SUMITRA BADRINATHAN

CONTACT	American University	✉	sumitrab@american.edu
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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., 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

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 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**, 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.

4. **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*

5. 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. 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

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* (Revise and resubmit)

The Religious Roots of Belief in Misinformation: Experimental Evidence from India, *with Simon Chauchard*

Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: An Experiment in India and Pakistan, *with Simon Chauchard and Niloufer Siddiqui*

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)

Underitted 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	
	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

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

Languages: R (proficient), HTML CSS (intermediate), Python (intermediate)

Programs: Qualtrics (survey & experimental design), Latex, DataWrapper

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
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Prof. Marc Meredith
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Prof. Devesh Kapur
Starr Foundation Professor
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