How should we understand the vast and often unexpected entanglements of media technologies in social and cultural life? This roundtable draws into dialogue linguistic and semiotic anthropology, media ethnography and archaeology, and science and technology studies. From syllabic typewriters to sound recorders, from postwar Japan and America to contemporary Punjab and Nigeria, we examine how human and machine do not simply “interact” but variably combine and sometimes co-constitute each other with far-reaching effects. How do we take seriously the materiality of media and their infrastructures without neglecting cultural significance or resorting to species of determinism? In what ways are we helped or hindered by concepts such as “interface,” “indexicality,” and “technique,” and amalgams like “sociotechnical” and, indeed, “technosemiotic”?

**Participants**

Padma Chirumamilla  
Doctoral Candidate, School of Information  
University of Michigan

Matthew Hull  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
University of Michigan

Miyako Inoue  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Stanford University

Brian Larkin  
Professor of Anthropology  
Barnard College, Columbia University

Michael Lempert  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
University of Michigan

Nishita Trisal  
Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology  
University of Michigan

**Questions?**

Email the Department of Anthropology at michigan-anthro@umich.edu or visit lsa.umich.edu/anthro.