from Your Couch	Shruthi C
Sep 16, 2022	A balcony garden and a neighborhood vandal: A story of	Baraa Orabi

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Jul 13, 2007	On Google	Lucas Rizoli
Jul 6, 2007	Canada vs. Germany: Une réflection	Marcus Rohrbach
Jun 22, 2007	The Pacific Theatre of WW2	Matt Baumann
Jun 8, 2007	Brain-Computer Interfaces	Emtiyaz Khan
Jun 1, 2007	The ABCs of the Bible	Lloyd Markle
May 25, 2007	Clouds	Sancho McCann
May 18, 2007	Signal Compression and JPEG	Emtiyaz Khan
May 11, 2007	Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence	Immad Naseer
Apr 20, 2007	Slipping the Surly Bonds	Allan Rempel
Apr 13, 2007	Human Nature and its Consequences	Marcus Rohrbach
Apr 5, 2007	Top Super-models of Computer Graphics	Gordon Wetzstein
Mar 30, 2007	Proportional-Derivative-Integral (PID) Control	Sancho McCann
Mar 23, 2007	A Brief History of Cryptography	Florian Deckert
Mar 16, 2007	Eigenvalues in a Nutshell	Marisol Flores Garrido
Mar 9, 2007	SMART Goals and Feedback (Project Management)	Marcus Rohrbach
Feb 16, 2007	Peer-to-peer Systems	Uwe Schmidt
Feb 9, 2007	OS Mélange	Mayukh Saubhasik
Feb 2, 2007	C Code and the Art of Obfuscation	Lloyd Markle
Jan 26, 2007	Probability Theory	Emtiyaz Khan
Jan 19, 2007	Communication is Viral	Lucas Rizoli

Oct 6, 2017	High Speed Railway in China	Xing Zeng
Sep 29, 2017	Screws	Devon Graham
Sep 22, 2017	Bach and the Art of Fugue	Gudbrand
Sep 15, 2017	The Undistinguished Puzzle Hunt	Amon Ge
Sep 8, 2017	China: A Short History	Matthew Chun
Jun 9, 2017	Poker (the only casino game worth playing)	Amon Ge
May 19, 2017	Mineral Deposits	Chris Cameron
May 5, 2017	Native Advertising and Content Marketing	Neil Newman
Apr 28, 2017	Fentanyl: The Drug Deadlier than Heroin	VICE
Apr 14, 2017	Reading from "This Is How You Die" while candles melt	Amon Ge
Apr 7, 2017	The Science of Martial Arts	Kuba Karpierz
Mar 31, 2017	The Cultists are the Best	Clement Fung & Kuba Karpierz
Mar 24, 2017	Norouz/Iranian new year	Hedayat Zarkoob
Mar 17, 2017	The Pug. A comprehensive excursion on its roles and perception with an emphasis on German culture	Max Limper
Mar 10, 2017	Of undistinguished Tuesday Teas & Beer Calls	Jolande Fooken
Jan 27, 2017	Korean Reunification	Amon Ge
Jan 20, 2017	Film Appreciation Part 2: Film Styles	Sampoorna Biswas
Jan 13, 2017	Beans, gas, poop and what you can do to help	Yasha Pushak
Nov 18, 2016	A History of Photography: From Representation Towards Expression	Matthew Chun

UDLS

The Un-Distinguished Lecture Series

History

The idea of having an "undistinguished lecture series" was discussed sometime around autumn of 2006 in the 8th floor lounge (the 7th floor lounge, as it was known then). The culprits behind this idea were the following three primary suspects: Emtiyaz Khan, Lucas Rizoli, and Uwe Schmidt.

These three were known to have fooled around with the idea of a student-run lecture series late at night after a few too many drinks at Koerners Pub. Their long, boozy bullshit sessions on Fridays were where they came up with ridiculous ideas which somehow, to them, sounded earth shattering (it is clear that they were suffering from alcohol intoxications).

The series was born on January 19, 2007. Lucas delivered the first lecture (Communication is Viral) to a very small audience of CS grads. These students were unwilling witnesses at first, but later seemed to be intrigued and disgusted in equal measure. Since then, UDLS has matured considerably (though it still requires supervision). Its even been trotted out to meet guests, such as prospective grad students.

In early 2008, UDLS was adopted by the UBC CSGSA. Despite being the series foster-parent, the CSGSA remains distant.

UDLS at University of Utah

The Undistingiuished Lecture Series

The Undistinguished Lecture Series (UDLS) is a set of talks given by (typically) grad students in the School of Computing at the University of Utah. I stole this idea from the University of British Columbia dept of Computer Science, where I gave 9 talks, and was a UDLS organizer for a year.

