[[[Link to grant website](https://cyber.fsi.stanford.edu/io/news/call-proposals-expanding-online-trust-safety-research)]]

**Purpose**: Expanding Online Trust and Safety Research – A new research initiative offers funding to researchers studying trust and safety in the majority world.

Due: Jan. 30, 2024

Key Takeaways About Grant

* Supported by Omidyar Network
* Pilot program funding 6-10 proposals “broadly” studying issues associated with online safety ***outside*** of North American or Western European context.
* Topics (included but not limited to) – fraud, harassment, information interference, abusive content, encryption, internet connectivity, child safety and content moderation.
* Research has to highlight the impact of trust and safety issues on users globally.
* Awardees will be able to meet with researchers affiliated with the Stanford Cyber Policy Center for advice and feedback on their work.

Proposal Guidelines + Next Steps

* **Name(s), title(s) and affiliation(s) of participating researchers**
* Swapneel, Caitlyn, Raghav, Dhara, SimPPL…
* **A 2-page, single-spaced, font size: 12 summary proposal, structured as follows:**
* Brief motivation for the proposed project
  + Elections are a time ripe for information interference in a variety of settings.
  + There are many scattered fact-checking efforts by region, language, ethnicity, and domain of operation, recently organized under leading newspapers like Times of India, and smaller ones like Jagran New Media.
  + We want to operationalize their work by advancing previous work into tiplines using generative artificial intelligence tools in a responsible manner.
  + We aggregate fact-checks into a singular, multilingual database comprising both past and existing fact-checks from well-known third party fact checkers that are also part of the IFCN and Meta’s programs.
  + We create a chatbot using retrieval-augmented generation and launch a tipline powered by AI to augment the human fact-checking efforts that are prioritized based on incoming messages from users.
  + The AI tipline relies only on pre-collected fact-checks and answers questions about verified misleading information. It helps fact-checkers prioritize their fact-checking efforts to address the most prevalent narratives. We publish these narratives on a live website to track incoming “tips” in a transparent manner with an opportunity for public comment.
  + This will serve as a prototype for transparently scaling and operationalizing disjoint, multi-regional fact-checking efforts, and for crowdsourcing narratives that seek to interfere with elections using caste politics, religious beliefs, and other socioeconomic distinctions.
* Research question(s) to be addressed
  + RQ1: Do AI-augmented tiplines mitigate the prevalence of viral multilingual misinformation on WhatsApp?
  + RQ2: Does literacy significantly improve the resistance to misleading information in cities compared to villages?
  + RQ3: What are the topical differences in the prevalence of misleading narratives in cities and villages?
* Context: Where will the research take place?
  + Maharashtra, India, remotely and through in-person camps with support from local nonprofits.
* Research Methodology (please be as detailed as possible)
  + Deployed in local villages in Maharashtra in partnership with public health nonprofit using their distribution channels for local audiences
  + In Mumbai through Lions Club of Mumbai and schools and colleges.
  + How will we deploy these tiplines to people?
    - SimPPL Fellowships: 100-200 students from over 20 different colleges in Mumbai.
    - NGO in rural villages in Maharashtra running public health operations for over a thousand people each month.
* Brief explanation for why you/your team is qualified to conduct this research
  + SimPPL; student org; sell our work.
  + Built Sakhi already, have capacity to build and deploy an application along similar lines.
* **Complete Project Timeline Template**
* [Example Template](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yPqMivp9KvZ4T4RmIgryj8qZnuw9L-l1DilTw-FZup4/edit?usp=sharing)
* [SimPPL Template](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cDR4Kqkdk9vwHRcRQLEgeVSwgS1GbYbnYRSt6uJz-hc/edit?usp=sharing)
* [ADL CTS Budget](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HzSXrRtzKYTMPThjEkToTfRZaRp2RRuj8aiL2kBHW64/edit?usp=sharing) - this is incomplete, so some numbers may be repeated
* [WikiCred Project Milestones](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P7DKwKgIIi9YjfgqShxLktXBbtUtJHPqhzUCBLmYpFw/edit?usp=sharing)
* [7. Timeline AI4Good](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NyYMYe65UWbZLDCiJQJoGzzQsOWhjOcrH1atgVfeZwY/edit?usp=sharing)

* **Itemized Budget Template**
* [Example](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gTo3MhyYk-zLIbUqPFbtK5EdEdaDeY7Y/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115030818502178580514&rtpof=true&sd=true)
* [DW Akademie Budget](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t8ldj8yv9ZOOG-pk-_H0Wg54bfilTr0-R_rhz7jJ-SU/edit?usp=sharing)
* [LLaMa Grant Budget](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1i9XACNJun4ldbE3lkzp_e8B5CcFTBtU3krFoF_EJXXk/edit?usp=sharing)
* [2024 Budget Workplan Template.xlsx](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Xdexvybld5x56eG3umcqC7rMqhxMklYK/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103661524116548978600&rtpof=true&sd=true) - This has guidelines also, for first-timers building a comprehensive budget plan.
* Budgets will also be clearer if you add a paragraph explaining key line items for the budget, called a justification.
* [One Fact Foundation CDC Budget Justification](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1egpaoJJIL9WKjKXowDXV-UOJHyW-xQyANsVMuQgm9ps/edit?usp=sharing)
* [SimPPL itemized budget template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JqG6t7pvW3yU0VdBbOovFXvXLPIQD5pk/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115030818502178580514&rtpof=true&sd=true) – Costs may include researcher salary, hiring research assistants, data collection, enumerator costs, and institutional overhead.
  + SimPPL Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Awardee Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Awardee Institution Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_AI Tiplines\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Items, beginning dates, end date, cost (USD)
  + Bank transfer information
* **More information** 
  + Collaborators- Name(s), Email Address(es), Affiliation(s), Country of residence:
  + Additional Information (if any):