

SAIF SHAHIN

School of Communication
American University
saifshahin.com

ORCID iD: [0000-0002-7608-7283](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7608-7283)

[Google Scholar](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Academia](#)

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016
(202) 885-1000 | shahin@american.edu | @shahin_saif

APPOINTMENTS

American University, 2018—present

Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, School of Communication

Bowling Green State University, 2016—2018

Assistant Professor, School of Media and Communication

Faculty Leader, Algorithms, Big Data, & Culture (A.B.D.C.) Research Group

University of Texas at Austin, 2012—2016

Instructor of Record / Teaching Assistant, School of Journalism

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2017

Dissertation: “News, Nations, and Power Relations: A Study of Newsmaking and Policymaking as Transnational Practices”

Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation Award in Journalism Studies (2nd place), International Communication Association, 2018

Committee: Stephen D. Reese (chair), Mary A. Bock, Thomas J. Johnson, Bartholomew H. Sparrow, and Joseph D. Straubhaar

M.Phil. in West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, 2011

M.A. in Online Journalism, University of Central Lancashire, U.K., 2002

B.A. in Journalism, University of Delhi, India, 2001

SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Shahin, S. (2019). Facing up to Facebook: How digital activism, independent regulation, and mass media foiled a neoliberal threat to net neutrality. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(1), 1-17. doi: 10.1080/1369118X.2017.1340494 ***Lead Article**

Shahin, S. & Zheng, P. (2018). Big Data and the illusion of choice: Comparing the evolution of India's Aadhaar and China's Social Credit System as technosocial discourses. *Social Science Computer Review*. Published ahead of print. doi: 10.1177/0894439318789343 *Special issue: Big Data Ethics and Politics

Zheng, P. & **Shahin, S.** (2018). Live tweeting live debates: How Twitter reflects and refracts the U.S. political climate in a campaign season. Published ahead of print. *Information, Communication & Society*. doi: 10.1080/1369118X.2018.1503697

Shahin, S. (2016). Right to be forgotten: How national identity, political orientation, and capitalist ideology structured a trans-Atlantic debate on information access and control. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, 93(2), 360-382. doi: 10.1177/1077699016638835 *Special issue: Information Access and Control in an Age of Big Data ***JMCQ Outstanding Research Article of the Year Award (Finalist), 2017**

Shahin, S. (2016). When scale meets depth: Integrating natural language processing and textual analysis for studying digital corpora. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 10(1), 28-50. doi: 10.1080/19312458.2015.1118447

Shahin, S., Zheng, P., Sturm, H. A., & Fadnis, D. (2016). Protesting the paradigm: A comparative study of news coverage of protests in Brazil, China, and India. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 21(2), 143-164. doi: 10.1177/1940161216631114 ***Lead Article**

Shahin, S. (2016). A critical axiology for Big Data studies. *Palabra Clave*, 19(4), 972-996. doi: 10.5294/pacla.2016.19.4.2 ***Lead Article**

Shahin, S. (2016). Framing 'bad news': Culpability and innocence in news coverage of tragedies. *Journalism Practice*, 10(5), 645-662. doi: 10.1080/17512786.2015.1044556

Shahin, S. (2015). Mediated modernities: (Meta)narratives of modern nationhood in Indian and Pakistani media, 1947-2007. *Global Media and Communication*, 11(2), 147-166. doi: 10.1177/1742766515588417

Shahin, S. (2015). News framing as identity performance: Religion versus race in the American-Muslim press. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 39(4), 338-356. doi: 10.1177/0196859915575740 *Special issue: Religion, Media, and Culture.

Shahin, S. (2015). Unveiling the American-Muslim press: News agendas, frames, and functions. *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism*, 16(7), 884–903. doi: 10.1177/1464884914545376

Invited Articles

Smidi, A. & **Shahin, S.** (2017). Social media and social mobilization in the Middle East: A survey of research on the Arab Spring. *India Quarterly*, 73(2), 196–209. doi: 10.1177/0974928417700798 *Special issue: The Middle East.

