

SUMITRA BADRINATHAN

CONTACT	American University School of International Service 319 Washington DC 20016	✉ sumitrab@american.edu 🌐 sumitrabadrinathan.github.io 🐦 KhariBiskut
POSITIONS	Assistant Professor of Political Science American University, School of International Service Department of Politics, Governance, and Economics	Fall 2022 –
	Postdoctoral Research Fellow , University of Oxford Reuters Institute, Trust in News Project	2021 – 2022
EDUCATION	Ph.D., Political Science, University of Pennsylvania	2016 – 2021
	M.A., Political Science, University of Chicago	2014 – 2015
	B.A., Psychology, St. Xavier's College Mumbai	2011 – 2014
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Misinformation, South Asia, Political Economy, Experimental Methods, Partisanship, Social Media, Polarization, Violence	
PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Badrinathan, Sumitra. 2021. Educative Interventions to Combat Misinformation: Evidence From A Field Experiment in India. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 115(4): 1325–1341.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winner of the 2021 APSA Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award2. Kim, Eunji, Sumitra Badrinathan, Donghyun Danny Choi, Sabrina Karim, and Yang-Yang Zhou. 2022. Navigating Insider and Outsider Status as Researchers Conducting Field Experiments. <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i>: 1–53. Badrinathan, Sumitra, Deepaboli Chatterjee, Devesh Kapur, and Neelanjan Sircar. 2021. Partisan Disagreement: The Role of Media, Personal Networks and Gender in Forming Political Preferences. <i>Urbanisation</i> 6(1): 141–157.4. Badrinathan, Sumitra and Simon Chauchard. 2023. "I Don't Think That's True, Bro!" Social Corrections of Misinformation in India. <i>International Journal of Press/Politics</i>: 1–235. Mont'Alverne, Camila, Amy Ross Arguedas, Sumitra Badrinathan, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2023. Domain-Specific Influence on Facebook: How Topic Matters when Assessing Influential Accounts in Four Countries. <i>Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media</i>, 36. Ross Arguedas, Amy A., Sumitra Badrinathan, Camila Mont'Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2022. "It's a Battle You Are	

Never Going to Win”: Perspectives from Journalists in Four Countries on How Digital Media Platforms Undermine Trust in News. *Journalism Studies*: 1-20

7. Mont’Alverne, Camila, **Sumitra Badrinathan**, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2023. [Fair and Balanced: What News Audiences in Four Countries Mean When They Say They Prefer Impartial News](#). *Journalism Studies*: 1-18
8. Ross Arguedas, Amy A., **Sumitra Badrinathan**, Camila Mont’Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2023. [Shortcuts to Trust: Relying on Cues to Judge Online News from Unfamiliar Sources on Digital Platforms](#) *Journalism*: 1-23

UNDER
REVIEW

[Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: An Experiment in India and Pakistan](#), with *Simon Chauchard and Niloufer Siddiqui*
(R&R, American Political Science Review)

[The Effect of Types of News on Trust: A Longitudinal Analysis of 46 Countries](#), with *Richard Fletcher, Simge Andi, Camila Mont’Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus K. Nielsen*
(R&R, Journal of Communication)

[The Religious Roots of Belief in Misinformation: Experimental Evidence from India](#), with *Simon Chauchard*

Researching and Countering Misinformation in Developing Countries, with *Simon Chauchard*

The Effect of Labeling False Social Media posts in Brazil, India, and the UK, with Richard Fletcher, Simge Andi, Camila Mont’Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus K. Nielsen

Examining Urban/Rural Gaps in Trust in News Across Four Countries, with *Camila Mont’Alverne, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus K. Nielsen*

Subjective Preferences for Objective News, with *Camila Mont’Alverne, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus K. Nielsen*

WORK IN
PROGRESS

Countering Misinformation Early: A Grassroots Media Literacy Intervention for Rural Populations in India, with *Priyadarshi Amar, Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart*
[pre-analysis plan](#)

The effect of corrections featuring fact-checks from news organisations on false COVID-19 social media posts in Brazil, India and the UK, with *Richard Fletcher, Simge Andi, Camila Mont’Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus K. Nielsen*
[pre-analysis plan](#)

The effect of credibility labels on trust in news, with *Camila Mont’Alverne, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus K. Nielsen*
[pre-analysis plan](#)

Deconstructing Meta-Narratives of Misinformation to Reduce Support for Violence: A WhatsApp-based Experiment, *with Niloufer Siddiqui and Simon Chauchard*

The Political Economy of Local Journalism and Misinformation: Evidence from North India, *with Adam Auerbach*

The Puzzle of Indian American Voting Behavior, *with Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur*

BOOK
CHAPTERS

Badrinathan, Sumitra, and Devesh Kapur. 2021. “[Religion, Caste, Class, Politics: How Urbanization Affects Social Interactions and Political Behaviors.](#)” Chapter. In *Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi*, edited by Sanjoy Chakravorty and Neelanjan Sircar. Cambridge University Press

GRANTS &
FUNDING

2022 Social Science Research Council’s Mercury Project Award for [Bihar Information and Media Literacy Initiative \(BIMLI\)](#): A Grassroots Media Literacy RCT for Rural Populations in India: \$500,000

2022 Facebook Foundational Integrity and Impact Research Award for Misinformation and Vigilantism in India and Pakistan: Determinants and Solutions: \$100,000

2021 [Sobti Family Doctoral Fellowship](#) at the University of Pennsylvania: \$12,500

2021 UPenn Dissertation Research Fellowship – \$3,500

2020 Wharton School Russell Ackoff Doctoral Student Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania: \$3,000

2018 Judith Rodin Research Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania: \$10,000

2018 Center for the Advanced Study of India Summer Research Fellowship: \$3,500

MEDIA

Interview on Big World Podcast. 1 August, 2023. [Disinformation Part 1: India.](#)

