

# SUMITRA BADRINATHAN

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CONTACT      American University  
School of International Service  
Washington DC 20016

✉ [sumitrab@american.edu](mailto:sumitrab@american.edu)  
🌐 [sumitrabadrinathan.github.io](https://sumitrabadrinathan.github.io)  
🐦 [KhariBiskut](#)

POSITIONS      **Assistant Professor of Political Science**      Fall 2022 –  
American University  
[School of International Service](#)

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, University of Oxford      2021 – 2022  
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism  
[Trust in News Project](#)

EDUCATION      **Ph.D., Political Science**, University of Pennsylvania      2016 – 2021  
*Dissertation:* The Politics of Misinformation in India  
*Committee:* Guy Grossman, Marc Meredith, Matt Levendusky, Devesh Kapur

**M.A., Political Science**, University of Chicago      2014 – 2015

**B.A., Psychology**, St. Xavier's College Mumbai      2011 – 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS      Misinformation, South Asia, Social Media, Polarization, Political Behavior, Experimental Methods

## PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

1. **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 Political Communication Section's Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award
2. 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. **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*
4. **Badrinathan, Sumitra**, Deepaboli Chatterjee, Devesh Kapur, and Neelanjana Sircar. 2021. [Partisan Disagreement: The Role of Media, Personal Networks and Gender in Forming Political Preferences](#). *Urbanisation* 6(1): 141–157.

5. 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

UNDER  
REVIEW

[Leveraging Religiosity Against COVID-19 Misinformation: Experimental Evidence from India](#), with Simon Chauchard

Fair and Balanced: What News Audiences in Four Countries Mean When They Say They Prefer Impartial News, *with Camila Mont’Alverne, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus K. Nielsen*

Subjective Preferences for Objective News: Exploring the Complex Relationship Between Impartiality and Trust in News, *with Camila Mont’Alverne, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus K. Nielsen*

WORK IN  
PROGRESS

Misinformation and Anti-Minority Vigilantism: Coordinated Field Experiments in India and Pakistan, *with Niloufer Siddiqui and Simon Chauchard*  
[pre-analysis plan](#)

The effect of labelling false COVID-19 posts on social media in Brazil, India and the UK, *with Richard Fletcher, Simge Andi, Benjamin Toff, Rasmus K. Nielsen.*  
[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](#)

Does Partisanship Affect Media Choice? Experimental Evidence from North India

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

MEDIA  
WRITING

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 (Washington Post)*

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

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

OTHER  
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

Google News Initiative Fighting Misinformation Online, June 2022  
Invited talk

NYU Comparative Politics Speaker Series, September 2021  
Invited talk

Brown Harvard MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics, September 2021  
Invited talk

Aarhus University Research on Online Political Hostility (ROPH) Project, October 2021  
Invited talk

University of Massachusetts Amherst, March 2021  
Guest lecture in graduate Causal Inference class (Prof. Alexander Theodoridis)

Colorado State University, March 2021  
Guest lecture in undergraduate Media and Politics class (Prof. Dominik Stecula)

UCLA Politics of Order and Development Lab, October 2020  
Invited talk

Vanderbilt University, October 2020

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
	<a href="#">Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students</a>	2019
GRANTS & FUNDING	<a href="#">Social Science Research Council Mercury Project Award</a> (with S. Chauchard and N. Sircar) – \$430,000	2022
	Facebook Integrity Foundational Research Award (with N. Siddiqui and S. Chauchard) – \$100,000	2021
	<a href="#">Sobti Family Doctoral Fellowship</a> – \$12,500	2020
	Penn Dissertation Research Fellowship – \$3,500	2020
	<a href="#">Russell Ackoff Doctoral Student Fellowship</a> – \$3,000	2020
	Judith Rodin Research Fellowship – \$10,000	2018, 2017
	Center for the Advanced Study of India Summer Research Fellowship – \$3,500	2018
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania</b>	
	Political Change in the Third World PSCI116 with Prof. Rudy Sil	Fall 2019
	<a href="#">Statistics for Political Science</a> PSCI338 with Prof. Marc Meredith	Fall 2018
	International Human Rights PSCI258 with Prof. Eileen Doherty-Sil	Spring 2018
	Introduction to American Politics PSCI130 with Prof. Marc Meredith	Fall 2017
CONFERENCE TALKS	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	
	Midwest Political Science Association Conference	2018
	Association for Asian Studies Conference	
WORK EXPERIENCE	<b>National Opinion Research Center</b> , Chicago, IL	2015 - 2016
	Research Associate, data coding and analysis for the Survey of Doctorate Recipients	
	<b>RA to Dr. Nicholas Stephanopoulos</b> , University of Chicago	2015 - 2016
	Data cleaning, analysis and coding for project on racial polarization in voting patterns	
	<b>Minister of State for Communications and IT</b>	2013 - 2014
	Electoral Campaign, Mumbai, India	
	Head of student campaigning, outreach, and GOTV	
DATA SCIENCE & TECH	<b>Languages:</b> R (proficient), HTML CSS (intermediate), Python (intermediate)	
	<b>Programs:</b> Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), Latex, DataWrapper	
	<b>Statistical modelling:</b> classic regression models, generalized linear models, multilevel modeling	
LANGUAGES	Native: English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil	
	Intermediate: French	
	Beginner: Spanish	
REFERENCES	<b>Prof. Guy Grossman</b> Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania <a href="mailto:ggros@sas.upenn.edu">ggros@sas.upenn.edu</a>	<b>Prof. Matthew Levendusky</b> Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania <a href="mailto:mleven@sas.upenn.edu">mleven@sas.upenn.edu</a>
	<b>Prof. Marc Meredith</b> Associate Professor Department of Political Science University of Pennsylvania <a href="mailto:marcmere@sas.upenn.edu">marcmere@sas.upenn.edu</a>	<b>Prof. Devesh Kapur</b> Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies Johns Hopkins University SAIS <a href="mailto:dkapur1@jhu.edu">dkapur1@jhu.edu</a>