

# Shreyas Meher

PhD Candidate in Public Policy & Political Economy

(+1) 972-571-8290 — shreyas.meher@utdallas.edu — [www.shreyasmeher.com](http://www.shreyasmeher.com) — twitter: @shreyasmhr

## Education

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**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

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### 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

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**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

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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.

**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

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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 (Dr. Richard Scotch)	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

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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

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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

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<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, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, ArcGIS

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

## 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

Phone: 972-883-4923

### **Pengfei Zhang**

Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Political  
Economy

University of Texas at Dallas

Email: pengfei.zhang@utdallas.edu

### **Clint Peinhardt**

UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher

Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Political Economy

PhD Advisor for Public Policy and Political Economy

University of Texas at Dallas

Email: clint.peinhardt@utdallas.edu

Phone: 972-883-4955