UDLS gives us a chance to learn about the incredibly vast interests of our fellow grad students, and to practice giving public talks. The only rules are that talks can't be about one's research, and they must be original (no repeating talks). If you'd like to give a talk, send mail to the organizers.

The Archives

Date	Speaker	Topic
August 23, 2013	Ben Jones	The Intelligence Community Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative Data Center or What DropBox could be with a huge budget and no morals
September 6, 2013	Dustin Webb	Quadrotors
September 13, 2013	Anshul Joshi	Archery
September 20, 2013	Chris Malloy	Lock Picking
September 27, 2013	Leif Andersen	Lucid Dreaming
October 4, 2013	Sean McKenna	Lightsabers
October 11, 2013	Bruce Bolick	The serpent Prince: A Swedish Legend

UDLS at Northeastern Univ.

Northeastern University
Khoury College of Computer Sciences

UNDISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

DESCRIPTION:

The Undistinguished Lecture Series (UDLS) is an inclusive and community-building event for the graduate students of Khoury College. The mission of ULDS is to foster a sense of community for all Khoury PhD students while providing a platform to engage in an exchange of ideas, and have a space to discuss interests beyond their research topics. As a member of UDLS, you'll have the opportunity to offer your skills in the form of a short talk about a subject of your choosing. UDLS events also include game nights and open table discussions on various topics.

Regular Meeting Information: Fridays 6:00 p.m., bi-weekly

The Undistinguished Lecture Series is a TED-style venture where anyone can give a lecture on any topic they wish. This includes faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students alike. Inspired by UDLS at UBC.

All lectures this semester are on alternate Mondays, 7pm to 8pm Pacific Daylight Time in the HP Auditorium (306 Soda). The alternating Mondays start on 10/4, which is when the first lecture will be.

Questions? See the FAQ. Want to give a lecture? Sign up here. See the current lecture calendar here.

Nov 15, 2021 · Kendrick Sharpe

Our Future

Oct 18, 2021 · Shaun Lane

Intro to Credit Cards | How to travel the world for free

Oct 4, 2021 · Armando Fox

The Broadway Musical, a Uniquely American Art Form

Self-sustaining communities

Beneficial to many for a long period of time, can deliver quality results, and inspire others.

Ongoing efforts for the Machine-Learning community

(https://mementor.net),

- An online platform for holding mentorship sessions
- Started in in Dec. 2020
- More than 2000 people are registered,
- Around 200 sessions held since it's launch
- Used at many conference so far (NeurIPs, ICML, AIstats, ICLR)

A community of mentors and mentees

What? Our main goal

To enable Mentorship opportunities for researchers in machine learning, both as mentors and mentees, with a special focus on under-represented minorities.

Who?

We are a small team of people who think that exchange between researchers of all seniority levels across the world is important and helpful. Founding members are in alphabetic order: Adam White, Cheng Soon Ong, Emtiyaz Khan, Hendrik Strobelt, Marc Deisenroth, and Olga Isupova.

How? Modes of operation

For whom?

Our hope is to provide such opportunities to a wide-variety of ML researchers:
- Future students seeking an academic career in ML, e.g., undergraduates, high-school students.
- Current students enrolled in PhD or other programs
- Postdoctoral fellows
- Early career PIs in academia
- Industrial researchers and engineers.
- ...

Create new session

Your selected time zone is: **Asia/Tokyo**

Select day and time (required)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
December ˅ 2022 ＞							
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

12 : **00**

Select duration (required)

30 min

Video Link (required for online session)

⊙

start with http(s)://. or determine a room below

Physical Room (required for on-site session)

⊙

use 3 chars or name video link above

Description of your session (required)

phd advise and virtual drink ✓

associated with which event?

ICML 2022

FYI: Your personal webpage (see profile)

https://emtiyaz.github.io/

FYI: Your bio (see profile)

Emtiyaz Khan (also known as Emti) is a team leader at the RIKEN center for Advanced Intelligence Project (AIP) in Tokyo where he leads the Approximate Bayesian Inference Team. He is also a visiting professor at the Tokyo

SAVE & ANNOUNCE VIA EMAIL   CANCEL

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Mentorship Program for New Reviewers at ICLR 2022

MARC DEISENROTH / 2022 Conference / ICLR 2022, Mentoring, Reviewing

Summary

For ICLR 2022, we introduced a mentoring scheme for reviewers, who are new to reviewing for machine learning conferences. Below, we describe the motivation, the implementation, and the result.

