

Swapneel Mehta

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

PHD IN DATA SCIENCE

Aug 2023 | New York, NY

GPA: 3.8/4

MUMBAI UNIVERSITY

BENG IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

June 2018 | Mumbai, India

Cum. GPA: 9.23/10

COURSEWORK

DOCTORAL

Machine Learning

Causal Inference

Inference and Representation

Math Tools for Data Science

Unicode ML Summer School

(Instructor, funded by Google Research)

UNDERGRADUATE

Artificial Intelligence

Operating Systems

Database Management Systems

Computer Networks + Labs

Computer Graphics + Labs

Unicode

(Co-founder, FOSS Training Program)

AWARDS

2023 Google exploreCSR Awardee

2023 WSDM Smart City Challenge

2022 AI2Amplify Fellowship

2022 MIDAS Future Leader Forum

2020 IRIS-HEP Fellowship

2018 Oxford MLHEP Challenge

2018 India's Top 33 Engineers,
Economic Times

SKILLS

Python, Pytorch • MySQL • Bash • R

GCP • BigQuery • Unix/Linux • AWS

Docker • git • LAMP • SLURM

HTML/CSS • Javascript • C++ • Java

LINKS

Github:// swapneelm

Twitter:// @swapneel_mehta

YouTube:// swapneel_mehta

BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND MIT | POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

Oct 2023 - Present | Cambridge, MA

- Researching platform governance, free speech, and democracy jointly at BU (Questrom) and MIT (Sloan).
- Talks at IC2S2, WISE, Stanford TSRC, Columbia MarkTech

SIMPPL | FOUNDER

Dec 2021 - Present | New York, NY

- Build tools to improve trust on the social internet for 100M+ users at the UN, New York Public Radio, Tech Global Institute, VTDigger, Sunday Times, Deutsche Welle, Jagran New Media.
- Selected as a **Google Research Innovator, Founder Fellow, Belfer Fellow**; won USD 200,000 in grants from AWS, Google, Wikimedia Foundation, Mozilla, NYC Media Lab, Goethe Institut

CENTER FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICS | PH.D. RESEARCH

Feb 2021 - Present | New York, NY

- Identify the causal effect of Reddit's outages on low quality news sharing.
- Identify the causal impact of Twitter's warning labels on Trump's tweets (**Stanford Trust & Safety Research Conference**).
- COVID infection modeling with probabilistic programs (**MIT PROBPROG '21**).

CERN, CMS EXPERIMENT | TSP RESEARCH (ML ENGG.)

March 2018 - July 2019 | Geneva, Switzerland

- Developed graph neural networks for particle track reconstruction at the LHC
- Productionized the **DeepJet** ML framework; awarded by **Google, Oxford**.

INTERNSHIPS

SLACK, CENTRAL DS | PRODUCT DATA SCIENCE INTERN

May 2023 - Aug 2023 | New York, NY

- Identified 'social' learning drivers of feature adoption at Slack (NDA).

TWITTER, CIVIC INTEGRITY | MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER

June 2022 - Aug 2022 | New York, NY

- Improved the precision of their civic and health misinfo. classifier (BigQuery ML) by **20%** scoring 1M+ tweets / week. NLP; recommender systems.

OXFORD, TORR VISION GROUP | VISITING RESEARCHER

Aug 2021 - June 2022 | Oxford, UK

- Generative modeling of adversarial agent behaviors on Reddit recommendations presented in workshops at **ICML** and **DEFCON**, 2022.

ADOBE RESEARCH | DATA SCIENCE RESEARCH INTERN

May 2020 - Dec 2020 | New York, NY

- Trending Hashtag Recommendation for Videos; NLP, language models, data mining, weakly-supervised learning, multimodal graph neural networks.
- First-author paper accepted at IEEE ISM; U.S. Patent App P10634-US.

