**Siva Mathiyazhagan, Ph.D.**

Research Assistant Professor & Co-Director, SAFE Lab

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**Short Bio**

**Dr. Siva Mathiyazhagan** is aResearch Assistant Professor at the School of Social Policy and Practice and Co-Director of the SAFE Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania and a Pradeep Mehendiratta Fellow (2025-26) at the American Institute of Indian Studies. Dr. Mathiyazhagan is a global tech social work researcher and community practitioner. He co-designs and develops community-centered AI-supported technology products and tools for youth well-being and development. He co-creates tech social work policies and ethical considerations for [Artificial Intelligence(AI), Machine Learning (ML)](https://techpolicy.press/to-make-good-policy-on-ai-talk-to-social-workers/),[and](https://policyreview.info/articles/news/social-work-metaverse-addressing-tech-policy-gaps-racial-and-mental-health-equity/1619#:~:text=The%20Metaverse%20needs%20social%20work&text=Early%20experiments%20from%20social%20work,Tambe%20%26%20Rice%2C%202018).) [Metaverse](https://policyreview.info/articles/news/social-work-metaverse-addressing-tech-policy-gaps-racial-and-mental-health-equity/1619#:~:text=The%20Metaverse%20needs%20social%20work&text=Early%20experiments%20from%20social%20work,Tambe%20%26%20Rice%2C%202018).) for social equity, and just and equitable Web3. Dr. Mathiyazhagan deploys a hybrid version of qualitative indigenous research methodologies and Contextual Analysis of Social Media (CASM) to understand youth expressions on social media in native/regional/hyper-local languages to prevent suicidal ideations and promote youth well-being. Dr. Mathiyazhagan is the Founder-Director of the youth-led non-profit Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) International, based in Asia and the Americas. Dr. Mathiyazhagan serves as a TYCL representative to the United Nations.  Dr. Mathiyazhagan was an RSM Assembly Fellow (2022-23) and faculty associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University. Dr. Mathiyazhagan was a postdoctoral research scientist and lecturer at the School of Social Work at Columbia University.

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