

Dr. Chitta Baral is a Professor and Graduate Program Chair of Computer Science at the Arizona State University (ASU). Chitta did his B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering at IIT Kharagpur and his Masters and PhD in Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park.

He directs the laboratory of Cognition and Intelligence at ASU. His research focus is in various areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Natural Language Understanding, and Image Understanding; and their applications to Molecular Biology, Health Informatics and Robotics. Chitta is the author of the book "Knowledge Representation, Reasoning and Declarative Problem Solving" published by Cambridge University Press. Chitta's research has been funded by various US federal agencies including NSF, NASA, ONR, IARPA, NIH and DARPA. Chitta has been an Associate Editor of Journal of AI Research and is currently an associate Editor of the AI Journal, the two top journals in the field of AI. Chitta is a past President of KR Inc, a not for profit Scientific Foundation concerned with fostering research and communication on knowledge representation and reasoning. He is a member of AAI, the Association for the Advancement of AI and has published regularly in the annual conferences of AAI. Chitta was a Research Affiliate at Mayo Clinic and continues collaboration with them.

Chitta has been a champion of equitable distribution of higher education funding in India. His op-eds on this have been published in Indian Express and his analysis of the inequity that existed in India in early 2000s was published in major news papers around India, including in the International Herald Tribune. A specific issue he championed was discussed in the Indian parliament, the Cuttack High Court and the Supreme Court of India and led to the establishment of NISER (National Institute of Science Education and Research) in Bhubaneswar. His efforts also led to the establishment of the first Jesuit University of India - Xavier University Bhubaneswar.