Shahin, S. (2017). Analysis of messy data. In J. Matthes, C. S. Davis, & R. F. Potter, (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods* (pp. 1–8). London: Wiley. doi: 10.1002/9781118901731.iecrm0152

Shahin, S. (2016). The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Muslim: Media representations of ‘Islamic punk’ through a postcolonial lens. In J. Smith & B. K. Thakore (Eds.), *Race and Contention in Twenty-First Century U.S. Media* (pp. 214–230). New York: Routledge.

Gil de Zúñiga, H. & **Shahin, S.** (2015). Social media and their impact on civic participation. In H. Gil de Zúñiga (Ed.), *New Agendas in Communication: New Technologies and Civic Engagement* (pp. 78–90). New York: Routledge.

Shahin, S. (2012). Controlled chaos: Iran’s hot peace with Afghanistan. In M. Makinsky (Ed.), *L’Iran et les grands acteurs regionaux et globaux* (pp. 321–337). Paris: L’Harmattan.

Shahin, S. (2002). The new New Journalism. Book review of ‘Journalism Online’ by Mike Ward. *British Journalism Review*, 13(4), 94–96. doi: 10.1177/095647480201300416

Manuscripts Under Review

Shahin, S., Seroka, L., & Islam, M. R. (revise and resubmit). “What’s racist about deporting criminal illegal ‘Felons?’” Examining the link between emotion and cognition in tweets about immigration. *New Media & Society*.

Zheng, P. & **Shahin, S.** (revise and resubmit). The peace paradigm? A network analytic approach to media and contentious politics in the Global South. *Social Movement Studies*.

Shahin, S. From social movement to social inertia: Emotion, cognition, and the limits of connective action. *Information, Communication & Society*.

Shahin, S. & Dai, Z. Social change 2.0? A technosocial framework to assess global aid agencies’ public engagement on Twitter. *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Shahin, S., Ala-Uddin, M., Verma, T., & Matanji, F. Dial M for Money: Transnational narratives of mobile money in the Global South. *Public Understanding of Science*.

Shahin, S. & Ng, Y. M. M. White Twitter: Tracing the diffusion of 'alt-right' in retweets, 2009-2016. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*.

Shahin, S. & Huang, Q. E. Friend, ally, or rival? National identity and the technosociology of Twitter diplomacy. *International Journal of Communication*.

Shahin, S., Smidi, A., & Kim, K. Orientalism meets Californian Ideology: A meta-analysis of research on new and legacy media's role in Arab uprisings, 2011-2016. *Media, War, & Conflict*.

Kim, K. & **Shahin, S.** Ideological parallelism: Towards a transnational understanding of the protest paradigm. *Social Movement Studies*.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

Shahin, S., Seroka, L., & Islam, M. R. (2018, August). "What's racist about deporting criminal illegal 'Felons'?" Examining the link between emotion and cognition in tweets about immigration. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (Mass Communication & Society Division), Washington, D.C.

Shahin, S., Smidi, A., & Kim, K. (2018, May). Orientalism meets Californian Ideology: A meta-analysis of research on new and legacy media's role in the Arab Spring, 2011-2016. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Political Communication Division), Prague.

Shahin, S., & Dai, Z. (2018, May). The view from the East: A comparative analysis of how Beijing and Delhi tweet about climate change. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Global Communication and Social Change Division), Prague.

Shahin, S. & Ng, M. (2017, August). It's Alt-Right: Tracing the technosocial evolution of White Nationalism on Twitter. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (Communication Technology Division), Chicago.

Shahin, S. & Dai, Z. (2017, May). Social change 2.0? A comparative analysis of global aid agencies' public engagement via Twitter. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Global Communication and Social Change Division), San Diego.

Zheng, P. & **Shahin, S.** (2017, May). The peace paradigm? A network analytic approach to media and contentious politics in the Global South. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Political Communication Division), San Diego.

Jung, H. & **Shahin, S.** (2017, May). Music on the Orient Express: Postcolonial readings of U.S. media coverage of Korean and Indian popular culture. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Popular Communication Division), San Diego.

Zheng, P. & **Shahin, S.** (2017, April). Through the Twitter glass: How social media reflect and reshape the political climate. Presented at the ISOJ annual conference, Austin.

