Sumitra Badrinathan

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	SIS Building, Office 319	🌐	sumitrabadrinathan.github.io
	Washington, DC 20016	✎	Google Scholar

POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Political Science — Fall 2022 –
American University, School of International Service
Department of Politics, Governance, and Economics

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Oxford — 2021 – 2022
Reuters Institute, Trust in News Project

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania — 2016 – 2021

MA in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania — 2018

MA in Political Science, University of Chicago — 2015

BA in Psychology, St. Xavier's College Mumbai — 2014

RESEARCH FIELDS

Misinformation, South Asia, Political Economy, Experimental Methods, Partisanship, Social Media, Polarization, Democratic Norms

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

(11) Badrinathan, Sumitra, Simon Chauchard, and Niloufer Siddiqui. 2024. Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: An Experiment in India and Pakistan. ***American Political Science Review***

  – Coverage: The Hindu, Scroll

(10) Fletcher, Richard, Sumitra Badrinathan, et al. 2024. The link between changing news use and trust: Longitudinal analysis of 46 countries. *Forthcoming*, ***Journal of Communication***

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

(8) Badrinathan, Sumitra and Simon Chauchard. 2023. "I Don't Think That's True, Bro!" Social Corrections of Misinformation in India. ***International Journal of Press/Politics***: 1–23

  – Coverage: Hindustan Times, The Print, Scroll

(7) 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. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 3

(6) 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

(5) Ross Arguedas, Amy, 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

(4) Kim, Eunji, Sumitra Badrinathan, Donghyun Danny Choi, Sabrina Karim, and Yang-Yang Zhou. 2022. Navigating Insider and Outsider Status as Researchers Conducting Field Experiments. *PS: Political Science & Politics*: 1–5

(3) Ross Arguedas, Amy, 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

(2) Badrinathan, Sumitra. 2021. Educative Interventions to Combat Misinformation: Evidence From A Field Experiment in India. *American Political Science Review* 115(4): 1325–1341.

  – Winner of the 2021 APSA Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award

(1) Badrinathan, Sumitra, Deepaboli Chatterjee, Devesh Kapur, and Neelanjan Sircar. 2021. Partisan Disagreement: The Role of Media, Personal Networks and Gender in Forming Political Preferences. *Urbanisation* 6(1): 141–157.

UNDER
REVIEW

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*

BOOK
MANUSCRIPT

Seeds of Discord: How Misinformation Erodes Democratic Norms in South Asia, *with Niloufer Siddiqui and Simon Chauchard*. (Proposal accepted for Cambridge Elements series on Politics of Development)

BOOK CHAPTERS	Badrinathan, Sumitra, and Devesh Kapur. 2021. "Religion, Caste, Class, Politics: How Urbanization Affects Social Interactions and Political Behaviors." In *Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi*, edited by Sanjoy Chakravorty and Neelanjan Sircar. Cambridge University Press

WORK IN PROGRESS

Countering Misinformation Early: A Media Literacy Intervention for School Children in India, *with Priyadarshi Amar, Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart*
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*

Sharing Falsehoods in an Information-poor Environment: An Experiment with Indian Teenagers, *with Priyadarshi Amar, Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart*
pre-analysis plan

Home and Away: Explaining the Political Behavior of the Indian American Diaspora, *with Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur*

Norms of Deference and Belief in Misinformation, *with Simon Chauchard*
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 et al.*
pre-analysis plan

The effect of credibility labels on trust in news, *with Richard Fletcher et al.*
pre-analysis plan

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

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

Select Media	Badrinathan, Sumitra, Niloufer Siddiqui, and Simon Chauchard. September 16, 2024. "Ohio cat rumors – and why misinformation about minorities goes viral." *Good Authority*
	Interview for CASI, University of Pennsylvania. May 13, 2024. India in Transition, Election Conversations 2024.
	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	2024: U of Rochester, Council on Foreign Relations, Democratic Erosion Consortium, George Washington, Yale South Asia, UMontreal, Brown (scheduled), Michigan (scheduled)
	2023: University of Maryland Political Science Seminar, Google News Initiative Fighting Misinformation Initiative
	2022: NYU Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Brown Harvard MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics, Aarhus University

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 (Spring 2024), Comparative Political Economy (Fall 2024), Experimental Design (Spring 2024)

Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania: Statistics for Political Science (Fall 18), Political Change (Fall 19), International Human Rights (Spring 18), Intro to American Politics (Fall 17)

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

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

CONFERENCE TALKS

2024: APSA, ICA, CASI India Political Economy Workshop, SSRC Symposium

2023: SPSA Conference, MPSA Conference, EPSA Conference, APSA Conference, CASI India Political Economy, MIT Polarization Workshop

2022: MPSA, ICA, APSA, Berlin Meetings on the Political Economy of Development (MoPED), International Fact-Checking Network Global Fact 9 Conference

2021: APSA, International Journal of Press/Politics Conference, SPSP Annual Convention, Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich

2020: APSA, Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference, SPSA

2019: APSA, NYU Experimental Social Sciences Conference, MIT Gov/Lab Political Behavior of Development Conference, SPSA Conference

SERVICE

Editorial Board, British Journal of Political Science

Reviewer for: American Political Science Review, Nature Human Behavior, Nature Communications, 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, British Journal of Political Science, International Journal of Communication, National Science Foundation

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

<u>American University Service:</u> Search Committee Junior Member on Political Economy tenure track search (2023); Faculty mentor in undergraduate Olson Scholars Program (2023, 2024), PhD Placement Director 2024-25

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

WORK EXPERIENCE	National Opinion Research Center, Chicago, IL Research Associate, General Social Survey	2015 - 2016
	RA to Dr. Nicholas Stephanopoulos, University of Chicago Data cleaning, analysis and coding	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, Rajasthan

CITIZENSHIP India

REFERENCES

Prof. Guy Grossman
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Pennsylvania
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Prof. Matthew Levendusky
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Prof. Marc Meredith
Professor
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Prof. Devesh Kapur
Starr Foundation Professor
of South Asian Studies
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