

# PRASHANTH BHAT

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY, WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Alternative Social Networks, Content Moderation, Right-Wing Media, and Anti-media Populism.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Journalism Studies, <b>University of Maryland</b> , <i>College Park</i>	2015 – 2020
MA, Film and Media Arts, <b>American University</b> , <i>Washington, DC</i>	2013
Post Graduate Diploma, Communication and Journalism, <b>Osmania University</b> , <i>Hyderabad, India</i>	2009
BA, Mass communication and Journalism, <b>Osmania University</b> , <i>Hyderabad, India</i>	2008

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Prashanth Bhat (2018). “Advertisements in the Age of Hyper-Partisan Media: Breitbart’s #DumpKellogs Campaign.” In *The Trump Presidency, Journalism, and Democracy*, R. Gutsche, Jr. (Ed.), London: Routledge.

Kalyani Chadha and Prashanth Bhat (2018). “The Media are Biased: Exploring online right-wing responses to Mainstream News in India.” In *Indian Journalism in a New Era: Changes, Challenges and Perspectives*, S. Rao (Ed.), New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Prashanth Bhat and Krishnan Vasudevan (2019). “No More Ideological Barriers?” In *Activist Nation Rising*, J. Atkinson and L. Kenix (Eds.), Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Prashanth Bhat and Kalyani Chadha (2020). “Anti-Media Populism: Expressions of Media Distrust by Right-Wing Media in India,” *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17513057.2020.1739320>

Prashanth Bhat and Ofra Klein (2020). “Covert Hate Speech: White Nationalists and Dog Whistle Communication on Twitter.” In *#TalkingPoints: Twitter, the public sphere, and the nature of online deliberation*, J. Rosenbaum-Andre and G. Bouvier (Eds.), United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-030-41421-4\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-41421-4_7)

Prashanth Bhat (2021). “Platform Politics: The Emergence of Alternative Social Media in India.” *Asia-Pacific Media Educator*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1326365X211056699>

Prashanth Bhat (2022). “Counter-net of Tomorrow? Right-wing Response to Deplatforming Donald Trump.” In *The Future of the Presidency, Journalism and Democracy: After Trump*, Robert E. Gutsche, Jr. (Ed.), London: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Future-of-the-Presidency-Journalism-and-Democracy-After-Trump/Jr/p/book/9781032070735>

Kalyani Chadha and Prashanth Bhat (Accepted-Upcoming). “Alternative News Media and the Polarization of Fact-Checking in India,” *Digital Journalism*.

Prashanth Bhat (2022). “WhatsApp and Journalism.” In *Encyclopaedia of Journalism*, Gregory A. Borchard (Ed.), New York: Sage Publications. <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-journalism/book270825>

### **CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW (WORK-IN-PROGRESS)**

Prashanth Bhat. “Hindu-Nationalism and Media: Examining Anti-Media Sentiments by Right-Wing Alternative Media in India,” *Journalism & Communication Monographs*.

Prashanth Bhat and Kalyani Chadha. “State as the Mob: Online Harassment of Journalists by Hindu Nationalists in India.” *Digital Journalism*.

Prashanth Bhat and Kalyani Chadha. “Expanding Public Debate? Examining the Impact of India’s Top English Language Political Talk Shows,” *Global Media and Communication*.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2016. “The Forgotten Genocide: New York Times’ Coverage of the Bengali Struggle and Indo-Pakistan War (1971).” Presented at the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference. New York University, NY.

2016. "LGBTQ Press in India: An Emerging Counter-public." Presented at the Annual Conference of International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). University of Leicester, UK.

2017. "A Report on Presidential Advertising and the 2016 General Election: A Referendum on Character." Presented at Conference on Character Assassination and Reputation Politics (CARP). George Mason University, VA.

2017. "The Media are Biased: Exploring Online Right-Wing Responses to Mainstream News in India." Presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association (NCA). Dallas, TX.

2017. "*Sangh Parivar 2.0: Emergence of a Hindu Counter-Establishment in Indian Politics.*" Presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association (NCA). Dallas, TX.

2019. "Expanding Public Debate or Narrowing the Options? Examining the Impact of India's Top English Language Political Talk Shows." Presented at the Annual Conference of International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.