Motivation

Finding reviewers for conferences or journals is challenging: The reviewing system is almost a closed circle with unclear/undefined processes to join, and where members of that circle are frequently overburdened with review requests. For example, at ICLR 2022 we merged reviewer databases from NeurIPS 2021, ICML 2021, and ICLR 2021 to reach out to more than 11,000 reviewers. We believe this kind of approach is fairly common to reach some critical mass in terms of reviewers. However, this also means that reviewers in those databases are contacted over and over again. On the other hand, as the machine learning community is growing, there's no clear path for new reviewers to join. Sometimes potential reviewers reach out to the program chairs and ask whether they can join or where supervisors (who are already in the pool) add their PhD students to the pool. These approaches do not scale, and we miss out on many potential reviewers who could do a great job, but who cannot enter the reviewer pool through the 'usual means'.

https://blog.iclr.cc/2022/03/18/mentorship-program-for-new-reviewers-at-iclr-2022/

SIGPLAN-M

The SIGPLAN Long-Term Mentoring Committee (SIGPLAN-M) organizes an international long-term mentoring program for programming languages researchers. The goal of the program is to address two mentoring needs in the programming languages community:

1. For aspiring or junior researchers, it is difficult—but necessary—to form long-term connections in the programming languages community, and to access the perspectives of researchers from other institutions.
2. For senior researchers, it is difficult to access mentorship of any kind.

In response to these needs, SIGPLAN-M matches mentors with mentees from different institutions for mentoring relationships that last at least a year. As of November 2022, there are about 300 mentees and 200 mentors participating in the program. Here are some testimonials from mentees:

Committee Members

- **Operations Team**: Reshabh Sharma, Yanze Li, Ronak Chauhan, Yannick Forster, Shraddha Barke, Kiran Gopinathan, Yunjeong Lee, Jialu Bao, Jocelyn Chen
- **Advisory Board**: Alexandra Silva, David Van Horn, Dimitrios Vytiniotis, Sebastian Erdweg, Steve Blackburn, Sukyoung Ryu
- **Chair**: Talia Ringer
- **Next Chair**: Nadia Polikarpova

Mentoring Program

Our first project as a community group is to facilitate a mentoring program to help connect the young and accomplished women in learning theory.

https://www.wiml-t.org/mentoring-program

Announcing NeurIPS Meetups!

The Meetup Chairs, Anoush Najarian (Software Engineering Manager, MathWorks) and Nicolas Le Roux (Research Scientist, Google Brain), are excited to introduce you to NeurIPS meetups, a new initiative this year. NeurIPS meetups are intended to build a remote presence for NeurIPS.

What is a NeurIPS meetup?

A NeurIPS meetup is a local event hosted during the NeurIPS conference, leveraging conference videos, and live local content, with a duration ranging from a few hours to a full week, and bringing together either participants from a single institution (a company or a university) or the public. Meetups are governed by the NeurIPS Code of Conduct.

