

# Shreyas Meher

Postdoctoral Scholar at Erasmus University Rotterdam

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## Employment

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<b>Erasmus University Rotterdam</b> , Rotterdam, Netherlands	June 2025
Postdoctoral Researcher	
<b>National Science Foundation (NSF)</b> , Richardson, Texas	August 2023 - May 2025
Research Assistant	
Project: Frameworks: Infrastructure for Political and Social Event Data Using Machine Learning	
<b>The University of Texas at Dallas</b> , Richardson, Texas	August 2020 - July 2023
Teaching Assistant	

## Education

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<b>The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)</b> , Richardson, Texas	August 2020 - May 2025
Ph.D. Public Policy and Political Economy	
Chair: Clint Peinhardt	
Committee: Pengfei Zhang (Co-Chair), Patrick Brandt	
Dissertation: The Intersection of Politics, Economics, and Digital Space: A Trilogy of Investigations	
<b>The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)</b> , Richardson, Texas	August 2018 - May 2020
M.S. Management	
<b>St. Xavier's College</b> , Mumbai, India	June 2016 - April 2018
M.S. Public Policy	
<b>Sarla Anil Modi School, NMIMS</b> , Mumbai, India	July 2013 - April 2016
B.S. Economics	

## Research

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### Research Fields

Comparative Politics, Computational Social Science, International Political Economy

### Research Topics

Internet Censorship, Democratic Backsliding, Political Conflict, Large Language Models

## Funded Research Projects

**TWIN4DEM: Strengthening Democratic Resilience Through Digital Twins** (Postdoctoral Researcher; PI: Clara Egger, Asya Zhelyazkova). **Horizon Europe [2025–2027]**

**Frameworks: Infrastructure for Political and Social Event Data** (Graduate Research Assistant; PI: Patrick T. Brandt). **NSF [2023–2026]**

## Publications

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Brandt, P. T., Alsarra, S., D'Orazio, V., Heintze, D., Khan, L., **Meher, S.**, Osorio, J., & Sianan, M. (2025). Extractive versus Generative Language Models for Political Conflict Text Classification. *Political Analysis*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1017/pan.2025.10027>

**Meher, S.**, & Brandt, P. T. (2025). ConflLlama: Domain-specific adaptation of large language models for conflict event classification. *Research & Politics*, 12(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680251356282>

Kumar, S., **Meher, S.**, & Zhang, P. (2025). Public Health Advocacy in Times of Pandemic: An Analysis of the Medicare-For-All Debate on Twitter During COVID-19. *Behavioral Sciences*, 15(2), 223. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15020223>

## Under Review

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**Democracy and Internet Control** (with Pengfei Zhang) – Examining content control in democracies, revealing a unique approach compared to authoritarian regimes.

**Two Types of Censorship? An Assessment of the Informational Autocracy Thesis in the Online Space** – Classifying autocratic internet filtering practices into distinct regimes and their implications.

## Working Papers

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**Expanding the Horizons** – Investigating the dynamics of international organizations through the lens of network structures.

**Populism and the Price of Abandonment: Analyzing the Exit Dynamics from Bilateral Investment Treaties** (With Clint Peinhardt) – Exploring the interplay between populist policies and the economic implications of withdrawing from international investment treaties.

**Event Horizon: Revolutionizing Data Annotation with Reinforcement Learning** – Presenting an innovative framework that fuses political science insights with cutting-edge computer science techniques to produce structured, transparent annotations for complex events.

## Dissertation

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**Democracy and Internet Control: Theory and Evidence from Transparency Reports** – Analyzes democratic approaches to internet censorship using data from Google and Twitter, revealing subtle yet significant content moderation strategies.

**Two Types of Censorship? An Assessment of the Informational Autocracy Thesis in the Online Space** – Testing how Guriev & Triesman's IA theory holds in the realm of internet filtering practices in autocratic nations.

**The Politics of Internet Blackouts: Investigating Digital Repression during the 2021 Farmer Protests in India** – Focuses on India's use of internet blackouts as a control mechanism during the 2021 Farmer Protests, highlighting the tactics of digital repression in a democratic context.

## Teaching Experience

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### Instructor for EPPS Math & Coding Camp August 2024

- Taught coding section for incoming PhD students over a 5-day intensive program
- Covered topics including R programming, data manipulation, visualization, and linear regression
- Designed and delivered hands-on sessions on RStudio, ggplot2, and dplyr
- Developed and maintained an open source website for course modules and materials

### Teaching Assistant for

<b>EPPS 2301</b> - Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences	Fall 2020
<b>SOC 4302</b> - Class, Status, and Power	Fall 2020
<b>IPEC 4301</b> - Political Economy of Industrialized Countries	Spring 2021
<b>PSCI 4396</b> - Selected Topics in Government and Politics (Afghanistan)	Fall 2021
<b>EPPS 6316</b> - Applied Regression	Spring 2022
<b>PPPE 6302/PSCI 6302</b> - Political Violence and Conflict in Cyberspace	Fall 2022
<b>EPPS 6313</b> - Introduction to Quantitative Methods	Fall 2022
<b>IPEC/PSCI 4318</b> - Foreign Aid and Development	Spring 2023

## Conference Presentations

International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC <sup>2</sup> S <sup>2</sup> )	(2025)
International Studies Association (ISA)	(2025)
Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM)	(2024)
Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (SIOE)	(2024)
American Political Science Association (APSA)	(2024, 2025)
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	(2024, 2025, 2026)
UTD PPPE Working Paper Series	(2023)
NAPE, Houston	(2020)

## Honors & Awards

<b>University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)</b> , Richardson, Texas	
The Colloquium for the Advancement of Free-Enterprise Education (CAFÉ) research scholar	2020
Dean's Excellence Scholarship	2020

## Book Contributions

<i>Cognella Publishing</i> , American Government & State and Local Government	2021
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## Skills and Languages

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**Skills:** R, STATA, PYTHON, LATEX, ARCGIS, C++

## References

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**Patrick T. Brandt**

Professor of Public Policy, Political Economy,  
and Political Science  
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Email: [pbrandt@utdallas.edu](mailto:pbrandt@utdallas.edu)

**Clint Peinhardt**

UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher  
Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and  
Political Economy  
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences  
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**Pengfei Zhang**

Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Political  
Economy  
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences  
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**Karl Ho**

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