ASHWIN RAJADESINGAN

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EMPLOYMENT

Department of Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin   Fall 2022-Present
Assistant Professor

Affiliations:
Assistant Professor (by courtesy) - School of Information
Senior Faculty Associate - Center for Media Engagement

Facebook Core Data Science, Menlo Park, CA   Summer 2021
PhD Research Intern

Microsoft Research, Bangalore, India   Summer 2019
PhD Research Intern

Doximity, San Francisco CA   September 2014 - June 2017
Senior Data Scientist

EDUCATION

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI   2017-2022
PhD in Information

Arizona State University - Tempe, AZ   2012-2014
MS in Computer Science

Vellore Institute of Technology - Vellore, India   2008-2012
Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering

MAJOR RESEARCH AWARDS AND HONORS (CITATIONS: 1208, H-INDEX: 9)

2025, ACM WSDM Test-of-Time Award
2025, ACM WebSci Best Paper Award (Honorable mention)
2025, Top Faculty Paper Award, International Communication Association, Computational Methods
2022, Gary M. Olson Outstanding PhD Student Award, University of Michigan School of Information
2021, ICWSM Best Reviewer Award
2020, Facebook PhD Fellowship (Computational Social Science), 2 yr tuition and 84,000$ stipend
2019, AAAI ICWSM Best Paper Award
2014, ASU President's Award for Innovation (Team Member: TweetTracker)
2012, APWG eCRS Best Paper Award

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Choo, D., Zhang, J., Inakage, M., Budak, C., & Resnick, P. (2023). GuesSync!: an online casual game to reduce affective polarization. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 7(CSCW2), 1-33.

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Duran, C., Resnick, P., & Budak, C. (2021). 'Walking Into a Fire Hoping You Don't Catch': Strategies and Designs to Facilitate Cross-Partisan Online Discussions. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5(CSCW2), 1-30.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- [Best Paper Award (Honorable Mention)] Chebrolu, T., Kumaraguru, P., & **Rajadesingan, A.** (2025, May). How Personal Narratives Empower Politically Disinclined Individuals to Engage in Political Discussions. *In Proceedings of the 17th ACM Web Science Conference 2025* (pp. 64-74).

- Chebrolu, T., Modepalle, R., Vardhan, N. H., Kumaraguru, P., & **Rajadesingan, A.** (2025, May). Framing the Fray: Conflict Framing in Indian Election News Coverage. *In Proceedings of the 17th ACM Web Science Conference 2025* (pp. 294-305).

- Kambhatla, G., Lease, M., & **Rajadesingan, A.** (2024, November). Promoting Constructive Deliberation: Reframing for Receptiveness. *In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2024* (pp. 5110-5132).

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Budak, C., & Resnick, P. (2021, May). Political discussion is abundant in non-political subreddits (and less toxic). *In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* (Vol. 15, pp. 525-536).

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Resnick, P., & Budak, C. (2020, May). Quick, community-specific learning: How distinctive toxicity norms are maintained in political subreddits. *In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* (Vol. 14, pp. 557-568).

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Panda, A., & Pal, J. (2020, July). Leader or party? Personalization in twitter political campaigns during the 2019 Indian Elections. In *International conference on social media and society* (pp. 174-183).

- [Best Paper Award] **Rajadesingan, A.**, Mahalingam, R., & Jurgens, D. (2019, July). Smart, responsible, and upper caste only: measuring caste attitudes through large-scale analysis of matrimonial profiles. *In Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media* (Vol. 13, pp. 393-404).

- [Test-of-Time Award] **Rajadesingan, A.**, Zafarani, R., & Liu, H. (2015, February). Sarcasm detection on twitter: A behavioral modeling approach. *In Proceedings of the eighth ACM international conference on web search and data mining* (pp. 97-106).

- **Rajadesingan, A.**, & Liu, H. (2014, April). Identifying users with opposing opinions in Twitter debates. *In International conference on social computing, behavioral-cultural modeling, and prediction* (pp. 153-160). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

- [Best Paper Award] Aggarwal, A., **Rajadesingan, A.**, and & Kumaraguru, P. (2012, October). *"PhishAri: Automatic realtime phishing detection on twitter."* In 2012 eCrime Researchers Summit (pp. 1-12). IEEE.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

- **Rajadesingan, A.** "Shifting Gatekeeping Practices and Audience Engagement under AI-assisted Comment Moderation" Under R&R at *ICWSM 2026.*

- **Rajadesingan, A.** "Common Identities and Political Talk: Evaluating Cross-cutting Political Discussions in Sports Communities on Reddit" Under R&R at *Political Communication*

- **Rajadesingan, A.** & Chebrolu, P. "Divisive or Bridging? Personal Stories in Cross-Cutting Political Discussions on Reddit"

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Rajadesingan, A.** "Role of Psychological Reactance in Depolarization Efforts."

- Stroud, N. J., Wilner, T., Sun, M. & **Rajadesingan, A.** "Normative Expectations for Social Media Platforms."

- Stroud, N. J., Moravec, P., **Rajadesingan, A.** , Collier, J., Murray, C., Graham, E. & Masullo, G. "Politics in Typically Nonpolitical Digital Communities Turns Partisans Off."

