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
(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 • 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 Business School) and MIT (Sloan, Initiative for Digital Economy).
- **Community Advisory Board at Integrity Institute**

SIMPPL | Founder
Dec 2021 - Present | New York, NY

- Build tools to improve trust on the social internet for the UN, New York Public Radio, Tech Global Institute, VTDigger, Yale Daily News, Sunday Times, Deutsche Welle.
- Selected as a **Google Research Innovator, Founder Fellow, Belfer Fellow** ; 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 strategies to drive feature adoption at 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

ORGANIZING

TALKS

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

Year		Amount
2024	MIT Delta V Accelerator	USD 15,000
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	Belfer Fellow	USD 40,000
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 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] Swapneel Mehta, Sverre Wiedswang, Marshall van Alstyne. 'Improving the Governance of Digital Platforms with Truth Warrants'. *Working Paper (under review), 2024.*

[2] Swapneel Mehta. 'Towards Informed Interventions to Limit the Effects of Misleading Information on Social Networks'. Ph.D. Thesis. *New York University, 2023.*

[3] Mehta, Swapneel, Kevin Aslett, Richard Bonneau, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. 'Platform Outages Increase the Sharing of High-quality News on Reddit'. *Working Paper, 2023.*

[4] 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.*

[5] 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.*

[6] 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.*

[7] Mehta, Swapneel, and Noah Kasmanoff. 'Covid-19 Modeling and Control via Policy Interventions'. *In International Conference on Probabilistic Programming (PROBPROG), 2021.*

[8] Mehta, Swapneel, Chirag Raman, Nitin Ayer, and Sameer 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.*

[9] Mehta, Swapneel, Prasanth Kothuri, and Daniel Lanza 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.*

[10] Mehta, Swapneel, Prasanth Kothuri, and Daniel Lanza Garcia. 'Anomaly Detection for Network Connection Logs'. arXiv Preprint arXiv:1812. 01941, 2018.

STUDENT RESEARCH

[11] Aditya Surve*, Aneesh Shamraj*, and Swapneel Mehta. 'How Decentralization Affects User Agency on Social Platforms'. *Short Paper (Oral), Data Challenge, AAAI Intl. Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2024.*

[12] Chaitya Shah, Ritesh Konka, Gautam Malpani, Swapneel Mehta, and Lynnette Ng. 'Can Social Media Platforms Transcend Political Labels? An Analysis of Neutral Conservations on Truth Social'. *Short Paper (Oral), DARE Workshop, AAAI Intl. Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2024.*

[13] Aditya Surve, Archit Rathod, Mokshit Surana, Gautam Malpani, Aneesh Shamraj, Sainath Reddy Sankepally, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel Mehta. 'Multiagent Simulators for Social Networks'. *(Oral) In Multi-Agent Security Workshop, NeurIPS'23, 2023.*

[14] Aditya Surve, Archit Rathod, Mokshit Surana, Gautam Malpani, Sainath Reddy Sankepally, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel Mehta. 'AI's Playdate with Youth Platforms: A Review of AI-Driven Content Moderation Techniques'. *Working Paper, 2023.*

[15] 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.*

[16] 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).

[17] Kieseler, Jan, Markus Stoye, Mauro Verzetti, P. Silva, Swapneel Mehta, Anna Stakia, Yutaro Iiyama, et al. 'Deepjetcore'. Zenodo, Doi 10 (2020).

[18] Mehta, Swapneel, Mauro Verzetti, Jan Kieseler, and Markus Stoye. 'DeepJet: A Machine Learning Environment for High-Energy Physics', 2018.

TECH POLICY

[19] Vergara, Caitlyn, Raghav Jain, and Swapneel Mehta. 'A History of Transparency Reform to Shape Platform Regulation'. *Intl. Conference on Digital Governance (dg.O), 2024.*

[20] Lalwani, Jhagrut, Caitlyn Vergara, Veer Pariawala, and Swapneel Mehta. 'A Principled Framework to Categorize Social Media Interventions'. *Working Paper (Tech Policy), 2024.*

[21] 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.*

[22] 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.*