# Aryabrata Basu

*Service Statement*

*"It is only through failure and through experiment that we learn and grow." - Issac Stern*

## Origins

The year was 2002, early in Fall, when our High School celebrated Teacher's day. I was a graduating Senior back then, and I was supposed to teach 10th-grade Physics as a substitute teacher for that day. As soon as I started lecturing the routine chapter, namely, Electromagnetism, I noticed that the students were mostly distracted and did not pay attention to the content. Naturally, as a novice teacher, I got nervous and self-conscious about my delivery of the content. Soon after, I realized that this is a special day for them and me. I did not need to teach them the regular chapters as they are taught in the class's ordinary course. Immensely inspired by this thought, I then taught 'Special Theory of Relativity' to Sophomores at my High School on Teacher's day. The students responded very positively, and later I got awarded the best Teacher for that year. This incident made me realize that service to others in teaching can sometimes manifest into sharing a topic you are passionate about and meaningful for your pupils.

## Departmental Service

Sustainability and accessibility are the two important pillars of a public scholarship project. To that end, I serve on the Sustainability working group at Emory's Center for Digital Scholarship (ECDS). As part of this group, I am responsible for policy design and testing of sustainability best practices for all ECDS's ongoing projects including 3D Visualization projects.

## University Service

Since my graduate school days, I have been passionate about giving back to the environment in meaningful ways. I am a co-developer of the mobile app Marine Debris Tracker, a tool that facilitates a growing global citizen science initiative. The app and citizen science program has documented the location of over two million litter and marine debris items removed from our environment throughout the world. Also, the Marine Debris Tracker app was featured in an Apple promotional video at the 2014 Worldwide Developer Forum coined an "App we can't live without." As a postgraduate researcher, I was one of the first developers to work on app development. My work was critical in getting the app built, tested, and into the app store of both the Android Play Store and the Apple App Store.

To further the good work, I am currently serving as the University Senate Committee Member on the Environment. Emory University's Senate committees include committees such as Athletics and

Recreation, Campus Development, Campus Life, Environment, Fringe Benefits, Governance, Honorary Degrees, Library Policy, Open Expression, Prevention of Sexual Violence, and Transportation and Parking. I have volunteered and have been inducted to serve on the 'Environment' Senate committee starting Fall 2021.

The Committee on the Environment works to formulate a broad ecological understanding of the Emory environment and evaluate environmental issues to develop specific recommendations for action. Environmental issues will be resolved through discussion, proposals, policy statements, and review of potential environmental impacts from Emory's activities within the campus and the activities of others which may impact the Emory campus. In the spirit of self-governance, the committee will receive written or verbal presentations from students, staff, faculty and administrators as part of its environmental deliberations.

## Professional Service

My Doctoral advisor once said, "It is very important to give back to the scholarly community once you have matured enough as a scholar."

To that end, as a Doctoral student, I have volunteered in numerous conferences such as IEEE VR, ISMAR, etc. Since joining Emory University as a Staff Research Scientist, I have accepted several leading journal editor (Review, Associate) positions, including MIT Press's Presence, Springer Nature Virtual Reality, and Frontiers in Virtual Reality. I have recently taken a reviewer position for the National Science Foundation.

## Closing Statement

In academia and beyond, I believe that service to others is a critical currency that should be instigated as a collective drive towards an incentivized yet organic societal change globally towards the betterment of all.

To conclude, I serve with the conviction of spearheading public scholarship through meaningful 3D visualization and effective human-computer interaction.