

# REHAN ALI MIRZA

+1-617-352-4968 | [ramirza1@gmail.com](mailto:ramirza1@gmail.com) | [rmirza@upenn.edu](mailto:rmirza@upenn.edu) | [rehanmirza.net](http://rehanmirza.net)

 [linkedin.com/in/rehanamirza](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rehanamirza) |  [github.com/ramirza1](https://github.com/ramirza1) | ORCID: 0009-0001-6397-9194

3620 Walnut St, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - 19104, United States

## EDUCATION

### University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in Communications

Aug 2025 - Present

Philadelphia, PA, U.S.

- **Advisor:** Sandra González-Bailón | Affiliation: Center for Information Networks and Democracy (CIND)
- **Research interests:** Prosocial platform design, user behavior, network interactions, digital governance

### Harvard Kennedy School

Master in Public Policy

May 2023

Cambridge, MA, U.S.

**Capstone thesis:** Tracking digital censorship of prosocial platform use cases in autocratic contexts

### University College London

MSc. Global Health and Development

September 2016

London, U.K.

Distinction, top 5 in cohort of 90+ students

### University of Cambridge

B.A. Economics

June 2014

Cambridge, U.K.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Prosocial Design Network

Fellow

Apr 2025 - Present

Remote

- Product mapping of LLM-enabled tools to improve discourse on social media
- Facilitating workshops on translating research in practice in trust & safety

### Department of Government, University of Birmingham

Research Associate

Oct 2024 - Jul 2025

Birmingham, U.K.

- Statistical and geospatial analysis investigating environmental-violence pathways
- Narrative and dataset review, developing a conceptual framework on climate-health engagement

### Institute of Child Health, University College London

Research Assistant

Sep 2015 - Feb 2017

London, U.K.

- Multivariate analysis and data collection to evaluate public health interventions

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Policy Researcher | Shorenstein Center, Harvard Kennedy School

Cambridge, MA, U.S. | 2023-24

- Analyzed platform governance using Facebook Papers dataset for policy recommendations
- Research and website development for voter education campaign on responsible social media use
- Engaged with the FCC, FTC, and Obama Foundation on digital governance initiatives

### Strategy Consultant | L.E.K. Consulting

London, U.K. | 2017-21

- Quantitative modeling and data analysis across 20+ projects for public sector and commercial clients
- 60+ semi-structured interviews; survey design and analysis; large dataset modeling

### Research Intern | UNICEF Innovation

Copenhagen, Denmark | 2015

Market research and data analysis on emerging health technology products

### Intern | World Health Organization

Geneva, Switzerland | 2014-15

Organized Global mHypertension Workshop engaging 60+ cross-sector experts

## SELECTED PROJECTS

---

- Integrity Institute:** Operational Lead for Tech Policy Tracker *Aug 2024 - Present*
- Voluntary project - built database for tracking U.S. federal and state technology legislation, including a front-end searchable repository
  - Semi-automated data processing pipeline using ML for bill summarization and vector search functionality
- Digital Policy Alert:** Policy tracking and analysis *Oct 2024 - Jun 2025*
- Comparative analysis of content moderation laws across global jurisdictions
  - Contributed ~30% of new policy tracker entries in the Activity Tracker database during tenure
- Trustible (AI Governance platform):** Consulting project on AI governance readiness *Jul 2023 - Oct 2023*
- Interviewed privacy professionals on AI governance readiness
- Twitter (Now X):** Capstone project on digital repression of prosocial media use *Oct 2022 - Apr 2023*
- Mixed-methods analysis demonstrated prosocial use cases of Twitter in three autocratic country contexts

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Policy Publications:

- Giardini, T., Buza, M., & Mirza, R. (2025). **1. Global Digital Policy Roundup: May 2025.** *Tech Policy Press.*
- Mirza, R., Giardini, T., & Buza, M. (2025). **2. How Can Governments Regulate Default Settings to Unlock User-Friendly Features?** *Tech Policy Press.*
- Mirza, R. (2024). **3. How AI deepfakes threaten the 2024 elections.** *The Journalists Resource.*
- Mirza, R. (2023). **4. Privacy Pioneers: AI as the New Frontier.** *Trustible.*
- Skeadas, T., Mirza, R., & Vishwanath, M. (2023). **5. Digital Disruption: Measuring the Social and Economic Costs of Internet Shutdowns?** *Tech Policy Press.*

### Discussion Papers & Case Studies:

- Mirza, R. (2023). **Case Study on Online Youth Harms – Project Daisy.** *Shorenstein Center.*
- Mirza, R. (2023). **Case Study: Integrity or Influence? Facebook's Governance Trade-offs in India.** *Shorenstein Center.*
- Jetty, S., Chen, T., & Mirza, R. (2022). **Meme War: The GameStop Short Squeeze Campaign.** *Media Manipulation Casebook.*

## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

---

### "A Narrative Review of Public and Political Engagement on Health and Climate Change"

Mirza, R., Birmingham Institute for Sustainability and Climate Action, July 16, 2025

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

- **Research Methods:** Statistical analysis, geospatial analysis, survey design, content analysis, literature reviews, semi-structured interviews
- **Programming:** Python, R, Stata, API integration, ML/NLP deployment
- **Tools:** Qualtrics, Tableau, Alteryx, database management, web development

## TEACHING & MENTORING

---

- **Course Assistantships:** Politics of the Press (Prof. Nancy Gibbs, Harvard Kennedy School, Fall 2022); Politics and Ethics in Unstable Times (Prof. Yanilda Gonzalez, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2023)
- **Academic Advising:** Dudley Community, Harvard College (2022-2023)

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

---

- **Writing:** Co-founded Writers Professional Interest Group, Harvard Kennedy School (2022-2023)
- **Performing Arts:** Harvard Noteables Broadway Show Choir - singing, choreography, scriptwriting (2022-2023)
- **International Service:** U.K. International Citizen Service volunteer, Eastern Cape, South Africa (2014)