

Swapneel Mehta

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EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

PHD IN DATA SCIENCE
Aug 2023 | New York, NY
Cum. 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
(Instructor, funded by Google Research)
Unicode ML Summer School

UNDERGRADUATE

Artificial Intelligence
Operating Systems
Database Management Systems
Computer Networks + Labs
Computer Graphics + Labs
(Co-founder, FOSS Training Program)
Unicode

AWARDS

2023 Belfer Fellow, CTS
2023 Google exploreCSR Awardee
2023 Google Research Innovator
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 • Git
S3 • Docker • LAMP • SLURM
HTML/CSS • Javascript • C++ • Java

LINKS

Github:// [swapneelm](#)
Twitter:// [@swapneel_mehta](#)
YouTube:// [swapneel_mehta](#)

EXPERIENCE

BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND MIT | POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE

Oct 2023 - Present | Cambridge, MA

- Researching platform governance, free speech, and democracy jointly at BU (Questrom Business School) and MIT (Sloan, Initiative for Digital Economy).

SIMPPL | FOUNDER

Dec 2021 - Present | New York, NY

- Build tools to improve trust on the social internet for WaterAid, Tech Global Institute, VTDigger, Yale Daily News, Sunday Times, Deutsche Welle.
- Selected as a **Google Research Innovator, Founder Fellow, Belfer Fellow**; USD 180,000 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 PROBPLOG '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; won awards from Google, Oxford.

INTERNSHIPS

SLACK, CENTRAL DS | PRODUCT DATA SCIENCE INTERN

May 2023 - Aug 2023 | New York, NY

- Using 'social' learning to increase product feature adoption on Slack.

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

2023 NeurIPS Workshops
2023 AABI
2023 ICLR, AI4ABM Workshop
2023 AI+Local News Challenge
2022 AISTATS
2022 ICML, AI4ABM Workshop
2022 NeurIPS, WBRC
2019 Elsevier JPDC

ORGANIZING

2023 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

TALKS

2023 DW Innovation Days
2023 IIT Madras Data Science
2023 SimPPL Fellowships
2023 Mandiant mWise (Google)
2023 McKinsey Guest Talk
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 the **Lokacart** D2C app for farmers.

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 IllusionBlack software.

GRANTS

2023	Center for Tech and Society	USD 40,000
2023	Google (exploreCSR)	EUR 32,000
2023	Mozilla (Responsible Computing Challenge)	USD 25,000
2023	Goethe Institut	EUR 14,000
2023	Wikimedia Foundation 'WikiCred' Grant	USD 10,000
2023	Deutsche Welle	EUR 4,950
2022	GCP, AWS, Algovera Research Grants	USD 9,000
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] Surve, Aditya, Archit Rathod, Mokshit Surana, Gautam Malpani, Aneesh Shamraj, Sainath Reddy Sankepally, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel S. Mehta. **'Multiagent Simulators for Social Networks'**. In *Multi-Agent Security Workshop, NeurIPS'23*, 2023.
- [2] Surve, Aditya, Archit Rathod, Mokshit Surana, Gautam Malpani, Aneesh Shamraj, Sainath Reddy Sankepally, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel S. Mehta. **'AI's Playdate with Youth Platforms: A Review of AI-Driven Content Moderation Techniques'**. *Working Paper*, 2023.
- [3] Mehta, Swapneel. **'Towards Informed Interventions to Limit the Effects of Misleading Information on Social Networks'**. Ph.D. Thesis. *New York University*, 2023.
- [4] Mehta, Swapneel S., Kevin Aslett, Richard Bonneau, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. **'Platform Outages Increase the Sharing of High-quality News on Reddit'**. *Working Paper*, 2023.
- [5] Mehta, Swapneel S., James Bisbee, Zeve Sanderson, Richard Bonneau, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. **'Identifying the Causal Effects of Twitter's Interventions on Trump's Tweets'**. *Working Paper*, 2023.
- [6] Mehta, Swapneel S., Atilim Gunes Baydin, Richard Bonneau, Jonathan Nagler, and Philip Torr. **'Estimating the Impact of Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior on Content Recommendations in Social Networks'**. In *ICML 2022 Workshop AI for Agent-Based Modelling*, 2022.
- [7] Mehta, Swapneel, Somdeb Sarkhel, Xiang Chen, Saayan Mitra, Vishwanathan Swaminathan, Ryan Rossi, Ali Aminian, Han Guo, and Kshitiz Garg. **'Open-Domain Trending Hashtag Recommendation for Videos'**. In *IEEE International Symposium on Multimedia (ISM)*, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Mehta, Swapneel, and Noah Kasmanoff. '**Covid-19 Modeling and Control via Policy Interventions**'. *In International Conference on Probabilistic Programming (PROBPROG)*, 2021.
- [2] Gandhi, Deep, Raghav Jain, Jay Gala, Jhagrut Lalwani, and Swapneel S. Mehta. '**Expanding Access to ML Research through Student-Led Collaboratives**'. *In NeurIPS 2022 Workshop on Broadening Research Collaborations*, 2022.
- [3] Ganeriwalla, Amrita, and Swapneel Mehta. 'Application of OLS Regression and VAR Models to Analyse the Economies of Varying Political Regimes'. *Journal of Student Research* 10, no. 4 (2021).
- [4] Kieseler, Jan, Markus Stoye, Mauro Verzetti, P. Silva, Swapneel Mehta, Anna Stakia, Yutaro Iiyama, et al. 'Deepjetcore'. Zenodo, Doi 10 (2020).
- [5] Mehta, Swapneel, Mauro Verzetti, Jan Kieseler, and Markus Stoye. 'DeepJet: A Machine Learning Environment for High-Energy Physics', 2018.
- [6] Mehta, Swapneel, Prasanth Kothuri, and Daniel Lanza Garcia. '**Anomaly Detection for Network Connection Logs**'. arXiv Preprint arXiv:1812.01941, 2018.
- [7] Mehta, Swapneel, Chirag Raman, Nitin Ayer, and Sameer Sahasrabudhe. '**Auto-Grading for 3D Modeling Assignments in MOOCs**'. *In 2018 IEEE 18th International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies (ICALT)*, 51–53. IEEE, 2018.
- [8] Mehta, Swapneel, Prasanth Kothuri, and Daniel Lanza Garcia. '**A Big Data Architecture for Log Data Storage and Analysis**'. *In Integrated Intelligent Computing, Communication and Security*, 201–9. Springer, Singapore, 2018.

TECH POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS

- [1] Vergara, Caitlyn, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel Mehta. '**A History of Transparency Reform to Shape Platform Regulation**'. *Working Paper (Tech Policy)*, 2023.
- [2] Lalwani, Jhagrut, Caitlyn Vergara, Veer Pariawala, and Swapneel Mehta. '**A Principled Framework to Categorize Social Media Interventions**'. *Working Paper (Tech Policy)*, 2023.
- [3] Ross, Hilary, Brandon Silverman, Jeff Allen, Swapneel Mehta, Theodora Skeadas, Hallie Stern et al. '**Shining a Light on Platform Transparency Best Practices**'. *Report (Integrity Institute)*, 2023.
- [4] Ellingson, Glenn, Katie Harbath, Jeff Allen, Eric Davis, Alex Leavitt, Swapneel Mehta, Edgard Oliveira et al. '**Defining and Achieving Success in Elections Integrity**'. *Report (Integrity Institute)*, 2023.