

Ryan R. Rajpal

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South Plainfield, New Jersey

Education

Rutgers University - New Brunswick , School of Arts and Sciences	May 2025
• B.A. Double Major: Political Science and Philosophy; GPA: 3.91, Summa Cum Laude	
• Honors Thesis: Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? (2025)	

- **Gardner Thesis:** Understanding the Techno-Political Landscape: The Evolution of Digital Activism (2024)

Research Experience

PPL Institute [<i>Prototype</i>]	Remote
Director, Founder	May 2025 - Present
• Led teams to study opinions regarding AI on social media and reproductive care amidst climate change	

- Drafted public facing scientific reports, general-public articles, and infographics of each study

Department of Political Science, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
Research Assistant	Jan 2024 - Sep 2025

- Co-developed an experiment with Dr. Katherine McCabe to understand how aggressive and civil political discussion on social media affects attitudes and behaviors regarding political discussion on social media
- Designed 10 experimental “Reddit post” conditions and used HTML to make the conditions look realistic
- Cleaned and analyzed data in R from an original survey experiment and drafted a report

Aresty Research Center, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
Research Assistant	Oct 2024 - Apr 2025

- Assisted Dr. Paru Shah in creating the 2022 Candidate Characteristics Cooperative (C3) Database
- Merged and analyzed data to test if regional demography influences WOC’s desire to run for office

Network Contagion Research Institute	Princeton, NJ
Research Assistant	May - Dec 2024

- Designed surveys measuring the health of democracy and the effects of bots on Americans
- Analyzed data by using t-tests, ANOVAs, and linear regression models; visualized data for reports with ggplot2
- Drafted paper sections including theory, data/results, and discussion

Social Perception Lab, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
Research Assistant	May 2023 - May 2024

- Literature review, qualitative coding, survey writing, and conceptual modeling of right wing authoritarianism

Manuscripts in Preparation

Funck, A., Krumholz, K., **Rajpal, R.**, & McCabe, K. “Is Talking Politics Always Risky Business? Experimental Interventions to Create Positive Political Discussion in Non-Political Spaces.” (In Progress).

Public Reports

Goldenberg, A., McCann-Phillips, C., Jagdeep, A., Lazarus, S., Zecher, M., Fedida, O., Führer, G., Finkelstein, J., Gamil, F., Finkelstein, D., Yanovsky, S., **Rajpal, R.**, & Jussim, L. (2024). The Botification of The American Mind. *Network Contagion Research Institute*. networkcontagion.us/reports/the-botification-of-the-american-mind/

Jussim, L., Yanovsky, S., Finkelstein, D., Finkelstein, J., Donohue, J., Goldenberg, A., Patel, S., Selby, E., Glover, T., Vasko, C., Jagdeep, A., Abdallah, L., Harley, S., Ibrahim, C., Kalisch-Cellai, C., Karra, P., Mehta, A., & **Rajpal, R.** (2024). One Click Away: A Study on the Prevalence and Accessibility of Non-Suicidal Self Injury, Suicide, and Eating Disorder Content in Search Engines. *Network Contagion Research Institute*. ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/276526/one-click-away-ncri-report

Presentations

National Presentations
Rajpal, R.R. (2025, April). Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? [Poster Presentation]. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Funck, A., **Rajpal, R.R.** (2024, September). Is Talking Politics Always Risky Business? Experimental Interventions to Create Positive Political Discussion in Non-Political Spaces [Poster Presentation]. American Political Science Association Political Psychology Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Other Presentations

Rajpal, R.R. (2025, April). Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? [Poster presentation]. Political Science Thesis Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Connelly, R., **Rajpal, R. R.** (2025, April). State Demographics and Representation: What Inspires Women of Color to Run? [Poster presentation]. Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Rajpal, R.R. (2024, April). Understanding the Techno-political Landscape: The Evolution of Digital Activism [Poster presentation]. Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Awards and Fellowships

2025	Henry Rutgers Scholar Award, Rutgers University (\$1000) [SAS Thesis Award]
2025	Paul Robeson Scholar, Rutgers University
2025	Neil McDonald Prize, Rutgers University (\$350)
2025	Jacob Cooper Prize in Logic, Rutgers University (\$750)
2025	Design Justice Lab Research Fellowship, Rutgers University (\$500)
2024	<i>Pi Sigma Alpha - Beta Omicron</i> Honor Society, Political Science Honor Society
2023	<i>Phi Sigma Tau - Theta</i> Honor Society, Philosophy Honor Society
2023-2024	Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship, Rutgers University (\$1500)
2022-2025	School of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award, Rutgers University (\$4000)
2021-2025	Dean's List, Rutgers University

Teaching Experience

Kelly Education

Substitute Teacher

South Plainfield, NJ

Jan - June 2025

- Provided instruction in classrooms of various subjects with up to 30 students for grades 5-12

Department of Psychology, Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

Learning Assistant, General Psychology 101

Sep 2023 - Dec 2024

- Managed and led review sessions, answered hundreds of student emails, wrote review questions

Professional Experience

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office

New Brunswick, NJ

Trial and Juvenile Crime Intern

Sep 2023 - Apr 2024

- Conducted legal research on case law and statutes to support attorneys in juvenile trial preparation
- Prepared, organized, and managed case files and discovery materials using Infoshare

Leadership

Phi Sigma Tau - Theta Honor Society

President

Apr 2024 - Apr 2025

Social Media Officer

Apr 2023 - Apr 2024

The Institute of Domestic and International Affairs

Vice President

Apr 2024 - Apr 2025

Director of Digital Content

Apr 2023 - Apr 2024

Committee Director/Assistant Director [Educator Role]

Jan 2023 - Feb 2025

Skills

Coding: R/RStudio, Python, STATA, Excel, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

Technical: Qualtrics, Adobe Studio, Canva, Microsoft/Google Office