- Masullo, G., Shuting, Y., **Rajadesingan, A.** , Lin, Z., Lukito, J. & Stroud, N. J. "Using Connective Language in Political Facebook Posts Leads to More Enjoyment and Less Psychological Reactance."

- Yuting, H., **Rajadesingan, A.** , Shuting, Y., Masullo, G., Stroud, N. J. & Lukito, J. "Perceiving the Automated News: How Formats and News Consumption Behaviors Shape Audience Responses to LLM-Generated News Summaries."

- Ava, M., **Rajadesingan, A.**, Lukito, J., Masullo, G., & Stroud, N. J. "The Effects of Using AI to Tailor News for GenZ Audiences on Article Evaluations, Learning, and AI Detection."

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2024-2028, Knight Foundation

  - Principal Investigator: N.J. Stroud
  - Co-Principal Investigators: A. Rajadesingan, G. Masullo, J. Lukito
  - Total: $3 million

UNSUCCESSFUL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 2025, Spencer Foundation

  - "Beyond Divides: Embedded Game Design to Foster Civic Learning"
  - Principal Investigator: A. Rajadesingan,
  - Co-Principal Investigators: N.J. Stroud, G. Masullo
  - Note: Top 40 out of over 800 applicants.

- 2025, National Science Foundation

  - "Incubation Project: Developing Strategies for Trustworthy Digital Donations"
  - Principal Investigator: N.J. Stroud
  - Co-Principal Investigators: A. Rajadesingan, G. Masullo, C. Wells, J. Lukito

- 2024, Future of Life Institute

  - "Rethinking Authority: AI Summarization to Curb Narrative Dominance"
  - Principal Investigator: A. Rajadesingan,
  - Co-Principal Investigators: N.J. Stroud, G. Masullo

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor:

  - 2023/24/25, CMS 367P - Social Media Analysis
  - 2023/24, CMS 367P - Social Media and Politics
  - 2024, CMS 386N - Computational Methods (Graduate course)
  - 2025, CMS 386N - Political Polarization (Graduate course)

- Graduate Student Instructor:

  - 2020 Winter, SI 664 - Building Interactive Applications
  - 2020 Summer, SIADS 511 - SQL and Databases
  - 2020 Summer, SIADS 516 - Big Data: Scalable Data Processing

STUDENT ADVISING (AT UT AUSTIN)

- Doctoral Dissertation Chair:

  - Siyi Song, Communication Studies, in progress

- Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member:

  - Moo Sun Kim, Communication Studies, in progress
  - Sungwon Jung, Journalism and Media, in progress
  - Christian Staal Bruun Overgaard, Journalism and Media, in progress
  - Jiayu Sun, Communication Studies, 2025

- Master's Thesis Reader:

  - Utkarsh Majumdar, Information Science, 2024

- Undergraduate Thesis Chair:

  - Mayah Piunno, Psychology and Humanities, in progress

SERVICE

- Reviewer

  - ICWSM, 2018-present
  - CSCW, 2019-present
  - CHI, 2025-present
  - ICA, 2023-present
  - Journal of Communication, 2025
  - Nature Human Behavior, 2024
  - Social Media + Society, 2024
  - Communication Theory, 2023
  - Big Data and Society, 2023
  - ACM Transactions on Social Computing, 2019

- Moderator, ICA 2023 panel on "Political Disagreement and Discourse"

- Session chair, ICWSM, 2021

- Member, Graduate fellowships committee, UT Austin 2024-present

- Member, Quantitative reasoning flag Committee, UT Austin 2023-2025

- Member, Wellness and success committee, UT Austin 2023-2024

- Member, IDEA committee, UT Austin 2022-2023

- Co-founder, Computational communication working group, 2022-Present

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Personal Narratives in cross-partisan political discussions on Reddit" (Top Faculty Paper Award)

  - 2025, International Communication Association, Computational Methods division
  - 2025, Annual Political Networks and Computational Social Science Conference (PolNet-PaCSS)

- "Cross-partisan political talk in sports communities on Reddit"

  - 2024, International Communication Association, Computational Methods division

- "GuesSync!: A game to reduce affective polarization"

  - 2023, Faculty Lightning Talk, OVPR, University of Texas at Austin
  - 2022, IIIT Hyderabad, India

- – 2022, Information School, University of Texas at Austin
- "Combining Computational Social Science and Design"

  - – 2022, SICSS Talk at IIIT Hyderabad

- "Political Discussion is Abundant in Non-political Subreddits (and Less Toxic)"

  - – 2021, Politics and Computational Social Science conference (PaCSS)
  - – 2021, International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)
  - – 2021, Chicago Area Behavior Workshop led by Prof. James Druckman

- "Strategies and Designs for facilitating cross-partisan interactions"

  - – 2020, Facebook, Core Data Science

- "How Distinctive Toxicity Norms Are Maintained in Political Subreddits"

  - – 2020, Guest lecture, Course: Antisocial Computing at UIUC
  - – 2020, International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)
  - – 2020, Facebook, Core Data Science

- "Conducting Student-led Interdisciplinary Projects"

  - – 2020, University of Michigan, Connecting Digital Scholarship

- "Studying Caste in Online Matrimonial profiles"

  - – 2019, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIIT-Delhi)

- "Personalization in Twitter Political Campaigns in India"

  - – 2019, Jindal-University of Oregon Forum: Media Culture & Politics