Ishita Gopal

CONTACT INFORMATION	302 Pond Lab Dept of Political Science Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA 16802	Website: ishitagopal.github.io Github: ishitagopal Email: ishitagopal@psu.edu

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University
Ph.D. (Dual Title) Political Science & Social Data Analytics   2023 (expected)
　　　Dissertation: Political Activism in the Age of Digital Media
　　　Committee: Bruce Desmarais (Chair), Kevin Munger, Joseph Wright
　　　Fields: Social Data Analytics and Comparative Politics
MA Political Science   2020

University of Warwick
M.Sc. Economics   2015

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Methods: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Network Analysis, Causal Inference, Inferential Statistics, Computational Scoial Science
Substantive Topics: Human Behavior, Communication, Activism on Digital Media Public Policy Diffusion, Environmental Policy

LANGUAGES   Python, R, SQL

PUBLICATIONS

2023   **Ishita Gopal**, and Bruce Desmarais. "The network science of public policy diffusion" *Forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism.*

2021   Kevin Munger, **Ishita Gopal**, Jonathan Nagler, and Joshua Tucker. 2021. "Accessibility and Generalizability: Are Digital Media Effects Moderated by Age or Digital Literacy?" *Research Politics, 8(2).*

2021   Taegyoon Kim, Nitheesha Nakka, **Ishita Gopal**, Bruce Desmarias, Abigail Mancinelli, Jeffrey J. Harden, Hyein Ko, and Frederick Boehmke. 2021. "Attention to the COVID-19 pandemic on Twitter: Partisan differences among U.S. state legislators" *Legislative Studies Quarterly, 47: 1023-1041.*

UNDER REVIEW   **Ishita Gopal**, Taegyoon Kim, Nitheesha Nakka, Frederick J. Boehmke, Jeffrey J. Harden, and Bruce A. Desmarais. "The National Network of U.S. State Legislators on Twitter."

Ishita Gopal. "Targeting and the Timing of Online Censorship: The Case of Venezuela."

WORKING PAPERS	**Ishita Gopal**. "Digital Activism and Offline Repression: Telegram and Belarus."
	Ishita Gopal and Bruce Desmarais. "Legislative Support for Environmental Policy Innovation: An Experimental Test for Diffusion through a Cross-State Policy Network."
	Ishita Gopal and Joseph Wright. "Polarization and Democratic Backsliding."
	Frederick J. Boehmke, Bruce A. Desmarais, **Ishita Gopal**, Jeffrey J. Harden, Samuel Harper, Taegyoon Kim, Johabed Olvera Isaac Pollert. "COVID-19 Policy Diffusion and Legislative Twitter Connections."
WORKING BOOK PROJECT	Bruce A. Desmarais, **Ishita Gopal**, Jeffrey J. Harden, Frederick J. Boehmke. "Network Inference for Social Research."
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	"Detecting Coverage of Social Unrest on Telegram." *Presented at* Political Methodology (PolMeth), 2021; Midwest Political Sciecne Association (MPSA), 2022.
	"The Network Science of Public Policy." *Presented at* American Political Science Association (APSA), 2021.
	"Modeling State Legislator Networks on Twitter." *Presented at* Political Networks (PolNet), 2021; Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS), 2021; Political Methodology Europe (PolMeth EU), 2021.
	"Targeting and the Timing of Online Censorship: The Case of Venezuela." *Presented at* Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) and Political Networks (PolNet) Joint Conference, 2020; Political Methodology (PolMeth), 2020.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS	**Princeton University**	
	Princeton Dissertation Scholars Program ($6000)	2022-23
	Pennsylvania State University	
	C-SoDA Predoctoral Fellowship	2021-22
	Program in Comparative Politics Fellowship	Spring 2021, Fall 2022
	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

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE	Teaching Assistant, Advanced Methods for Text as Data	Fall 2019

SERVICE	Reviewer for journals: PLOS One and Journal of Quantitative Description

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	**Data Science Intern**	Summer 2022
	Aware HQ	
	• Designed and deployed a classifier to detect credit cards on digital workspaces and help companies remove sensitive data from their platforms. Built the ML pipeline in AWS SageMaker.	

- Used deep learning (EfficientNets) for transfer learning on hand labeled data. Defined performance metrics and achieved an AUC of 0.90.
- Sourced the data using Bings API, wrote scripts to interact with S3 and automated data preprocessing and storage tasks.

Doctoral Researcher Researcher   2018 - Present

Center for Social Data Analytics (C-SoDA), Penn State

- Studying political activism in the context of social media and digital technologies. Using computational methods for social research, with a focus on Natural Language Processing (NLP), network analysis and experiments to understand political communication and behavior.

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 presented this work at the International Summer School on Energy Systems, Germany 2017.
- I used time series methods for demand side forecasting of electricity consumption across states and within agriculture, industrial and residential sectors in India for the Energy Transmissions Commission (ETC), India - which provides policy assessment support for the Government of India's de-carbonation goals.

REFEREES

Dr. Bruce A. Desmarais
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