REVIEWER

2024 Springer AI and Ethics
2024 ACM CHI
2024 EPJ Data Science
2024 Springer Nature ML
2023 NeurIPS Workshops
2023 AABI
2023 ICLR, AI4ABM Workshop
2023 AI+Local News Challenge
2022 ICML, AI4ABM Workshop
2022 NeurIPS, WBRC
2019 Elsevier JPDC

TALKS

2024 (Upcoming) WISE Conf.
2024 (Upcoming) MarkTech Columbia
2024 MIT Decentralized AI Summit
2024 Stanford (TSRC)
2024 TrustCon (AI + Elections)
2024 IC2S2 (Oral)
2024 ATIH, Embassy of Finland
2024 UNESCO, DW Akademie
2024 DW (Online Trust)
2023 DW Innovation Days
2023 IIT Madras Data Science
2023 SimPPL Fellowships
2023 Mandiant mWise (Google)
2023 McKinsey Guest Talk
2023 TrustCon (Community Building)
2023 MIDAS Future Leaders Summit (Responsible AI)
2023 CCNY SASE "TED Talks"
2023 MozFest by Mozilla
2023 NYU Data Science Seminar
2023 Deutsche Welle (multiple)
2023 NYC Media Lab
2022 Graphika
2022 Truth and Trust Online Conf.
2022 Twitter, Health ML
2022 MIT Media Lab
2022 Stanford, T&S Research Conf.
2022 NYU Graduate Seminar
2022 Misinfo. Village, DEFCON
2022 Oxford, Torr Vision Group
2021 Twitter, Cortex
2021 Facebook, Probability
2021 Flatiron Comp. Bio. Group
2020 NYC AI Workshop
2020 NYU Data Science
2018 Mumbai University (multiple)

MICROSOFT RESEARCH (IIT-B) | RESEARCH INTERN

May 2016 – May 2017 | New York, NY

- Prof. S. Sahasrabudhe, Automated evaluation of Blender 3D Modeling assignments (ICALT 2018); edX Prize Finalist, 2019.
- Microsoft Research: Google Analytics for Lokacart D2C farmer app.

SMOKESCREEN (ACQ. ZSCALER) | ML INTERN

Nov 2016 – March 2017 | New York, NY

- Reducing the footprint of network scans and building Markov-chain based hostname generation for intelligent decoys.
- Automated deployment of NASSCOM-DSCI awarded software.

FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leader Fellow
2024 Finalist, Schmidt Futures Intl. Strategy Forum
2024 Community Advisory Board, Integrity Institute
2024 Responsible AI Affiliate, All Tech is Human
2023 Future Founders Fellowship (declined)
2023 Google Research Innovator
2023 Future Founders Startup Bootcamp
2023 CTS Belfer Fellow

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024	MIT Delta V Accelerator	USD 20,000
2024	MIT PKG IDEAS Challenge	USD 13,500
2024	NEST Center for Journalism	USD 3,700
2024	Google PaliGemma Award	USD 5,000
2023	Google (exploreCSR)	USD 32,000
2023	Mozilla (Responsible Computing Challenge)	USD 25,000
2023	Algovera AI	USD 3,000
2023	NYUTech Venture Workshop	USD 1,000
2023	Belfer Fellowship	USD 40,000
2023	Goethe Institut	EUR 14,000
2023	Wikimedia Foundation 'WikiCred' Grant	USD 10,000
2023	Deutsche Welle	EUR 4,950
2022	Google, Amazon Research Credit Award	USD 14,000
2022	JournalismAI, The Sunday Times	USD 4,000
2021	UK Research & Innovation Grant (w/ Oxford TVG)	GBP 23,000
2021	NYC Media Lab AI + Local News Challenge	USD 7,500
2021	Google Research India	INR 85,000

