

Simon Chauchard

CONTACT

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Distinguished Investigator and Associate Professor, UC3M & IC3JM.

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Institute of Political Science, Leiden University. July 2019 –

Lecturer in Discipline, SIPA, Columbia University, July 2018 – June 2019.

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dartmouth College, July 2011 – June 2018.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, May 2011
New York University, New York, NY.

M.Phil. in Political Science, January 2010
New York University, New York, NY.

MA, Political Science and Development Studies, July 2004
Sciences-Po, Paris, France.

BA, Political Science and Middle-East Studies, July 2002
Sciences-Po, Aix-en-Provence, France.

GRANTS

Agencia Estatal de Investigación - Programa “*ATRAE*”: A comparative, experimental and behavioral evaluation of political depolarization interventions in Spain and Brazil (DESPOLARIZARNOS). 2025-2029. €1,000,000.

Social Science Research Council Mercury Grant (with Sumitra Badrinathan) for “Vishwas Mat Karos! A News Literacy Intervention Among North Indian School Children”. July 2022. \$432,000.

Facebook Integrity & Impact Research Award (with Niloufer Siddiqui and Sumitra Badrinathan) for “*Misinformation & Vigilantism in India & Pakistan: Determinants & Solutions*”. September 2021 - \$100,000.

ERC Consolidator Grant, 2022-2027: “*Polarizing Chats? Political Misinformation on Discussion Apps in India and Brazil.*” € 2,000,000.

Facebook Integrity Foundational Research Award for “*Who Can Best Dispel Rumors? Two Experiments on Strategies To Correct Misinformation in Rural India*”. December 2018.
\$100,000

Dartmouth Rockefeller Center Faculty Grant “*Crowdsourcing Data on Campaign Spending in India*”. March 2016.
\$15,000.

EGAP Metaketa initiative Grant (Project: *Using Local Networks to Increase Accountability*), July 2014.
\$ 197,072. *With Neelan Sircar.*

New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, 2010-11.

National Science Foundation, Political Science Program, Dissertation Improvement Grant (*Rajasthan Survey on Political Inclusion and Group-Related Attitudes*), 2008-2009.

New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Pre-doctoral Summer Fellowship, 2009

New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Andrew Sautter Fellowship, 2008.

New York University, Politics Department, Summer Travel Grant, 2007 and 2008.

New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, McCracken Fellowship, 2005-2010.

AWARDS

American Political Science Association, South Asia Politics section: Rajni Kothari Best Article Prize (2025). For: “*Misinformation and support for vigilantism: An experiment in India and Pakistan*” (APSR, 2025).

American Political Science Association, Experiments section: Best Paper (presented at APSA 2024) award, 2025. For: “*Countering Misinformation Early: Evidence from a Classroom-Based Field Experiment in India*” (forthcoming @ APSR).

American Political Science Association, Comparative Politics Section. Sage Best Paper Honorable Mention (2025). For: “*Countering Misinformation Early: Evidence from a Classroom-Based Field Experiment in India*” (forthcoming @ APSR).

American Political Science Association, Comparative Democratization section: Best Fieldwork Award, 2012.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS:

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Politics
Elections, Voting Behavior and Campaign Strategies
Representation
Social Media, Social Networks & Politics
Political Psychology
Political Behavior
Indian Politics
Brazilian Politics

BOOK

“Why Representation Matters: The Meaning of Ethnic Quotas in Rural India”. **Cambridge University Press**. 2017.

PEER-REVIEWED

“Countering Misinformation Early: A Grassroots Media Literacy Intervention for Rural Populations in India”, *with Priyadarshi Amar, Sumitra Badrinathan and Florian Sichart*. *Conditionally accepted at the American Political Science Review*.

“The Religious Roots of Belief in Misinformation: Experimental Evidence from India”. *With Sumitra Badrinathan*. *Forthcoming at the British Journal of Political Science*.

“Inclusive Reforms as Levers for Social Exclusion: The Paradoxical Consequences of Quotas for Women in Rural India”. *with Rachel Brulé and Alyssa Heinze*. *Forthcoming at World Development*.

“WhatsApp Explorer: A Data Donation Tool To Facilitate Research on WhatsApp, *with Kiran Garimella*. *Mobile Media & Communication (2025)*.

“Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: an Experiment in India and Pakistan”. *With Sumitra Badrinathan and Niloufer Siddiqui*. *American Political Science Review (2025)*.

“Collecting WhatsApp Data for Social Science Research: Challenges and a Proposed Solution”, *with Kiran Garimella*. Chapter forthcoming in *Whatsapp, Disinformation and Extreme Speech (Eds. Sahana Udupa and Herman Wasserman)*, *New York University Press. (2025)*

“Who Actually Governs? Gender Inequality and Representation in Rural India”, *with Rachel Brulé and Alyssa Heinze*. *Journal of Politics (2025)*

Researching and countering misinformation in the Global South. *With Sumitra Badrinathan*. *Current Opinion in Psychology (2023)*.

