

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

Doximity, San Francisco CA
Senior Data Scientist

September 2014 - June 2017

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

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 year 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.** (2026). Common Identities and Political Talk: Evaluating Cross-Cutting Political Discussions in Sports Communities on Reddit. *Political Communication*, 1–18.
- **Rajadesingan, A.**, & Chebrolu, T. (2026). Divisive or Bridging? Personal Stories in Cross-Cutting Political Discussions on Reddit. *Social Media+ Society*, 12(3), 20563051261462091.
- Stroud, N. J., Wilner, T., Kim, M. S., & **Rajadesingan, A.** (2026). A cross-country examination of normative expectations of social media platforms. *New Media & Society*, 14614448261460024.

PEER-REVIEWED CS-STYLE CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- **Rajadesingan, A.** (2026). Shifting Gatekeeping Practices and Audience Engagement Under AI-Assisted Comment Moderation. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, 20(1), 1942–1956. <https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v20i1.42731>
- **[Best Paper Award (Honorable Mention)]** Chebrolu, T., Kumaraguru, P., & **Rajadesingan, A.** (2025). 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). 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). Promoting Constructive Deliberation: Reframing for Receptiveness. *In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2024* (pp. 5110-5132).
- **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.
- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Budak, C., & Resnick, P. (2021). 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). 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). 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). 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). 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). 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). PhishAri: Automatic realtime phishing detection on twitter. *In 2012 eCrime Researchers Summit* (pp. 1-12). IEEE.
- **Rajadesingan, A.**, & Mahendran, A. (2012). Comment spam classification in blogs through comment analysis and comment-blog post relationships. *In International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics* (pp. 490-501). Springer.

ARTICLES UNDER REVISE AND RESUBMIT

- Shuting, Y., Masullo, G., Lin, Z., Lukito, J., **Rajadesingan, A.** & Stroud, N. J. “Using Connective Language in Political Facebook Posts Leads to More Enjoyment and Less Psychological Reactance.” at *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*
- Stroud, N. J., Moravec, P., Murray, C., Graham, E., **Rajadesingan, A.**, Collier, J. & Masullo, G. “Politics in Typically Nonpolitical Digital Communities Turns Partisans Off.” at *Journal of Communication*

- Naik, A., Kar, S., Sharma, V., **Rajadesingan, A.**, & Saha, K. “Sima AIunty: Caste Audit in LLM-Driven Matchmaking.” at *Transactions on Social Computing*

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

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

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Rajadesingan, A.** “Role of Psychological Reactance and Intent to Manipulate in Depolarization Efforts.”
- **Rajadesingan, A.** & Sterling, B. “Global North-South Divide: Is Content on Social Media Valued Equally?”
- **Rajadesingan, A.**, Zhi, L., Lukito, J., Masullo, G., & Stroud, N. J. “How AI Comment Summaries Reshape Online Engagement”
- 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.”

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:
 - 2023/24/25/26, CMS 367P - Social Media Analysis
 - 2023/24, CMS 367P - Social Media and Politics
 - 2024/26, 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
 - Salih Hürdoğan, Journalism and Media, in progress
 - Sungwon Jung, Journalism and Media, in progress
 - Christian Staal Bruun Overgaard, Journalism and Media, in progress
 - Meenakshi Yadav, Communication Studies, in progress
 - Jiayu Sun, Communication Studies, 2025
- Master's Thesis Reader:
 - Ahona Tasnuva Alam, Journalism, 2026
 - Utkarsh Majumdar, Information Science, 2024
 - Caroline Murray, Communication Studies, 2024
- Undergraduate Thesis Chair:
 - Mayah Piunno, Psychology and Humanities, in progress

SERVICE

- Journal Reviewer
 - 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
- Conference Reviewer
 - ICA, 2023-present
 - ICWSM, 2018-present
 - CSCW, 2019-present
 - CHI, 2025-present
- University- and department-level service
 - 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
- Moderator, ICA 2023 panel on “Political Disagreement and Discourse”

- Session chair, ICWSM, 2021

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