Ishita Gopal

CONTACT INFORMATION	302 Pond Lab	Phone: (925)394-8793
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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University
Ph.D. (Dual Title) Political Science and Social Data Analytics   2023 (expected)
MA Political Science   2020

University of Warwick
M.Sc. Economics   2015

Miranda House, University of Delhi
B.A. (Honours) Economics   2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Experiments, Network Analysis, Machine Learning, NLP
Internet & Politics, Environmental Policy

LANGUAGES

Python, R, Stata

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania State University

Research Assistant to Professor Bruce Desmarais   Spring 2020 - Present
- Under the State Policy Analysis Project, I am studying the diffusion of state policy responses to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- I am tracking and collecting Twitter data for 7000+ official legislator accounts using Twitter's API
- I am using network and text methods to analyze the structure of cross state legislator networks on Twitter (Code available here)

Research & Teaching Assistant to Professor Kevin Munger   Fall 2019
- I worked on a collaborative project that replicates 2 published survey experiments that investigate how social influence on Facebook influences media effects
- We hypothesize that treatment effects may be moderated by age & digital literacy - 2 covariates that are usually censored in MTurk samples

Research Assistant to Professor Bruce Desmarais   Summer 2019
- Our project uses a field experiment to test how and if cross-state legislator level connections serve as a vector through which support for policies diffuses.
- I collected & measured a novel cross-state legislative network dataset in which 2 legislators are connected through co-signing environmental policy statements
- I used network backbone extraction methods to draw ties between legislators. Based on these results we randomize the treatment which requests for information on support, or the lack of it, to a policy.

University of Warwick
Research Assistant for Professor Thiemo Fetzer   Nov 2015 - March 2016
- I wrote scripts in Python to scrape information on 60,000 politicians from Wikidata

The Energy & Resources Institute, New Delhi
Research Associate - Modelling and Scenario Building Group   2016 - 2018

- I used stacking and scenario building exercises to study the impact of varying levels of 'new' renewable energy adoption on future fossil fuel consumption in India.
- I used time series methods for demand side forecasting of electricity consumption across states and within agriculture, industrial and residential sectors in India. The projections were a key input for electricity demand assessment under the Energy Transmissions Commission (ETC), India - that provides policy assessment support for the Government of India's de-carbonation goals.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, London
Intern   November 2015

- Prepared country overviews related to the Hub and Spokes program
- Contributed to writing a short proposal for the analysis of cross country trade data using the gravity model of international trade

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kevin Munger, **Ishita Gopal**, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker. 2020. "Accessibility and Generalizability: Are Digital Media Effects Moderated by Age or Digital Literacy?" (R&R at Research & Politics)

Taegyoon Kim, Nitheesha Nakka, **Ishita Gopal**, Bruce Desmarias, Abigail Mancinelli, Jeffrey J. Harden, Hyein Ko, and Frederick Boehmke. 2020. "Attention to the COVID-19 pandemic on Twitter: Partisan differences among U.S. state legislators" (Under Review)

Ishita Gopal. 2020. "Targeting and the Timing of Online Censorship: The Case of Venezuela." (Under Review)

WORKING PAPERS

Ishita Gopal and Bruce Desmarais. 2020. "Legislative Support for Environmental Policy Innovation: An Experimental Test for Diffusion through a Cross-State Policy Network."

Ishita Gopal, Taegyoon Kim, Nitheesha Nakka and Bruce Desmarias. 2020. "Modeling State Legislator Networks on Twitter"

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Targeting and the Timing of Online Censorship: The Case of Venezuela." Presented at Political Methodology (PolMeth), 2020

"Targeting and the Timing of Online Censorship: The Case of Venezuela." Presented at the Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) and Political Networks (PolNet) joint conference, 2020

"Modeling State Legislator Networks on Twitter" Presented at Political Methodology Europe (PolMeth EU)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Pennsylvania State University

Program in Comparative Politics Fellowship	Spring 2021
Summer Graduate Research Award ($4000)	Summer 2020
Best Political Science Master's Essay Award ($1000)	2020

University of Warwick

Winner of Nudgeathon, http://bit.ly/1OTkLsg	2015