“Do SC Reservations for Political Office Improve the Lives of Dalits?” *With Francesca Jensenius*. Chapter in **“Dalits in the New Millennium”**, **Eds Sudha Pai, Shyam Babu and Rahul Verma**. *Cambridge University Press (2023)*

“I Don’t Think That’s True, Bro!” An Experiment on Fact-checking Misinformation in India? *With Sumitra Badrinathan. International Journal of Press and Politics (2023).*

“What Actually Circulates on Partisan WhatsApp Threads in India? Insights from an Unusual Dataset.” *With Kiran Garimella. Journal of Quantitative Description: Social Media (2022).*

“The Ethnic Origins of Affective Polarization: Statistical Evidence from Cross-National Data”. *With Max Bradley. Frontiers in Political Science (2022).*

“Rethinking India and the Study of Electoral Politics in the Developing World”. *With Adam Auerbach, Jennifer Bussell Francesca Jensenius, Gareth Nellis, Mark Schneider, Neelanjan Sircar, Pavithra Suryanarayan, Tariq Thachil, Milan Vaishnav, Rahul Verma and Adam Ziegfeld. Perspectives in Politics (2021).*

“Srinivasan, Political Worker or Kingmaker?” Book chapter. in *Bombay Broker (Ed. Lisa Björkman), Duke University Press (2021).*

“Voter Information Campaigns and Political Accountability: Cumulative Findings From a Preregistered Meta-analysis of Coordinated Trials”. *With Thad Dunning, Guy Grossman, Macartan Humphreys, Susan Hyde, Craig McIntosh, Gareth Nellis and 24 co-authors. Science Advances (2019).*

“Dilemmas and Challenges of Citizen Information Campaigns: Lessons from a Failed Experiment in India”, Chapter in *The Limits of Electoral Accountability (Eds. Thad Dunning, Guy Grossman, Macartan Humphreys, Susan D. Hyde, and Craig McIntosh) (with Neelanjan Sircar. Cambridge University Press (2019).*

“Getting Rich Too Fast? Experimental Evidence on Voters' Reactions to Politicians' Wealth Accumulation in India.” *With Marko Klasnja and S.P. Harish. Journal of Politics (2019).*

“What Costs So Much in Indian Elections? Intuitions From Recent Electoral Campaigns in Mumbai”, **chapter in Political Finance in India (Eds. Milan Vaishnav and Devesh Kapur) – 2018 – Oxford University Press.**

“The Cost of Political Competition: Electoral Handouts in Mumbai Elections”, *Asian Survey (2018).*

“Unpacking Ethnic Preferences: Theory and Micro-level Evidence From North India”. *Comparative Political Studies (2016)*

“Disadvantaged Groups, Reservation and Political Dynasties in India” **Chapter in Democratic Dynasties: State, Party and Family Ties in the Indian Parliament, ed. Kanchan Chandra. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (2016)**

“Can Descriptive Representation Change Beliefs About a Stigmatized Group? Evidence From Rural India”, *American Political Science Review* (2014).

“Using MP3 Players in Surveys: The Impact of a Low-tech Self Administration Mode on Misreporting and Bystanders’ Influence”, *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2013).

INVITED WRITING

“How prevalent is AI misinformation? What our studies in India show so far”. *With Kiran Garimella. Nature* (2024).

BOOK REVIEW

“Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India”, by Pradeep K. Chhibber and Rahul Verma. *Perspectives in Politics* (2018).

“Breaking the Social Media Prism : How to Make our Platforms Less Polarizing”, by Chris Bail. *La Vie Des Idées* (2021).

WORKING PAPERS

“Discussion Rules Matter for Representation: Experimental Evidence From India”. *with Rachel Brulé and Alyssa Heinze.*

“Redistribution in Ranked Systems: Experimental Evidence from India”. *With Pavithra Suryanarayan.*

“What Drives Misinformation Sharing Online and Offline? Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment Among Indian Teenagers.”, *with Priyadarshi Amar, Sumitra Badrinathan and Florian Sichart.*

“Family Norms, Gender and Vulnerability to Misinformation. An Experiment in Rural India”, *with Sumitra Badrinathan.*

“Does the Style of Misinformation Condition its Effect? An Experiment in Brazil”, *with Rodrigo Fernandez Caba & Fernando B. Mello. R&R at the Journal of Politics.*

“Reducing Falsehoods at the Source: An experiment incentivizing Brazilian political elites to avoid online misinformation.” *With Paul Atwell and Fernando B. Mello.*