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] H. Ranka, D. Shah, S. Mehta, L. Ng. 'Identifying Bridging Channels within Russian Disinformation Networks on Telegram'. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [2] R. Konka, P. Kurani, S. Mehta., L. Ng. 'Multimodal Analysis of Instagram Marketing Strategies Across Developed and Developing Countries'. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [3] D. Shah, S. Shetty, S. Mehta. 'The Double-Edged Sword of User Agency: Empowerment and Risk in Decentralized Social Media Platforms'. *Working Paper; Poster at Stanford T&S Research Conference*, 2024.
- [4] S. Mehta, M. van Alstyne. 'Improving Economic Welfare in Reputation-based Marketplaces with Truth Warrants'. *Working Paper. Oral Talk, Workshop on Information Systems and Economics*, 2024.

ORGANIZING

2024 Responsible Innovation Day
2024 SimPPL Fellowships
2023 NeurIPS MASEC Workshop
2023 AI, Misinfo. & Policy Seminar
2023 ICLR AI4ABM Workshop
2023 Misinfo. Village, DEFCON
2023 NYU AI School 2023
2022 NeurIPS WBRC
2022 NYU AI School 2022
2022 AI for Everyone, C+J 2022
2021 NYU AI School 2021
2021 Unicode ML Summer School

MEDIA

2024 DW: Tackling Disinfo.
2024 DW: Media Literacy
2024 Rest of World
2024 Boston University
2024 NYU: AI Misinfo. Policy Series
2024 NYU: AI School
2023 Jagran new Media
2023 Google Research
2018 Open Source for U

- [5] G. Malpani, S. Mehta. 'The Effect of Influencers on the Independent re-sharing of News in an Alt-Right Ecosystem'. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [6] V. Dalal, A.V. Singh, C. Schroeder de Witt, S. Mehta. 'Using Large Language Model Debates to Predict X's Community Notes Reviews'. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [7] A. Shah, P. Banerjee, J. Kuang, A. Nichols, N. Mazar, M. van Alstyne, S. Mehta. 'Market Design Interventions for Safer Agentic AI'. *Working Paper (under review)*, 2024.
- [8] S. Mehta, Z. Yang, C. Fan, D. Liu, N. Mazar, M. van Alstyne. 'Reducing Misleading Claims in Digital Marketplaces using Truth Warrants'. *Working Paper (under review)*, 2024.
- [9] S. Mehta, J. Bisbee, Z. Sanderson, R. Bonneau, J. Tucker, and J. Nagler. 'Identifying the Causal Effects of Twitter's Interventions on Trump's Tweets'. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [10] S. Mehta, K. Aslett, Z. Sanderson, R. Bonneau, J. Tucker, and J. Nagler. 'Platform Outages Increase the Sharing of High-quality News on Reddit'. *Working Paper*, 2023.
- [11] S. Mehta. 'Towards Informed Interventions to Limit the Effects of Misleading Information on Social Networks'. Ph.D. Thesis. *New York University*, 2023.
- [12] S. Mehta, S. Sarkhel, X. Chen, S. Mitra, V. Swaminathan, R. Rossi, A. Aminian, H. Guo, and K. Garg. 'Open-Domain Trending Hashtag Recommendation for Videos'. In *IEEE International Symposium on Multimedia (ISM)*, 2021.
- [13] S. Mehta, and N. Kasmanoff. 'Covid-19 Modeling and Control via Policy Interventions'. In *International Conference on Probabilistic Programming (PROBPROG)*, 2021.
- [14] S. Mehta, C. Raman, N. Ayer, and S. Sahasrabudhe. 'Auto-Grading for 3D Modeling Assignments in MOOCs'. (Oral) In *2018 IEEE 18th International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies (ICALT)*, 51–53. *IEEE*, 2018.
- [15] S. Mehta, P. Kothuri, and D.L. Garcia. 'A Big Data Architecture for Log Data Storage and Analysis'. **Best Paper, ML Track**. In *Integrated Intelligent Computing, Communication and Security*, 201–9. *Springer, Singapore*, 2018.
- [16] S. Mehta, P. Kothuri, and D.L. Garcia. 'Anomaly Detection for Network Connection Logs'. *arXiv Preprint arXiv:1812.01941*, 2018.