Shahin, S. (2016, August). Facing up to Facebook: How digital activism, independent regulation and mass media foiled a capitalist threat to net neutrality. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (Communication Technology Division), Minneapolis. ***Jung-Sook Lee Top Student Paper Award.**

Zheng, P., Gil de Zúñiga, H., Tu, F., & **Shahin, S.** (2015, November). What's not to "Like?" How political expression on social media enhances participation. Presented at the NCA annual conference (Political Communication Division), Las Vegas.

Shahin, S. & Jung, H. (2015, October). Music on the Orient Express: Postcolonial readings of U.S. media coverage of K-Wave and Bollywood musicals. Presented at the Global Fusion annual conference, College Station.

Shahin, S., Zheng, P., Sturm, H. A., & Fadnis, D. (2015, August). Protesting the paradigm: A comparative study of news coverage of protests in Brazil, China, and India. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (International Communication Division), San Francisco.

Shahin, S. (2015, May). Qualitative Big Data research? Integrating natural language processing with textual analysis. Presented at ICA conference (Political Communication Division), San Juan.

Shahin, S. (2015, May). Framing 'bad news': Culpability and innocence in news coverage of tragedies. Presented at the ICA conference (Journalism Studies Division), San Juan.

Shahin, S. (2015, February). The more things change...: News media, collective memory, and the enduring India-Pakistan rivalry. Presented at the ISA annual conference, New Orleans.

Shahin, S. (2014, October). Mediated modernities: (Meta)narratives of modern nationhood in India and Pakistani press, 1947-2007. Presented at the Global Fusion annual conference, Austin. ***Top Student Paper Award.**

Shahin, S. & Pain, P. (2014, August). Mediating nation-ness: Nationhood and national identity in Indian and Pakistani media, 1947-1997. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (International Communication Division), Montreal. ***James W. Markham Top Student Paper Award.**

Shahin, S. (2014, May). News media and the social construction of international politics. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Political Communication Division), Seattle.

Shahin, S. (2014, May). News making as identity work: How religion and race compete in the American-Muslim press. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division), Seattle. ***Top Student Paper Award.**

Shahin, S. (2013, August). Unveiling the American-Muslim press: News agendas and frames in *Islamic Horizons* and *Muslim Journal*. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (Minorities and Communication Division), Washington, D.C. ***Top Student Paper Award.**

Shahin, S., Saldaña, M., & Gil de Zúñiga, H. (2013, August). The peripheral elaboration model: How incidental news exposure predicts political participation. Presented at the AEJMC annual conference (Communication Theory and Methodology Division), Washington, D.C. ***Top Paper Award.**

Shahin, S. (2013, May). Hymn of the hyphens: Construction of American-Muslim identity in taqwacore songs. Presented at the ICA annual conference (Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division), London. ***Top Student Paper Award.**

Panels & Competitively Selected Presentations

Shahin, S. (2017, May). Barbarians at the Twitter gate: A social network analysis of #MuslimAwarenessMonth and #CanYouHearUsNow. Presented as part of a panel on 'Intervention via Interactivity: Video Games, Social Networks, and (De)Racialization' at the ICA annual conference (Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division), San Diego.

Shahin, S., Oz, M., & Vu, H. (2017, February). The green revolution: Why anti-environmental projects mobilized citizens against authoritarian regimes in Vietnam and Turkey. Presented at the ISA annual conference, Baltimore.

Shahin, S. & Zheng, P. (2016, September). The Iran nuclear deal: How global power relations shape global news. Presented at the APSA annual conference (Political Communication Division), Philadelphia.

Zheng, P. & **Shahin, S.** (2016, May). Locating the 'paradigm' in protest paradigm: A comparative network analysis. Presented at the WAPOR annual conference, Austin.

Shahin, S. (2016, March). Global politics and the indexing and framing of global news: A six-nation study. Presented at the ISA annual conference, Atlanta.

Shahin, S. (2014, May). Taqwacore in the news: Representations of Muslim punk rock culture in American, British, and ethnic press. Presented as part of a panel on 'South Asian Diaspora, Racialization, and Popular Culture' at the ICA annual conference (Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division), Seattle.

Shahin, S. (2013, May). Googling opinion: Online search as an alternative to surveys. Presented at the WAPOR annual conference, Boston.

Invited Presentations

Shahin, S. (2018, November). The effect of affect: Emotion, cognition, and the 2016 election. Presented at the Media+Politics Workshop, School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Shahin, S. (2018, March). Computational methods in communication research: Using LDA topic modeling and regex to identify ideological influences in U.S. news coverage. Presented at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green.

