

Requirement matrix and honesty audit

Role: Tenure-Track Assistant Professor, Media and Society **Institution:** Department of Media and Cinema Studies, College of Media, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign **Requisition ID:** 1036992 **Posting:** <https://illinois.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/17228> **Deadline:** 2 October 2026, 6:00 p.m. Central Time **Expected start:** 16 August 2027

BOTTOM LINE

Recommendation: APPLY, with a deliberately narrow and honest case.

Ipsita is a credible early-career candidate for the role because her PhD and publication record directly address television studies, media historiography, international/transnational media, gender, state broadcasting, infrastructure, public culture, and production history. The fit is strongest on historical and interpretive media studies. It is not a perfect fit: she does not present a computational, quantitative, platform-studies, video-game, sound-studies, or digital-methods profile, and her formal teaching record is limited to guest lectures rather than full course leadership.

The application should not claim comprehensive coverage of every priority in the posting. The strongest strategy is to show depth in several named priorities, an intelligible future research programme, and specific courses she can credibly teach or build.

EVERY REQUIREMENT IN THE POSTING

Appointment and eligibility

- **100% full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor, appointed on a 9/12-month basis; salary range \$80,000–\$90,000.**

Status: Direct on rank and credentials. Her career stage and completed PhD make Assistant Professor the appropriate rank. The 9/12-month service basis and salary range are appointment terms to review, not qualifications established by the CV.

- **PhD in hand by 16 August 2027 in media studies, cinema studies, or a related field.**

Status: Direct. PhD in Cinema Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, awarded 2025.

- **Expected start date of 16 August 2027.**

Status: Unconfirmed. Availability and willingness to relocate to Urbana-Champaign must be confirmed by Ipsita.

- **Work authorization.** The position can sponsor work authorization, except a new H-1B petition that would incur the stated \$100,000 fee.

Status: Unconfirmed. The application should not speculate about visa category or eligibility.

Research profile

- **Innovative research at the intersection of media, technology, and society.**

Status: Direct, if framed historically. Her PhD examines Indian television as an intermedial form, state institution, educational technology, and cultural infrastructure between 1959 and 1982.

- **Potential for high-quality research and publication.**

Status: Direct. Peer-reviewed work in *Women's History Review*, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, *Critical Studies in Television*, and *BioScope*. The source CV says the 2024 article received a 2025 BAFTSS article award, but uses two different award titles; official wording must be confirmed.

- **Interdisciplinary media theory.**

Status: Direct. Her work connects cinema and television studies, urban and spatial theory, exhibition history, gender history, state broadcasting, cultural history, and visual archives.

- **Methodological rigor and intellectual creativity.**

Status: Direct for archival, historical, qualitative, and interpretive methods. Her record does not support claims of quantitative or computational expertise.

- **The posting welcomes qualitative, quantitative, historical, interpretive, computational, or mixed methods.**

Status: Direct for qualitative, historical, and interpretive methods only. Quantitative, computational, and mixed-methods expertise are gaps, but they are not mandatory because the posting lists alternatives.

Named research priorities

- **New media theory or historiography.**

Status: Direct on historiography; partial on new media theory. Evidence includes educational television and South Asian media historiography, broadcasting history, and intermedial analysis. The CV does not establish a substantial new-media theory publication record.

- **Media forms, including television studies.**

Status: Direct and central. Her PhD, journal articles, conference papers, and editorial role are strongly rooted in television studies.

- **Media industries: convergence, platforms, labour, production cultures, political economy, network and infrastructure studies, governance, public policy.**

Status: Partial to direct. Strongest evidence is state-run broadcasting structures, film-television transactions, production cultures, women producers, governmentality and infrastructure, and broadcasting policy. Platform studies and labour are not established as primary specialisms.

- **Media and democracy: publics and counter-publics, inequality and justice, gender and new media, race and technology, eco-criticism, underserved groups.**

Status: Partial. Her research directly covers gender, the Indian women's movement, women producers, state broadcasting, public-service media, nationhood, conservation, and censorship. The CV does not establish race-and-technology or new-media activism research.

- **International, global, or transnational media: forms, industries, audiences, practices.**

Status: Direct. Her work is based in South Asian media history and includes national, transnational, and transmedial broadcasting histories, as well as research on the BBC's role in the inception of Indian television.