“The Hype vs Reality of Generative AI in Elections: Enchanted Determinism and Failed Predictions in India 2024”. *With Kiran Garimella.*

“Partisan Processing: How positive and negative partisan identities affect susceptibility to misinformation in the Global South”. *With Paul Atwell.*

“Setting the record straight: An experiment in Ghana on debriefing quality and efficacy.” *With Paul Atwell.*

CODING STAGE	"What Really Circulates on Indian WhatsApp? (Preliminary) Insights From a Data Donation Program." <i>with Kiran Garimella.</i>
DESIGN STAGE	<p>"Correcting or Deconstructing? An Experiment on Strategies to Counter Rumors in India", <i>with Sumitra Badrinathan, Niloufer Siddiqui, and Abhyudaya Tyagi.</i></p> <p>"Media and Information Literacy for Future Citizens: A Field Experiment in Bahia High Schools". <i>with Sumitra Badrinathan and Fernando B. Mello.</i></p> <p>"What Political Propaganda Do Political Actors Share on Social Media? A Conjoint Experiment with Micro-level Political Influencers in India and Brazil." <i>with Priyadarshi Amar and Fernando B. Mello.</i></p> <p>"What Circulates on Brazilian WhatsApp?", <i>with Kiran Garimella and Fernando Mello.</i></p> <p>"Information and Conformity in Online: Group-based Interactions: A WhatsApp Experiment in India", <i>with Rajeshwari Majumdar.</i></p>
BOOK PROJECT	"Seeds of Discord: How Misinformation Erodes Democratic Norms in South Asia", <i>with Sumitra Badrinathan and Niloufer Siddiqui.</i>
DORMANT	<p>"Courting Votes Without Party Workers: The Effect of Political Competition on Partisan Networks in Rural India", <i>with Neelanjan Sircar.</i></p> <p>"Is Ethnic Politics Responsible for 'Criminal Politics'? A Conjoint-Experiment in North India."</p> <p>"Electoral Influencers in Rural India" <i>With Neelanjan Sircar.</i></p> <p>"Political Work: Electoral Brokerage in Mumbai Elections" (Book project). <i>With Hanmant Wanole.</i></p>

TEACHING:

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Comparative Politics (undergraduate and graduate level).
 - focus on developing countries.
- Social Media and Politics
- Elections and Democracy in Developing Countries
- Political Behavior
- Political Development
- Indian Politics
- Field Research Methods

COURSES TAUGHT

At Dartmouth College:

- *Politics of Ethnicity* (undergrad; 2011-17)
- *Ethnicity and Representation* (undergrad; 2012-15).
- *Politics of India* (undergrad; 2011-17)
- *Quantitative Political analysis* (undergrad; 2012-13).
- *Improving Democracy: Institutional Innovations and Experiments in Developing Countries* (undergrad; 2015-17).
- *Elections in Emerging Democracies* (undergrad; 2011-17).

At Columbia (SIPA):

- *The Politics of Policy-Making: Developing Countries* (graduate; 2018).
- *Democracy in Developing Countries* (graduate; 2019).
- *Political Economy of India* (graduate; 2019).

At Leiden University:

- *Elections in Emerging Democracies* (graduate; 2019-21).
- *MA Thesis Seminar: The Politics of Dev. Countries* (2020–21).
- *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (undergraduate; 2019-21).

At University Carlos III of Madrid (UC3M):

- *Emerging Countries* (undergraduate; 2022).
- *History and Politics of the United States* (undergraduate, 2025).
- *Research design* (graduate, 2025).

Summer Courses & visiting lectures:

- “*Misinformation, Rumors and Hate Speech*”, Summer School on “Challenges to Electoral Democracy” at Sciences-Po, Paris.

DISSEMINATION:

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS (selected)

