

# Sarmad Chandio

SPARTA Lab @ University of Iowa  
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Data Analysis, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Large Language Models (LLM), Social Computing

## Education

- 2021–present      **Ph.D. in Computer Science**  
Advisor: [Dr. Rishab Nithyanand](#), University of Iowa
- 2017–2021        **B.S. in Computer Science (Dean's Honor List)**  
LUMS, Pakistan

## Professional Experience

- 2021–present    **Research Assistant**  
[SPARTA](#) at University of Iowa  
Human-platform Interaction • Platform auditing • Internet measurement
- 2020–2021      **Research Assistant**  
[ISPL](#) at LUMS, Pakistan  
Online privacy compliance • Internet measurement

## Publications

- ICWSM 2024      **Youtube Audit Methodologies**  
How Audit Methods Impact Our Understanding of YouTube's Recommendation System?  
[Sarmad Chandio](#), Daniyal Dar, Rishab Nithyanand

## Projects

### Role of Social Media in Radicalizing Users

Is there a relationship between social media use and radical traits of a person? I employ causal inference techniques (e.g difference in differences) on observational data formulating a natural experiment to find that relationship.

### Inferring Radicalization Through YouTube Media Diet

How does the watch behavior of radical users of YouTube differ from its non-radical users? Using NLP techniques, I explore the textual characteristics (e.g vocabulary, style, context) of videos which are preferential by radical users.

### Systematic Detection of Data Voids

Uncovering gaps in indexing of online information that leads users towards misinformation. We use transformer based approaches to predict the *misinformation bubbles* during the pandemic through a Reddit dataset.

### Quantitative Analysis of Volunteer and Paid Moderation

Investigating the effects of monetary incentives on Reddit volunteer moderators in a randomized control trial using regression analysis. I modified the 2017 Reddit open-source code to conduct this experiment.

## Talks & Honors

- October 2023 & April 2024      Conducted a graduate level interdisciplinary workshop on the data analysis of subreddits to study online discourse in US media at WashU.
- March 2023        Career Panelist for Sonia Kovalevsky Day at UIowa.
- May 2023          Conducted a workshop at LUMS on auditing recommendation systems.