Interview on Scope Conditions Podcast. 27 February, 2023. [Can we Immunize Against Misinformation? With Sumitra Badrinathan.](#)

Badrinathan, Sumitra. 7 June, 2021. “[India is facing an epidemic of misinformation alongside covid-19.](#)” *The Washington Post*

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Devesh Kapur, Jonathan Kay, and Milan Vaishnav. June 10, 2021. “[Discrimination against Indian Americans happens more than you might think.](#)” *Monkey Cage*

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Devesh Kapur, and Milan Vaishnav. 15 October, 2020. “[Why Indian Americans are not becoming Republicans any time soon.](#)” *Monkey Cage*

Badrinathan, Sumitra, and Simon Chauchard. 28 January, 2020. [“Is there a way to counter fake news on WhatsApp?”](#) *Hindustan Times*

POLICY
WRITING Mont’Alverne, Camila, Sumitra Badrinathan, Benjamin Toff, Amy Ross Arguedas, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 22 September, 2022. [The trust gap: how and why news on digital platforms is viewed more sceptically versus news in general.](#) *Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism*
Press: [Scroll](#), [Newslaundry](#), [Quint](#)

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Devesh Kapur, and Milan Vaishnav. 9 February, 2021. [How Do Indian Americans View India? Results From the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey.](#) *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
Press: [Grand Tamasha Podcast](#), [Reuters](#), [Times of India](#), [Indian Express](#)

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Devesh Kapur, and Milan Vaishnav. 14 October, 2020. [How Will Indian Americans Vote? Results From the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey.](#) *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
Press: [Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#), [Axios](#), [Reuters](#), [NDTV](#)

INVITED
TALKS &
GUEST
LECTURES George Washington University Political Science Seminar, Scheduled
University of Maryland Political Science Seminar, February 2023
Google News Initiative Fighting Misinformation Online, June 2022
NYU Comparative Politics Speaker Series, September 2021
Brown Harvard MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics, September 2021
University of Massachusetts Amherst, March 2021
Guest lecture in graduate Causal Inference class (Prof. Alexander Theodoridis)
UCLA Politics of Order and Development Lab, October 2021
Vanderbilt University, October 2021
Guest lecture in graduate Field Experiments class (Prof. Kristin Michelitch)

AWARDS	APSA Political Communication Section’s Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award	2021
	University of Pennsylvania Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching	2019
	Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students	2019

TEACHING
& ADVISING Instructor, American University: Political Misinformation and Fake News (Fall 2023), Comparative Political Economy (Spring 2023)

Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania: [Statistics for Political Science](#) (Fall 2018), Political Change in the Third World (Fall 2019), International Human Rights (Spring 2018), Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2017)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising: Megha Rastogi (AU), Jeremy Schaefer (AU)

Research Assistants: Josiah Gottfried (AU), Sukhmani Khalsa (AU), Tipanna Pujari (India)

CONFERENCE TALKS	Southern Political Science Association Conference Midwest Political Science Association Conference European Political Science Association Conference American Political Science Association Conference CASI India Political Economy Workshop	2023
---------------------	--	------

	Midwest Political Science Association Conference International Communication Association Conference American Political Science Association Annual Conference Berlin Meetings on the Political Economy of Development (MoPED) International Fact-Checking Network Global Fact 9 Conference	2022
--	---	------

	American Political Science Association Annual Conference International Journal of Press/Politics Conference Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich	2021
--	---	------

	American Political Science Association Annual Conference Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference Southern Political Science Association Conference	2020
--	--	------

	American Political Science Association Annual Conference NYU Winter Experimental Social Sciences Conference MIT Gov/Lab Political Behavior of Development Conference Southern Political Science Association Conference	2019
--	---	------

SERVICE	<u>Reviewer for</u> : American Political Science Review, Nature Human Behavior, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Journal of Development Economics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Harvard Kennedy Misinformation Review, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Quantitative Description
---------	--

Advisory Board: UC3M [Polarization, Identity and Misinformation](#) (PIM) lab, Stanford/Dartmouth/Penn [Polarization Research Lab](#)

American University Service: Search Committee Junior Member on 2023 Political Economy tenure track search; Faculty mentor in undergraduate Olson Scholars Program

Disciplinary Service: Award committee member for APSA Political Communication
Section Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper award (2022)

WORK EXPERIENCE	National Opinion Research Center, Chicago, IL Research Associate, data coding and analysis for the Survey of Doctorate Recipients	2015 - 2016
	RA to Dr. Nicholas Stephanopoulos, University of Chicago Data cleaning, analysis and coding for project on racial polarization in voting patterns	2015 - 2016
	Minister of State for Communications and IT Electoral Campaign, Mumbai, India Head of student campaigning, outreach, and GOTV	2013 - 2014
DATA SCIENCE & TECH	<u>Languages:</u> R (proficient), HTML CSS (intermediate), Python (intermediate) <u>Programs:</u> Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), Latex, DataWrapper <u>Statistical modelling:</u> classic regression and generalized linear models, multilevel modeling	
LANGUAGES	Native: English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil; Intermediate: French (C1), Spanish (A2)	
FIELDWORK	India: Bihar, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra	
CITIZENSHIP	India	
REFERENCES	Prof. Guy Grossman Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania ggros@sas.upenn.edu	Prof. Matthew Levendusky Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania mleven@sas.upenn.edu
	Prof. Marc Meredith Associate Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania marcmere@sas.upenn.edu	Prof. Devesh Kapur Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies Johns Hopkins University SAIS dkapur1@jhu.edu