- London School of Economics (LSE), London, March 2025.
- Humboldt University, Berlin, November 2024
- Sciences-Po, Paris, October 2024.
- University of Namur, Belgium, June 2024
- EUROWEPS Workshop, London, May 2024
- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, March 2023
- EUI Political Behavior Seminar, March 2023.
- Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, December 2022
- IE, Madrid, September 2022.
- WZB Berlin, Institutions and Political Inequalities Group. June 2022.
- University of Oslo, May 2022
- Oxford University (Nuffield College), May 2022
- University of Aarhus, March 2021.
- University of Lisbon, March 2021.
- EHESS (Paris), March 2021.
- University of Zurich, Digital Democracy Lab, March 2021
- King's College, India Institute. May 2020.
- WZB Berlin, Institutions and Political Inequalities Group. 2019.
- Columbia, SIPA, October 2019.
- Facebook Integrity Research Workshop, June 2019.
- Harvard, workshop on Clientelism, May 2019.
- Princeton, workshop on Clientelism, March 2019.
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, India workshop, 2019.
- Ashoka University, India, December 2018.
- Leiden University, Institute for Political Science, December 2018.
- Newcastle University, Department of Politics, December 2018.
- King's College, India Institute, London, June 2018.
- U. of Bergen, CP Department, Norway, May 2018.
- Washington University, St-Louis, April 2018.
- Graduate Center, CUNY, April 2018.
- Institute of Advanced Studies, Toulouse, March 2018.
- UCL (ESPS), March 2018.
- Columbia SIPA, March 2018.
- Oxford DPIP, February 2018.
- Carnegie Endowment for Int. Peace, October 2017.
- SAIS Johns Hopkins, October 2017.
- Political Science Department, Boston College, October 2017.
- NYU Abu Dhabi– April 2017.
- Political Economy Series, UConn, April 2017.
- External Speakers series, NYU Abu Dhabi, March 2017.
- Keough School and Political Science, Notre-Dame, Nov 2016.
- South Asian Politics series, Harvard, Nov 2016.
- Rethinking Indian Politics Workshop, Carnegie, September 2016.
- India Political Economy Workshop, Penn, March 2016.
- India Political Economy Workshop, Penn, Dec. 2015.
- Political Science Department, Penn, November 2014.
- Political Science Department, Stanford, November 2014.
- CASI, Penn, March 2014.
- Comparative Politics Seminar, Princeton, December 2013.
- Brown-India Initiative, Brown, 2012.

CONFERENCES

- European Political Science Association, *Madrid* 2025

- American Political Science Association, *Philadelphia* 2024
- European Political Science Association, *Glasgow* 2023
- European Political Science Association, *Prague* 2022
- American Political Science Association, *Montreal* 2022
- American Political Science Association, *Seattle*, 2021
- European Political Science Association, online, 2021.
- Midwest Political Science Association, online, 2021.
- American Political Science Association, *DC*, 2019.
- American Political Science Association, *Boston*, 2018.
- American Political Science Association, *San Francisco*, 2017
- European Political Science Association, *Milan*, 2017.
- American Political Science Association, *Philadelphia*, 2016
- European Political Science Association, *Brussels*, 2016.
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2016
- American Political Science Association, *San Francisco*, 2015
- European Political Science Association, *Vienna*, 2015.
- "Brokering Votes: Clientelism in Comparative Perspective",
Workshop, *Berkeley*, February 2015.
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2014
- American Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2013
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2013
- Dartmouth Conference on Ethnicity and Politics, *October* 2013
- American Political Science Association, *New Orleans*, 2012
- American Political Science Association, *Seattle*, 2011
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2011
- Psychology and Public Policy Conference, *Princeton* 2011
- Experiments in Governance and Politics meeting, *New York* 2010
- American Political Science Association, *Washington*, 2010
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2010
- American Political Science Association, *Toronto*, 2009
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago* 2009
- American Political Science Association, *Boston*, 2008
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Chicago*, 2008

SERVICE

- Program committee co-chair (member of the organizing committee), European Political Science Association yearly meeting (Madrid), 2025.
- Member of EGAP network (2025-); Active participant in the “Democracy, Conflict and Polarization (DCP)” EGAP initiative since 2023.
- Founder and Co-organizer (*with Francesca Jensenius, Pavithra Suryanarayan, Milan Vaishnav and Diego Maiorano*) of EMPESA, the yearly European Meeting on the Political Economy of South Asia (2023-).
- MPSA section chair “Politics of Developing Countries” – MPSA 2021.
- Co-organizer (with Natalia Bueno and Leah Rosenzweig) of the DIMIS (Digital Misinformation in the Global South) research workshop. (2020-2022).
- Member of “Open Science” Taskforce at Leiden University (2019-2021).
- Organizer of weekly “Feedback Research Sessions” at the Institute of Political Science, Leiden University (2019-2022) and at the Institute Carlos III-Juan March (2023-)
- Organizer of Dartmouth Government Department Seminar Series 2013-2014, 2016-17.
- Co-organizer (with Francesca Jensenius) of APSA’s first meeting of Political Scientists working on India (APSA meeting 2012).
- Organizer of the Dartmouth Conferences on Ethnicity and Politics 2011–2017.
- Regular reviewer for: *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Public Opinion Quarterly, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, World Politics, Economics and Politics, Field Methods, International Journal of Social Research Methodology, British Journal of Political Science, Research and Politics, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics, India Review, Studies in Comparative International Development, European Journal of International Relations, PS: Political Science & Politics, Perspectives in Politics, Journal of Quantitative Description: Social Media.*