WORKSHOP PAPERS

- [17] S. Mehta, S. Wiedswang, Z. Yang, N. Mazar, M. van Alstyne. 'Improving the Governance of Digital Platforms with Interactive Marketplace Experiments'. *Oral Talk, Intl. Conference on Computational Social Science*, 2024.
- [18] S. Mehta, A.G. Baydin, R. Bonneau, J. Nagler, and P. Torr. 'Estimating the Impact of Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior on Content Recommendations in Social Networks'. In *ICML 2022 Workshop AI for Agent-Based Modelling*, 2022.
- [19] A. Surve*, A. Shamraj*, and S. Mehta. 'How Decentralization Affects User Agency on Social Platforms'. *Short Paper (Oral)*, *Data Challenge, AAAI Intl. Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*, 2024.
- [20] C. Shah, R. Konka, G. Malpani, S. Mehta, and L. Ng. 'Can Social Media Platforms Transcend Political Labels? An Analysis of Neutral Conversations on Truth Social'. *Short Paper (Oral)*, *DARE Workshop, AAAI Intl. Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*, 2024.

- [21] A. Surve, A. Rathod, M. Surana, G. Malpani, A. Shamraj, S.R. Sankepally, R. Jain, and S. Mehta. **'Multiagent Simulators for Social Networks'**. (Oral) *In Multi-Agent Security Workshop, NeurIPS'23*, 2023.
- [22] D. Gandhi, R. Jain, J. Gala, J. Lalwani, and S. Mehta. **'Expanding Access to ML Research through Student-Led Collaboratives'**. *In NeurIPS 2022 Workshop on Broadening Research Collaborations*, 2022.
- [23] A. Ganeriwalla, and S. Mehta. 'Application of OLS Regression and VAR Models to Analyse the Economies of Varying Political Regimes'. *Journal of Student Research* 10, no. 4 (2021).

TECH POLICY RESEARCH AND REPORTS

- [24] C. Vergara, R. Jain, and S. Mehta. **'A History of Transparency Reform to Shape Platform Regulation'**. *Intl. Conference on Digital Governance (dg.O)*, 2024.
- [25] C. Vergara, J. Lalwani, H. Ranka, N. Kothari, and S. Mehta. **'A Principled Framework to Categorize Social Media Interventions'**. *Working Paper*, 2024.
- [26] S.W. Baksh, D. Mungra, N. Ahasan, V. Pariawala, R. Jain, A. Surve, P. Banerjee, S.M. Eron, S. Mehta, S.R. Diya. **'How Facebook Has Become A Political Battleground In Bangladesh'**. *Report (Tech Global Institute)*, 2024.
- [27] S.W. Baksh, D. Mungra, V. Pariawala, R. Jain, A. Surve, A. Das, M. Biswas, F. Afroz, S.M. Eron, S. Mahmood, S. Mehta, S.R. Diya. **'From homophobia to assault: The gendered landscape of Bangladesh's political disinformation'**. *Report (Tech Global Institute)*, 2024.
- [28] A. Sharma, A. Shetty, M. Surana, S. Mehta. **'Harassment in the Digital Arena: Analyzing Online Abuse Against U.S. Politicians'**. *Report (ADL Center for Tech and Society)*, 2024.
- [29] H. Ross, B. Silverman, J. Allen, S. Mehta, et al. **'Shining a Light on Platform Transparency Best Practices'**. *Report (Integrity Institute)*, 2023.
- [30] G. Ellingson, K. Harbath, J. Allen, Eric Davis, A. Leavitt, S. Mehta, et al. **'Defining and Achieving Success in Elections Integrity'**. *Report (Integrity Institute)*, 2023.