# Prompt: Personal Statement

Artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized human-computer interaction, evolving from a decision support system to automating complex processes. Recent advances in generative AI (GenAI) hold immense promise, yet the competitive race among large language model (LLM) providers has led to an AI arms race, often neglecting necessary safeguards for the global deployment of these compound AI systems. The stakes are high, as AI's influence on human discourse can be nearly indistinguishable from human interactions. Instances of GenAI deepfakes influencing public opinion during elections in countries like Pakistan, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and the United States underscore the urgency for safe and cooperative AI deployment.

The rapid pace of AI development often outstrips regulatory mechanisms, creating a gap between technological advancements and the policies needed to ensure their safe and equitable use. Current solutions, such as self-governance by tech companies, fall short due to the monopolistic tendencies of these platforms. There is a pressing need for collaborative AI and platform regulation, informed by rigorous research, to protect users from online harms associated with AI-driven services.

My motivation to become an AI fellow stems from a deep-seated interest in the intersection of technology, policy, and societal impact. My research focuses on algorithms, misinformation, and social networks, aiming to mitigate online harms through responsible computing solutions. Consulting with the European Commission, Ofcom, and other regulatory bodies, I have contributed to shaping digital safety regulations. My nonprofit, launched in 2021, spans over 20 projects across six countries, driven by undergraduate students trained through our fellowship programs. As a postdoctoral researcher at Boston University and MIT, I explore platform governance and free speech, balancing my time between academia and industry to address practical, relevant problems. I presented to policymakers from three embassies this year and am well-placed to identify partners to help drive my ambitions forward. As a fellow, I propose to contribute through SimPPL, advancing research in platform governance and content moderation. I aim to create frameworks that enhance transparency and accountability in AI-driven systems. I will also focus on fostering cross-border data sharing agreements that promote linguistic diversity in LLMs, ensuring that AI technologies globally are inclusive and representative of diverse populations.

A pertinent policy challenge at the intersection of U.S.-India cooperation in AI is the development of a robust digital public infrastructure for AI services. This infrastructure would be akin to India's UIDAI and UPI systems, providing a platform to define and apply standardization for the AI stack. Such a framework would facilitate the safe deployment of AI technologies, ensuring they align with democratic values and respect for universal human rights.

The U.S. and India, as founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), are well-positioned to collaborate on establishing common AI standards. This partnership can focus on creating global benchmarks for evaluating the safety and efficacy of LLMs, developing a common taxonomy for AI systems, and enhancing cybersecurity through AI. The U.S. expertise in AI research and policy, combined with India's innovative startup ecosystem, can drive forward initiatives that ensure AI technologies are deployed responsibly and equitably.

Moreover, there is a need for knowledge transfer through grassroots efforts that educate and empower the younger generation to contribute to the regulatory reinvention of AI policy--aligned with our Google and Mozilla-funded fellowships at SimPPL. We need to create activation mechanisms that give Indian audiences agency over their personal data collection and use. The U.S. can play a crucial role in this knowledge exchange, sharing insights from its regulatory practices and helping to shape India's approach to AI governance. I hope that as a fellow I get a chance to move this important work forward.

# Handcrafted Personal Statement

Artificial intelligence (AI) has reinvented human computer interaction, serving as an effective decision support system to provide feedback on human-led processes and to entirely automate some of them. Recent advances in generative AI (GenAI) hold incredible promise but the competition between large language model (LLM) providers has resulted in an AI arms race contributing to a lack of adequate safeguards for the global deployment of so-called compound AI systems.

To say that it is important to ensure safe and cooperative deployment of AI is an understatement given the stakes involved. AI can significantly influence human discourse and debates in nearly indistinguishable ways from human conversations. GenAI deepfakes have been employed extensively to mobilize and influence public opinion during elections in well-documented instances in Pakistan, Philippines, India, Indonesia, and the United States. Consumer-facing chatbots are now available on WhatsApp, Google, and other major providers, enabling information access for vulnerable audiences within the global majority. Whether directly through conversational systems or indirectly via platform services, a majority of our online experiences are algorithmically curated to our prior expression of preferences.

Tech frequently outpaces regulatory mechanisms and AI is no different. The breakneck pace of AI development has created a situation where the corresponding policymaking measures to ensure its safe and equitable use are lagging. Current solutions like self-governance are limited and ineffective given the monopolistic ambitions of tech platforms to entrench themselves as the leading providers of AI products at all costs. We require collaborative development of AI and Platform regulation informed by rigorous research that ensures users are adequately protected against online harms arising from AI and AI-driven services through effective policies.

For India, there are three areas of cooperation with the US in order to drive innovation in AI policy: first, there is a requirement for knowledge transfer through grassroots efforts that educate, incentivize, and empower the younger generation of leaders to contribute to regulatory reinvention of AI Policy. My pitch focuses on the third. Second, there is a need for a globally relevant set of activation mechanisms that allow Indian audiences agency over the collection and use of their personal data. And third, there is a need for a digital public infrastructure underlying AI services similar to UIDAI and UPI such that it helps provide a platform to define and apply standardization for the AI stack. On a number of these fronts, US expertise, from both an AI research and policy intervention standpoint, would contribute to informing Indian initiatives. California is one of the states leading the charge on proposing regulatory mechanisms to hold AI model providers liable for the generated content. On the other hand, there are a significant number of challenges for the US where AI model evaluation and risk potential in consumer settings is hard to tie down. The rich multilingual data and culturally and ethnically diverse audiences can inform the development and regulation of novel AI safeguards. Additionally, it is often emergent companies in the Indian startup ecosystem that are the leading providers of Indic LLM models globally.

My research straddles algorithms, misinformation, and social networks, investigating how to mitigate online harms by building responsible computing solutions. My work has also focused on driving forward platform transparency regulation. Consulting with the European Commission, Ofcom, and other EU and UK regulatory authorities via a think tank, the Integrity Institute, I helped advise on digital safety regulation policies. My nonprofit launched late in 2021, and spans 20+ projects in 6 countries, entirely led by undergraduate students that we have trained through our Google and Mozilla award-winning fellowships program. I conduct postdoctoral research at Boston University and MIT on platform governance and free speech. I cofounded a women's health startup in India and balance my time between industry and academia to source and solve relevant, practical problems.