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Ci3 at the University of Chicago's Suchi Bansal Named a 2019 "120 Under 40" Winner

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(Chicago) Suchi Bansal, MPH, senior researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3) at the University of Chicago, has been named one of this year's *120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders*.

The [*120 Under 40*](#) award recognizes the achievements of the next generation of family planning leaders worldwide. The initiative, which launched on World Contraception Day in 2015, is organized by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. This year represents the final year of this multi-year project, over which, 120 young family planning champions were chosen, 40 in each of the three project years, through a highly selective process.

Bansal joined Ci3 in 2016 and currently leads research for Ci3's Kissa Kahani project, an evidence-based, mixed-media adolescent sexual and reproductive health intervention designed to meet the needs of Indian adolescents. As lead researcher, Bansal oversees the design and implementation of the intervention, which includes curriculum development and the creation of interactive tools for learning, such as animated stories, graphic novels, and games that address three health areas: menstruation, family planning, and sexual harassment for girls in Uttar Pradesh, India. Most recently, she co-authored "[Understanding and Increasing Gender Equity for Adolescents through Storytelling: Kissa Kahani](#)", an article published in the *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* featuring key takeaways from the project's formative phase.

Bansal, and each of this year's *120 Under 40* winners, will receive a financial award to support research and leadership development. Bansal plans to use the award to build an online platform that helps young researchers foster greater learning and information sharing on family planning and sexual and reproductive health topics. Bansal was also selected as one of this year's five *120 Under 40* awardees for the Gates Institute Global Health Leadership Accelerator, a prestigious and intensive two-week leadership training program with some of the world's most accomplished practitioners in public health.

"We are proud of Suchi for being selected as a global scholar in family planning. Her dedication to overseeing a highly skilled team of researchers and expanding partner support from key in-country stakeholders has been pivotal in helping Kissa Kahani grow," said Melissa Gilliam, MD, MPH principal investigator for Kissa Kahani and founder of Ci3. "Suchi's research leadership is helping to build the evidence base for using stories and storytelling to better understand and improve sexual and reproductive health behaviors among urban youth."
Click here to read Suchi's *120 Under 40* profile.

MORE

With this appointment, Ci3 now employs two *120 Under 40* scholars. In October 2018, Elizabeth Futrell joined the team as the director of the Ci3 Transmedia Story Lab. Futrell was awarded the 120 Under 40 award in 2017 while she served as the Content development lead for the *Knowledge for Health Project* at Johns Hopkins' Center for Communication Programs

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Ci3

Founded in 2012, [Ci3](#) is an award-winning research center at the University of Chicago. Ci3 envisions a world in which all youth emerge into adulthood with agency over their bodies and futures. As such, we are committed to empowering young people, conducting innovative research, and uncovering opportunities for policy and systemic change. Ci3 houses three labs: the Game Changer Chicago Design Lab, the Transmedia Story Lab, and the Design Thinking Lab. Through these labs, Ci3's interdisciplinary team of medical providers, public health scholars, policy researchers, designers, and artists create games, digital narratives, and interventions with and for youth. Developed with an eye towards scaling, each of our interventions can be implemented in settings across the Chicagoland area and beyond.

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