

# Sumitra Badrinathan

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POSITIONS	<b>Assistant Professor of Political Science</b> American University, <a href="#">School of International Service</a> Department of Politics, Governance, and Economics  <b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> , University of Oxford Reuters Institute, <a href="#">Trust in News Project</a>	Fall 2022 –    2021 – 2022
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania  MA in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania  MA in Political Science, University of Chicago  BA in Psychology, St. Xavier's College Mumbai	2016 – 2021  2018  2015  2014
RESEARCH FIELDS	Misinformation, South Asia, Political Communication, Experimental Methods, Partisanship, Social Media, Polarization, Democratic Norms	
PUBLISHED ARTICLES	(11) Badrinathan, Sumitra, Simon Chauchard, and Niloufer Siddiqui. 2024. <a href="#">Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: An Experiment in India and Pakistan.</a> <i>American Political Science Review</i>  – Coverage: <a href="#">The Hindu</a> , <a href="#">Scroll</a> , <a href="#">Political Science Now</a>  (10) Fletcher, Richard, Sumitra Badrinathan, et al. 2024. The link between changing news use and trust: Longitudinal analysis of 46 countries. <i>Forthcoming, Journal of Communication</i>  (9) Badrinathan, Sumitra and Simon Chauchard. 2024. <a href="#">Researching and Countering Misinformation in the Global South.</a> <i>Current Opinion in Psychology</i>  (8) Badrinathan, Sumitra and Simon Chauchard. 2023. <a href="#">"I Don't Think That's True, Bro!" Social Corrections of Misinformation in India.</a> <i>International Journal of Press/Politics</i> : 1–23  – Coverage: <a href="#">Hindustan Times</a> , <a href="#">The Print</a> , <a href="#">Scroll</a>  (7) Mont'Alverne, Camila, Amy Ross Arguedas, Sumitra Badrinathan, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen. 2023. <a href="#">Domain-Specific Influence on Facebook:</a>	

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*

– R&R, British Journal of Political Science

Who Wants Impartial News? Investigating the Determinants of Preferences for Impartiality in 40 Countries, *with Richard Fletcher et al.*

– R&R, International Journal of Communication

Countering Misinformation Early: Evidence from a Classroom-Based Field Experiment in India, *with Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart, Priyadarshi Amar*

The Effect of Labeling False Social Media posts in Brazil, India, and the UK, *with Richard Fletcher, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen*

Examining Urban/Rural Gaps in Trust in News Across Four Countries, *Richard Fletcher, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen*

BOOK PROJECT	<p>Seeds of Discord: How Misinformation Erodes Democratic Norms in South Asia, <i>with Niloufer Siddiqui and Simon Chauchard</i>.</p> <p>– Proposal accepted for Cambridge Elements series on Politics of Development and book workshop scheduled 09/2025</p>
BOOK CHAPTERS	<p>Badrinathan, Sumitra, and Devesh Kapur. 2021. “<a href="#">Religion, Caste, Class, Politics: How Urbanization Affects Social Interactions and Political Behaviors</a>.” In <i>Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi</i>, edited by Sanjoy Chakravorty and Neelanjan Sircar. Cambridge University Press</p>
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p>Deconstructing Meta-Narratives of Misinformation to Counter Prejudice: A WhatsApp-based Experiment, <i>with Niloufer Siddiqui and Simon Chauchard</i></p> <p>The Political Economy of Local Journalism and Misinformation: Evidence from North India, <i>with Adam Auerbach</i></p> <p>Sharing Falsehoods in an Information-poor Environment: An Experiment with Indian Teenagers, <i>with Priyadarshi Amar, Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart</i> <a href="#">pre-analysis plan</a></p> <p>Home and Away: Explaining the Political Behavior of the Indian American Diaspora, <i>with Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur</i></p> <p>Norms of Deference and Belief in Misinformation, <i>with Simon Chauchard</i> <a href="#">pre-analysis plan</a></p> <p>The effect of corrections featuring fact-checks from news organisations on false COVID-19 social media posts in Brazil, India and the UK, <i>with Richard Fletcher et al.</i> <a href="#">pre-analysis plan</a></p> <p>The effect of credibility labels on trust in news, <i>with Richard Fletcher et al.</i> <a href="#">pre-analysis plan</a></p> <p>Ethnic Identity vs. Partisan Loyalty: A Multi-Experiment Analysis of Indian American Voting Preferences, <i>with Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur</i></p> <p>From Pilot to Policy: Successes and Lessons from a Long-Term Media Literacy RCT in India, <i>with Priyadarshi Amar, Simon Chauchard, Florian Sichart</i></p>
GRANTS & FUNDING	<p>2022 Social Science Research Council’s Mercury Project Award for <a href="#">Bihar Information and Media Literacy Initiative (BIMLI)</a>: A Grassroots Media Literacy RCT for Rural Populations in India: \$500,000</p> <p>2022 Facebook Foundational Integrity and Impact Research Award for Misinformation and Vigilantism in India and Pakistan: Determinants and Solutions: \$100,000</p>