Shahin, S. (2016, October). Facing up to Facebook: How digital activism, independent regulation and mass media foiled a capitalist threat to net neutrality. Presented during a colloquium at the School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green.

Shahin, S. (2016, August). A critical axiology for Big Data studies. Presented as part of a JMCQ-organized panel on 'Information Access and Control in an Age of Big Data' at the AEJMC annual conference, Minneapolis.

Shahin, S. (2015, December). Van Rossum meets Van Dijk: Using computational tools for critical research. Research talk at the Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Shahin, S. (2014, October). Concluding remarks. Wrap-up Session of the Global Fusion annual conference, Austin.

Shahin, S. (2011, September). Arab Spring in Persian Gulf: A social constructivist perspective. Presented at CWAS Student Seminar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Shahin, S. (2011, May). Discontent in West Asia: What the future holds. Presented at IPCS Young Scholars Conference, New Delhi.

AWARDS

Honors & Prizes

Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation Award (2nd place), Journalism Studies Division, ICA, 2018

Outstanding Research Article of the Year Award (Finalist), Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, 2017

Jung-Sook Lee Top Student Paper Award, Communication Technology Division, AEJMC, 2016

Maxwell McCombs Graduate Publishing Award, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Maxwell McCombs Graduate Publishing Award, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2015

Top Student Paper Award, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division, ICA, 2014

James W. Markham Top Student Paper Award, International Communication Division, AEJMC, 2014

Top Student Paper Award, Global Fusion, 2014

Top Student Paper Award, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division, ICA, 2013

Top Paper (Open Competition) Award, Communication Theory & Methodology Division, AEJMC, 2013

Top Student Paper Award, Minorities and Communication Division, AEJMC, 2013

Fellowships & Grants

Research Grant, \$30,000, School of Communication, American University, 2018-20

Research Grant, \$3,000, School of Communication, American University, 2018-19

Research Grant, \$10,000, College of Arts & Sciences, Bowling Green State University, 2016-18

Continuing Fellowship, \$18,000, Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin, 2015-16

Summer Fellowship, \$4,500, South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Research Fellowship, \$3,500, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Washington, D.C., 2015

Ada Frances Miller Fellowship, \$2,500, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2014-15

Ada Frances Miller Fellowship, \$2,500, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2014-15

Pic Wagner Fellowship, \$1,000, School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, 2012-13

Commonwealth Scholarship, Department for International Development, U.K.,
2001-02

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Faculty Leader, Algorithms, Big Data, & Culture (A.B.D.C.) Research Group, Bowling Green State University, 2017-18

Summer Graduate Research Assistant, South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2013-16

Researcher, Global Media Research Group, University of Texas at Austin, 2015-16

Researcher, Digital Media Research Program, University of Texas at Austin, 2012-15

CLASSES TAUGHT

American University

Advanced Media Research Methods (doctoral)

Bowling Green State University

Emerging Platforms, Emerging Journalism

Online Journalism

Multimedia Reporting Skills

University of Texas at Austin

Digital Storytelling

Multimedia Journalism (master's and undergraduate)

Web Publishing

Reporting Texas (master's and undergraduate)

Reporting Images

Reporting Words

GUEST LECTURES

“Mining and Analyzing Social Networks,” School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Spring 2018 (Instructor: Dr. Yanqin Lu)

“Comparing Social Networks,” School of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2017 (Instructor: Dr. Dhiraj Murthy)

“Critical Research with Big Data,” School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Fall 2016 & 2017 (Instructor: Dr. Louisa Ha)

“Critical Research with Big Data,” School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Fall 2016 (Instructor: Dr. Radhika Gajjala)

“Data Journalism,” School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Spring 2017 (Instructor: Dr. Catherine Cassara)

“Data Journalism,” School of Media and Communication, Bowling Green State University, Fall 2016 (Instructor: Mohammad Ala’uddin)

“Media in the Middle East,” School of Journalism, Kansas University, Spring 2016—Fall 2018 (Instructor: Dr. Hong Vu)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer

New Media and Society

The International Journal of Press/Politics

Mass Communication and Society

Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly

American Behavioral Scientist

Communication Methods and Measures

International Journal of Communication

International Communication Gazette

Global Media and Communication

Asian Journal of Communication

Chinese Journal of Communication

Popular Communication

Journal of Communication Inquiry

Social and Cultural Geography

The Sociological Quarterly

The British Journal of Politics and International Relations

Contemporary Review of the Middle East

Romanian Journal of Political Science

The Open Cybernetics and Systemics Journal

ICA (Communication and Technology, Political Communication, Global Media and Social Change, Journalism Studies, Computational Methods)

AEJMC (Communication Technology, Communication Theory and Methodology, International Communication)

Journal Chief Editor, 2014—16

Sagar: A South Asia Research Journal, published by South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin

Media Engagement

Interviewed regularly by U.S. and global media as an expert on social media and politics

Judge for Ohio News Media Association's Hooper Awards, 2016, 2017

Speaker on a panel on "fake news," organized by the Press Club of Toledo, 2017

Moderator

ICA annual conference, San Diego, 2017

AEJMC annual conference, San Francisco, 2015

Global Fusion annual conference, Austin, 2014

Graduate Liaison Officer

Minorities and Communication Division, AEJMC, 2013-2015

SERVICE TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Membership

Brian Hughes (in progress)

Student Mentoring

Working with doctoral student Liv Williams on funded research project

Curriculum Development

Redesigned the doctoral course in Advanced Media Research Methods

Standing Committee Membership

Ph.D. Steering Committee

SERVICE TO BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Membership

Mohammad Ala'uddin (in progress)

Laura Seroka (in progress)

Benjamin Brojakowski (May 2017)

Undergraduate Honors / Research Project Supervision

Hannah Jane Finnerty (in progress)

Clairessa Morrow (in progress)

Meredith Siegel (in progress)

Navier Grimes (May 2018)

Student Mentoring

Oversaw two doctoral independent studies (Adam Smidi, Kisun Kim)

Faculty mentor at the NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, July 2017

Adviser to undergraduate students on the Multiplatform Journalism track

Curriculum Development

Helped redesign the Journalism and Public Relations curriculum

Designed a new course, titled Emerging Platforms, Emerging Journalism

Redesigned courses on Online Journalism and Multimedia Reporting

Member of a committee planning a new major in advertising

Ad Hoc Committee Memberships

Member of the Graduate Program Committee, January—July 2018

Member of the Director Succession Committee, October 2017—March 2018

Member of search committees for faculty in social media and advertising, 2016-17

Diversity Promotion

Diversity Representative, Department of Journalism and Public Relations, August 2017—July 2018

Adviser, NABJ Student Chapter, August 2017—July 2018

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Member, search committee for associate professor in journalism, 2015-16

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Contributing Writer, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *Outlook*, *Hindu*, *Mint*, *Khaleej Times*, *Asia Times Online*, January 2012—present

News Editor, *Mint*, India, December 2009—December 2011

Senior Assistant Editor, *Mail Today*, India, September 2008—December 2009

Assistant Editor, *Qatar Tribune*, Qatar, May 2006—September 2008

Edit Page/Online Editor, *Oman Tribune*, Oman, December 2004—May 2006

Online Editor, *Indo-Asian News Service*, India, August—December 2004

Senior Sub-Editor, *HindustanTimes.com*, India, October 2002—July 2004

Contributing Writer, *BBC Lancashire Online*, UK, April—June 2002

Intern, *BBC Asian Network*, UK, March—April 2002

Content Developer, *Go4i.com*, India, June 2000—July 2001

Researcher, *TV Today*, India, August—October 1999

Contributing Writer, *The Indian Express*, India, February 1998—March 1999

DIGITAL SKILLS

Big Data Analysis, Network Analysis, Sentiment Analysis, Machine Learning

Python, Mallet, Netlytic, Gephi, R

Digital Production & Online Publishing

PremierePro, FinalCutPro, Photoshop, Audacity, HTML, Dreamweaver, WordPress

LANGUAGES

Hindi (fluent in speaking, reading, writing)

Urdu (fluent in speaking; intermediate in reading and writing)

French (basic in speaking, reading, writing)

AFFILIATIONS

International Communication Association, 2013—present

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013—present

International Studies Association, 2015—present

American Political Science Association, 2016—present