Shreyas Meher

PhD Candidate in Public Policy & Political Economy

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Education

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), Richardson, Texas   2020 - 2025 (Expected)
Ph.D. Public Policy and Political Economy
Advisor: Clint Peinhardt
Committee: Pengfei Zhang (Co-Chair), Lauren Pinson, Patrick Brandt
Dissertation: The Intersection of Politics, Economics, and Digital Space: A Trilogy of Investigations
St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, India   2018
M.S. Public Policy
Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai, India   2016
B.S. Economics

Research Experience

Research Fields
Digital Economics, Political Analysis, Computational Linguistics
Research Topics
Cyber Law and Policy, Content Moderation, Internet Censorship, Political Conflict and Violence, Behavioral and Experimental Economics
NSF Grant Project: ConfliBERT   2023 - Present
Research Assistant to Dr. Patrick Brandt
Developing ConfliBERT, a language model aimed at analyzing political conflict and violence.

Working Papers

Democracy and Internet Control (with Dr. Pengfei Zhang) – Examining content control in democracies, revealing a unique approach compared to authoritarian regimes.
Two Types of Censorship (with Dr. Pengfei Zhang) – Classifying global internet filtering practices into distinct regimes and their implications.
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 Dr. Clint Peinhardt) – Exploring the interplay between populist policies and the economic implications of withdrawing from international investment treaties.
How do Interest Groups adapt their Communication Strategy to Big Shocks? An analysis of the Medicare-For-All Debate on Twitter during COVID-19. (With Sushant Kumar & Pengfei Zhang) – Analyzing the contrasting social media strategies of health advocacy groups on Medicare-For-All during COVID-19, revealing the impact of narrative styles on public engagement and policy debate.
Introducing the ConfliBERT Family of Language Models for Political Science (with Patrick Brandt, Vito D'Orazio & Javier Osorio) – Introducing ConfliBERT, a specialized LLM for analyzing political violence and conflict, demonstrating superior performance and potential for multilingual expansion.

Dissertation

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.
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.
The Digital Vacuum and Its Effects: A Synthetic Control Study on the Impact of Google's Departure from China – Examines the global impact of Google's exit from China, studying the aftermath on digital governance, state reactions, and digital sovereignty discussions.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for

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

Conference Presentations

International Conference on Computational Social Science	2024
American Political Science Association (APSA)	2024
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2024
UTD PPPE Working Paper Series (November)	2023
NAPE, Houston	2020

Honors & Awards

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

Book Contributions

Cognella Publishing, American Government & State and Local Government	2021

Skills and Languages

Skills: R, STATA, Python, LaTeX, ArcGIS

Languages: English (Fluent), Marathi (Fluent in reading and writing), Hindi (Fluent in reading and writing), French (Beginner)