

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
9. Badrinathan, Sumitra and Simon Chauchard. 2024. [Researching and Countering Misinformation in the Global South](#). *Current Opinion in Psychology*

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*

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 Council on Foreign Relations Indian Elections Panel, January 2024
Democratic Erosion Consortium Panel, January 2024
George Washington University Political Science Seminar, April 2024
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), Experimental Design (Spring 2024)

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 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Conference
European Political Science Association Conference
American Political Science Association Conference
CASI India Political Economy Workshop
MIT Polarization Workshop

Midwest Political Science Association Conference 2022

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

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2021

International Journal of Press/Politics Conference
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention
Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2020

Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference
Southern Political Science Association Conference

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2019

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

SERVICE Reviewer for: 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, Comparative Political Studies

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 National Opinion Research Center, Chicago, IL 2015 - 2016
EXPERIENCE Research Associate, data coding and analysis for the Survey of
Doctorate Recipients

RA to Dr. Nicholas Stephanopoulos, University of Chicago 2015 - 2016
Data cleaning, analysis and coding for project on racial polarization
in voting patterns

Minister of State for Communications and IT 2013 - 2014
Electoral Campaign, Mumbai, India
Head of student campaigning, outreach, and GOTV

DATA Languages: R (proficient), HTML CSS (intermediate), Python (intermediate)
SCIENCE & Programs: Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), Latex, DataWrapper
TECH Statistical modelling: 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
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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