2019. "Covert Hate Speech: White Nationalists and Dog Whistle Communication on Twitter." Presented at the Annual Conference of International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.

2019. "Hindutva Counter-Sphere: Emergence of Right-wing Media Ecosystem in Indian Public Sphere." Presented at the Inaugural Conference on Right-wing Studies at the University of California-Berkeley.

2019. "Lutyens' media: Anti-Media Populism and Expressions of Media Distrust among Hindu Nationalists." Presented at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA). Washington, D.C.

2021. “Deplatforming Hindu Nationalism: The Rise of Alternative Social Media in India.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

2022. “Inside India’s Right-Wing Echo-Chamber: A Case Study of Koo.” Presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Mid-Winter Conference at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

### **Panel Presentations**

2017. “Mainstreaming the Fringe: Breitbart News and the Return of Partisan Journalism.” Presented in a panel session at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association (NCA). Dallas, Texas.

2019. “PhDigital Bootcamp: Preparing Future Faculty to Lead Innovation Curriculum.” Presented in a panel session at the Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC). Toronto, Canada.

2022. “What I Wish I’d Known: Advice for Early-Years Grad Students.” Presented in a panel session at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Mid-Winter Conference at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**, Eastern Connecticut State University      *Fall 2020 – Present*  
Currently teaching courses such as Social Media Strategies, Publication Design, Coding for Journalists, and Communication Writing designed for undergraduate students.

**Online Course Instructor**, Intro to Mass Communication, University of Maryland      *Spring 2019*  
Designed and developed an existing face to face course to a completely virtual general education course.

**Instructor of Record**, Intro to Mass Communication, University of Maryland      *Fall 2018*  
Individual teaching responsibility of this course, which provides an overview of the current trends in the media industry as well as some important concepts related to media history and sociology.

## **Professional Experience**

**Short-term Consultant**, World Bank Group, *Washington, DC*

*Feb 2015 – April 2015*

- Served on a team tasked with drafting an “Options” paper on governance of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Wrote and edited synopses for the list of reference materials in the inception report
- Created infographics and charts that presented complex data in a simple reader-friendly way

**Freelance Journalist**, Times of India, *Hyderabad, India*

*Nov 2010 – July 2011*

- Covered higher education, public infrastructure, and municipal beats
- Attended and covered press conferences, seminars, and events around the state of Telangana, India

**Senior Correspondent**, Deccan Chronicle, *Hyderabad, India*

*May 2008 – Oct 2010*

- Major reporting assignments included coverage of 2009 India’s Parliament elections, 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and agitation for the separate statehood of Telangana in South India
- Wrote daily news pieces on student activities in universities and higher education sector
- Supervised a small team of writers and produced feature stories for the news website.

**Business Reporter**, TV9, *Hyderabad, India*

*Aug 2005 – March 2008*

- Covered stock market, IPOs, annual financial results, product launches and business news conferences
- Wrote and produced 120 episodes of “Business this week” a popular weekly half-an-hour news show focused on global economy, agriculture, infrastructure, and automobile industry
- Edited multiple video packages and reported live from planned events and breaking news

## **Internships**

**Research Intern**, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, *Cambridge, MA* *June 2016-Aug 2016*

**Research Intern**, Center for Civil Society, *New Delhi* *May 2015- July 2015*

**Social Media Intern**, China Central Television-America (CCTV-America)  
*Washington, DC* *Jan 2014- Jan 2015*

**Global Content Sales Intern**, National Geographic Channel,  
*Washington, DC* *Jan 2013 - May 2013*

**Broadcast and Social Media Intern**, Voice of America (VOA),  
*Washington, DC* *Aug 2012 –Jan 2013*

## **GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Faculty Development Grant -Eastern Connecticut State University	2021-22
PhDigital Bootcamp - Knight Foundation Fellowship	2019
All-S.T.A.R. Fellowship for Academic Excellence – University of Maryland	2018-2019
Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant – University of Maryland	2016
Professor Thomas J. Aylward Scholarship – University of Maryland	2016

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

**Member**, Diversity and Social Justice Committee, Eastern Connecticut State University

**Co-Chair** of the Search Committee (University Relations), Eastern Connecticut State University

**Member**, AAC & U Integrative Learning Project Team, Eastern Connecticut State University

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Member**, International Communication Association (ICA)

**Member,** Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)