

Grace Series Talks are Women Empowerment Talks for all Grad and Undergrad Students in Computer Science and Software Engineering.

April 20, 2021 at 7pm, the talk title and guest speaker will be:

Talk Title: **"Finding Your Voice and Carving Your Path"**

Stories and Experiences from my journey

By: Shobana Radhakrishnan

Director of Engineering for Android TV

at Google

[linkedin.com/in/shobanaradhakrishnan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/shobanaradhakrishnan)

In this talk, Shobana will share some interesting stories from her journey in tech and the corporate world as well as growing up in a conservative South Indian household to making a huge journey to the US to pursue advanced education, and then making the foray into a high tech career. She will touch upon both conscious and accidental decisions along the way and how they have shaped her career and her professional profile over time.

Shobana will also touch upon some practical tips & tricks on how someone can develop stellar real world architectural and technical chops, build their own strong profile and credibility as professionals over time, find mentors, role models and sponsors that can help them along the way. These will include examples based on her experiences and interactions with students and professional women in the decades that she has volunteered in and launched programs on diversity in STEM. She will also be sharing thoughts on how students who are at the threshold of great careers can get inspired to reach lofty dreams, and keep in mind the saying from Mahatma Gandhi on "Be the change you want to see" influencing the environment around them for themselves as well as people around them that they can lift up as they progress to leadership careers over time.

Speaker Bio:

[Shobana Radhakrishnan](#) leads Google TV engineering at Google, focusing on experience, personalization and cloud systems. Prior to this, she led teams that built high scale publishing platforms enabling personalization at Roku. Her experience also includes engineering leadership roles in companies such as Netflix, Symantec and Yahoo as well as startups. She loves building great teams and products, and always enjoys connecting about TV, media or tech architectures and processes.

Shobana is a big believer in diversity in tech and has been a volunteer, mentor and advisor for several women in their careers for over 20 years as part of formal and informal programs. She also has run a not-for-profit grassroots organization in the California Bay Area working with middle and high schools helping girls aspiring for STEM careers.

Shobana has a Masters' in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy. She grew up in Chennai, India and now lives in Saratoga, California with her husband and two children.

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