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

Interview on the Grand Tamasha Podcast. 5 November, 2024. [The Indian American Vote in 2024](#).

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, 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

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Devesh Kapur, and Milan Vaishnav. 28 October, 2024. [Indian Americans at the Ballot Box: Results From the 2024 Indian American Attitudes Survey](#). *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Press: [Hindustan Times](#), [Times of India](#), [The Hindu](#)

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. 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](#)

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS	<p>2025 (scheduled): Penn CP seminar, Columbia Media Effects Empirical Workshop, CASI Political Economy Workshop, NYU Political Psychology Meeting</p> <p>2024: Council on Foreign Relations, Democratic Erosion Consortium, George Washington CP Seminar, Yale South Asia, UMontreal Summer School, Brown-Harvard joint seminar, Michigan South Asia Seminar</p> <p>2023: University of Maryland Seminar, Google News Fighting Misinformation Initiative</p> <p>2022: NYU Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Brown Harvard MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics, Aarhus University</p>						
AWARDS	<table> <tr> <td>APSA Political Communication Section's Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award</td><td>2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>University of Pennsylvania Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching</td><td>2019</td></tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students</a></td><td>2019</td></tr> </table>	APSA Political Communication Section's Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award	2021	University of Pennsylvania Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching	2019	<a href="#">Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students</a>	2019
APSA Political Communication Section's Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award	2021						
University of Pennsylvania Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching	2019						
<a href="#">Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students</a>	2019						
TEACHING & ADVISING	<p><u>Instructor, American University:</u> Political Misinformation (Spring 2024), Comparative Political Economy (Fall 2024), Experimental Design (Spring 2024)</p> <p><u>Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania:</u> <a href="#">Statistics for Political Science</a> (Fall 18), Political Change (Fall 19), International Human Rights (Spring 18), Intro to American Politics (Fall 17)</p> <p><u>Undergraduate Advising at AU:</u> Megha Rastogi, Jeremy Schaefer, Tanishka Khanna</p> <p><u>Research Assistants:</u> Josiah Gottfried (AU), Sukhmani Khalsa (AU), Tipanna Pujari (India), Saneet Chakradeo (AU)</p>						
CONFERENCE TALKS	<p>2024: U of Rochester Conference on Applied Methods, UVA Digital Democracy Symposium, APSA, ICA, CASI Political Economy Workshop, SSRC Symposium</p> <p>2023: SPSA Conference, MPSA Conference, EPSA Conference, APSA Conference, CASI India Political Economy, MIT Polarization Workshop</p> <p>2022: MPSA, ICA, APSA, Berlin Meetings on the Political Economy of Development (MoPED), International Fact-Checking Network Global Fact 9 Conference</p> <p>2021: APSA, International Journal of Press/Politics Conference, SPSP Annual Convention, Digital Democracy Workshop, University of Zurich</p> <p>2020: APSA, Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference, SPSA</p> <p>2019: APSA, NYU Experimental Social Sciences Conference, MIT Gov/Lab Political Behavior of Development Conference, SPSA Conference</p>						

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](#)

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

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

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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[mleven@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:mleven@sas.upenn.edu)

**Prof. Marc Meredith**  
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Starr Foundation Professor  
of South Asian Studies  
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