Biography: Ambica Prakash

Ambica Prakash was born in New Delhi, India. She completed her Bachelor’s of Fine Arts at the College of Art, New Delhi. She worked in the advertising industry before leaving her home in 1999 on a scholarship to study visual communication in France. She then traveled to the United States to pursue further education. In 2005, she received her Master’s in Fine Arts in Graphic Design at the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University, Bloomington. She taught as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Wisconsin-Stout for three years before coming to American University in Fall 2008.

Ambica has received the Service Learning Practitioner’s Grant from the Indiana Campus Compact to develop the curriculum and institutionalize service-learning in an introductory graphic design course. She received an award at the Minnesota Design Show this year for posters she designed for a non-profit organization. She also co-authored a paper, *Learning service or service learning: Enabling the Civic* published in the International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. In December, Ambica presented a paper at a graphic design conference, The Design Frontier in Lakewood, Colorado, *Service-Learning: Helping the Community, One Project at a Time*. She has written a chapter on service-learning pedagogy in graphic design for a publication initiated at Indiana University. She received a Faculty Research Grant at the University of Wisconsin-Stout to continue her research on service-learning as a method for strengthening university and community partnerships while strengthening social responsibility in graphic design pedagogy. Currently, Ambica is also writing a book chapter on introduction to graphic design and typography targeted to interior designer students.

A practicing graphic designer and academic, Ambica is an advocate of social responsibility and active citizenry through her design practice and pedagogy. Her design practice is shaped by her multi-cultural experiences and influences. She enjoys participating in her community by volunteering her design skills to help local organizations.