- **New media in everyday life: audience/fan studies, smart objects, media and environments/space.**

Status: Partial. Strong evidence on urban memory, cinema exhibition, media and space, audiences, and local exhibition histories. No smart-object or fan-studies record is established.

- **New directions in media praxis.**

Status: Partial. She has filmmaking, videography, digital filmmaking, digital ethnography, programming, and visual-documentation experience. Her principal identity remains a historical and interpretive scholar rather than a practice-led researcher.

Teaching and institutional contribution

- **Ability to teach across multiple media forms, technologies, industries, and cultural contexts.**

Status: Partial. Her demonstrable range spans television, cinema, broadcasting, exhibition, visual archives, urban media, genre, melodrama, and South Asian/global contexts. The source CV records six guest lectures, not full-semester course leadership. Any claim beyond that would be misleading.

- **Contribute to undergraduate and graduate Media and Cinema Studies curricula.**

Status: Partial but credible. She has designed modules in Television and New Media, Cinema and the City, South Asian Film and Television, and Indian Cinema. Formal experience teaching complete courses or supervising graduate research is not listed.

- **Teach graduate seminars through the Institute of Communications Research.**

Status: Partial. Her research profile fits ICR areas including media history, popular culture and film, gender, democracy and media, and global communications. Graduate seminar leadership is prospective, not established.

- **Develop research and teaching collaborations across the College of Media and university.**

Status: Credible potential, not a past achievement to claim. Her cross-media research and editorial, programming, research, and workshop experience support collaboration. The application should describe possible contributions without pretending that collaborations already exist.

Required submission items

- **Cover letter.**

Status: Included in this pack.

- **Curriculum vitae.**

Status: Included in this pack as an honestly tailored academic CV. No source fact has been invented; the order and emphasis have been adjusted for this role.

- **Writing sample of no more than 50 pages.**

Status: Not included automatically. Recommended first choice: the published *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* article, because it demonstrates archival television history, gender analysis, and the record behind the BAFTSS award. Ipsita must confirm copyright-sharing permissions and page count. Alternative: a dissertation chapter, if it better demonstrates the future research agenda.

- **Names and contact information for three academic references.**

Status: Four references appear in the source CV. Ipsita must choose three and obtain consent. A sensible shortlist is Ranjani Mazumdar, Aswin Punathambekar, and Sarah Arnold; Ravi Vasudevan is also available. This pack does not make that choice on her behalf.

- **Application through jobs.illinois.edu by the deadline.**

Status: Pending human submission. The pack does not auto-submit.

CLAIMS DELIBERATELY NOT MADE

- No claim of quantitative, computational, machine-learning, or mixed-methods expertise.
- No claim that Ipsita has independently taught a full semester-long course.
- No claim of graduate supervision, grant principal-investigator status, or doctoral advising.
- No claim that a journal article is forthcoming unless the source CV gives a publication record.
- No claim of current tenure-track employment.
- No invented citation counts, student-evaluation scores, enrolment numbers, or publication metrics.
- No claim that she can teach every medium named in the posting.

UNCERTAINTY NOTES: ITEMS IPSITA MUST CONFIRM BEFORE SUBMITTING

1. Availability to start on 16 August 2027 and willingness to relocate. 2. Whether a work-authorisation petition will be required. 3. Current mailing address, phone numbers, and preferred email. 4. Exact award dates, status, and official wording for the 2025 Visible Evidence award and the 2025 BAFTSS award. The source CV uses both “Best Graduate Article Award” and “best doctoral student published article award” for the BAFTSS prize; use the official title in the submitted CV. 5. Whether the Charles Wallace India Trust research has been completed and what outputs can be named. 6. Correct employment date format for the Assistant Editor role, currently listed only as 2025 in the source CV. 7. Which three referees have agreed to provide letters. 8. Which writing sample can legally and practically be uploaded, and whether it is under 50 pages. 9. Whether the four proposed modules were formally approved, commissioned, taught, or independently designed; the CV conservatively calls them designed modules. 10. Whether any full-course teaching, marking, supervision, student feedback, or course convening is missing from the source CV. If it exists, it would materially strengthen this application and should be added only after verification.