ASHWIN RAJADESINGAN

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EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

EDUCATION

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

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

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

MAJOR AWARDS AND HONORS

2025, Top Faculty Paper Award, ICA computational methods division
2025, ACM WebSci Best Paper Award (Honorable mention)
2025, ACM WSDM Test-of-Time Award
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

PUBLICATIONS

- [**Best Paper Award (Honorable Mention)**] Tejasvi Chebrolu, Ponnurangam Kumaraguru, **Ashwin Rajadesingan**. *"How Personal Narratives Empower Politically Disinclined Individuals to Engage in Political Discussions"* ACM Web Science Conference 2025. WebSci, 2025.

- Tejasvi Chebrolu, Ponnurangam Kumaraguru, **Ashwin Rajadesingan**. *"Framing the Fray: Conflict Framing in Indian Election News Coverage"* ACM Web Science Conference 2025. WebSci, 2025.

- Gauri Kambhatla, Matthew Lease, **Ashwin Rajadesingan**. *"Promoting Constructive Deliberation: Reframing for Receptiveness"* Findings of The 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing. EMNLP, 2024.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Daniel Choo, Jessica Zhang, Mia Inakage, Ceren Budak, Paul Resnick. *"GuesSync!: An Online Casual Game To Reduce Affective Polarization"* ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. CSCW, 2023.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Carolyn Duran, Paul Resnick, and Ceren Budak. *"Walking Into a Fire Hoping You Don't Catch': Strategies and Designs to Facilitate Cross-Partisan Online Discussions"* ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. CSCW, 2021.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Ceren Budak, and Paul Resnick. *"Political Discussion is Abundant in Non-political Subreddits (and Less Toxic)"* International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media. ICWSM, 2021.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Paul Resnick, and Ceren Budak. *"Quick, Community-Specific Learning: How Distinctive Toxicity Norms Are Maintained in Political Subreddits"* International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media. ICWSM, 2020.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Anmol Panda, and Joyojeet Pal. *"Leader or Party?: Personalization in Twitter Political Campaigns during the 2019 Indian Elections"* International Conference on Social Media and Society. SMS, 2020.

- [Best Paper Award] **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Ramaswami Mahalingam, and David Jurgens. *"Smart, responsible, and upper caste only: measuring caste attitudes through large-scale analysis of matrimonial profiles"* International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media. ICWSM, 2019.

- [Test-of-Time Award] **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, Reza Zafarani, and Huan Liu. *"Sarcasm detection on twitter: A behavioral modeling approach."* Proceedings of the Eighth ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining. WSDM, 2015.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, and Huan Liu. *"Identifying users with opposing opinions in Twitter debates."* International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling, and Prediction. SBP, 2014.

- [Best Paper Award] Anupama Aggarwal, **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, and Ponnurangam Kumaraguru. *"PhishAri: Automatic realtime phishing detection on twitter."* IEEE APWG eCrime Researchers Summit, 2012.

- **Ashwin Rajadesingan**, and Anand Mahendran. *"Comment spam classification in blogs through comment analysis and comment-blog post relationships."* International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics. CICLing, 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor:
  - 2024 Fall, CMS 367P - Social Media Analysis
  - 2024 Fall, CMS 367P - Social Media and Politics
  - 2024 Spring, CMS 386N - Computational Methods (Graduate course)
  - 2023 Fall, CMS 367P - Social Media Analysis
  - 2023 Spring, CMS 367P - Social Media and Politics

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

SERVICE

- Reviewer
  - Journal of Communication, 2025
  - Nature Human Behavior, 2024
  - Social Media + Society, 2024

- Communication Theory, 2023
- ICA, 2023-2025
- Big Data and Society, 2023
- ICWSM, 2018-2024
- CSCW, 2019-2021
- ACM Transactions on Social Computing, 2019

- Member, Graduate fellowships committee, Department of Communication Studies, UT Austin 2024-present

- Member, Quantitative Reasoning Flag Committee, UT Austin 2023-2025

- Member, Wellness and Success committee, Department of Communication Studies, UT Austin 2023-2024

- Member, IDEA committee, Department of Communication Studies, 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

- 2019-2022, Member - Political Communication Working Group

- 2020-2021, Doctoral Committee Representative at UMSI

- 2020, Student volunteer - ICWSM

- 2020, Mentor - Graduate Rackham International (GRIN) students Mentoring Program

- 2020, Mentor - UMSI Peer Mentoring Program

- 2019, Panelist - "Navigating Advisor Relationships", a First Semester Experience panel

- 2019, Contributor - "Being Brown: South Asian Narratives of Brownness in South East Michigan" - an art exhibit showcased at the Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan.

- 2018, Coordinator - Computational Social Science Reading Group at UMSI

- 2017, Community Partner Consultant - A2 DataDive

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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

  - 2025, International Communication Association, Computational Methods division

- "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

MEDIA COVERAGE (SELECTED SOURCES)

- 2021, Michigan News, "Bernie's mittens to BLM: politics across online community groups"

- 2020, Utah Public Radio, UnDisciplined - A science talk show where I opine about toxicity norms in Reddit political communities based on my 2020 ICWSM paper. (Episode: Social Disorder)

- 2019, Times of India, "Indian matrimonial sites show shift in attitude towards intercaste marriage"

- 2019, Michigan News, "Matrimonial website profiles show Indians more open to intercaste marriage"