NeurIPS Meetups 2020

Meetup Chairs

Anoush Najarian, MathWorks
Emtiyaz Khan, RIKEN
Louvere Walker-Hannon, MathWorks
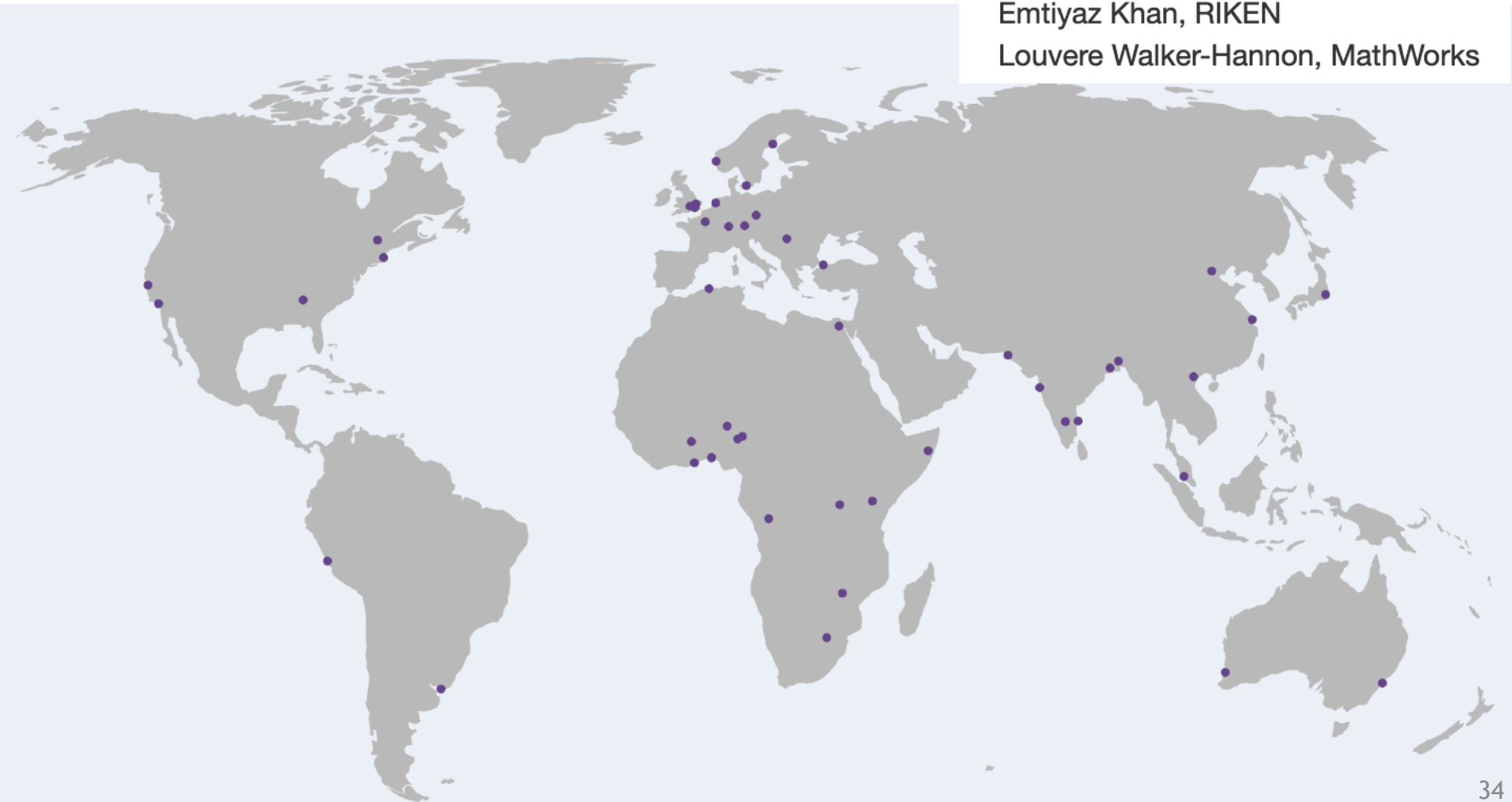
NeurIPS Meetups 2021

Meetup Chairs

Emtiyaz Khan, RIKEN
Louvere Walker-Hannon, MathWorks
Olivia Muza, STEAM Women
Jacqueline Forien, Machinelearning.Fr.
Ryuichiro Hataya, University of Tokyo
Rodrigo Beceiro, Marvik AI

- Went through some "hiccups"

- IMO, too much focus on "quality" can be a barrier

- NeurIPS 2022 don't have a meetup, AFAIK

Ongoing Efforts: AI for Social Good

https://ai4sg-dagstuhl.github.io/AI4SG-Seminar-Report/

Artificial Intelligence for Social Good (AI4SG)
Seminar at Dagstuhl 2022

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) researchers from various universities with representatives from NGOs based in Benin, Tanzania, Uganda, The Netherlands and globally came together over a 5-day seminar in Dagstuhl, Germany to pursue various social good goals, such as improving air quality, increasing agricultural productivity with the help of technology, transforming health care, providing humanitarian support, and defeating poverty. The seminar facilitated the exploration of possible collaborations

Continual Lifelong Learning Workshop (ACML 2022)

12th December (afternoon IST), hybrid format (in-person events in Hyderabad, India)

Deep-learning methods require extremely large amounts of data and computational resources, and lack human-like natural abilities to quickly adapt to their surroundings and learn continually. Continual lifelong learning methods aim to bridge this gap between humans and machines. In this workshop, our goal is to bring together Asian researchers working on this topic, and connect them to other communities in the rest of the world. Similar workshops have taken place in other Machine Learning conferences, but they have largely focused on researchers from North America and Europe. This workshop will provide networking opportunities for researchers, allowing them to collaborate and work towards solving continual lifelong learning.

The workshop will focus on a broad range of topics covering many aspects of continual lifelong learning, including (but not limited to): fast adaptation, forward/backward transfer, continual reinforcement learning, skill learning, abstraction and representations for lifelong learning, and relationship to similar ideas such as multi-task learning, meta learning, curriculum learning, and active learning.

Please see our Call for Papers. The submission deadline (31st October 2022 AoE) has passed. To attend the workshop, you must be registered for the ACML conference as a 'Secondary authors / Other attendees': register here.

Broadening Research Collaboration

Create self-sustaining communities