ARUN KUMAR

Associate Professor in CSE & HDSI

I identify as a cisgender gay man

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Research Area: Data systems for machine learning
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Chennai, India
Summer: 110F
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Ahh... :)
MY COMING OUT JOURNEY

Early-mid 2014: To myself, close friends, and brother
Late 2014: Visited India; came out to my parents
Late 2015: Visited India; came out to extended family
Early 2016: Came out to my advisors, research lab, publicly on Facebook
Mid 2016: Implicit coming out during UCSD second visit
Late 2016: Got married (civil ceremony in San Diego)
Late 2017: Public coming out via Medium post

https://medium.com/@arunis100/coming-out-the-indian-version-50642771f27b
BEING OUT IN COMPUTING

Surprisingly friendly discipline for LGBTQ+ people?

Well-known gay men: Alan Turing, Tim Cook

Tricky situation during job search

UCSD is remarkably DEI-conscious; CSE & HDSI DEICom

Represented CSE at oSTEM Conference 2017 & 2018

Talks at CSE Faculty Meeting Inclusion Minutes:

Inclusive CS Examples:
https://medium.com/@arunis100/inclusive-cs-examples-b5f40e003815

Free Speech and Inclusivity: Friends or Foes?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdK8qrdHMPI
PERSONAL CHALLENGES

Biggest one: Impostor syndrome

oSTEM faculty panel in 2020:


On Rejections in Academia:

https://thedatadossier.blogspot.com/2021/05/on-rejections-in-academia_2.html

(Some) Challenges with family

Isolation; lack of peer community

Being visible; self-imposed pressure?

Being mindful of societal biases; safety
PROGRESS!

TIL my dad has petitioned the Supreme Court of India to scrutinize the recent surrogacy law that violates right to equality (Article 14). 😢
indiaspend.com/almost-final-s...

In 7yrs my father has gone from calling homosexuality "unnatural" to becoming a literal LGBTQ rights activist! ❤️🏳️‍🌈

indiaspend.com
Almost Final: Surrogacy Ban For Single Parents, Homosexuals, Live-in Couples
Mumbai: The government’s new definition of a surrogate mother is a woman genetically related to the “intending couple” (who will require an official ...