

# Ryan R. Rajpal

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## Education

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<b>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</b> , School of Arts and Sciences	May 2025
• <b>B.A.</b> Double Major: Political Science and Philosophy; Summa Cum Laude	
• <b>Honors Thesis:</b> Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? (2025)	
• <b>Gardner Thesis:</b> Understanding the Techno-Political Landscape: The Evolution of Digital Activism (2024)	

## Research Experience

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<b>PPL Institute</b> [ <i>Prototype</i> ]; Director, Founder	May 2025 - Present
<b>Department of Political Science, Rutgers University</b> ; Research Assistant	Jan 2024 - Sep 2025
<b>Aresty Research Center, Rutgers University</b> ; Research Assistant	Oct 2024 - Apr 2025
<b>Network Contagion Research Institute</b> ; Research Assistant	May - Dec 2024
<b>Social Perception Lab, Rutgers University</b> ; Research Assistant	May 2023 - May 2024

## Manuscripts in Preparation

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Funck, A., Krumholz, K., **Rajpal, R.**, & McCabe, K. "Is Talking Politics Always Risky Business? Experimental Interventions to Create Positive Political Discussion in Non-Political Spaces." (In Progress).

## Public Reports

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Goldenberg, A., McCann-Phillips, C., Jagdeep, A., Lazarus, S., Zecher, M., Fedida, O., Fhrer, G., Finkelstein, J., Gamil, F., Finkelstein, D., Yanovsky, S., **Rajpal, R.**, & Jussim, L. (2024). The Botification of The American Mind. *Network Contagion Research Institute*. [networkcontagion.us/reports/the-botification-of-the-american-mind/](http://networkcontagion.us/reports/the-botification-of-the-american-mind/)

Jussim, L., Yanovsky, S., Finkelstein, D., Finkelstein, J., Donohue, J., Goldenberg, A., Patel, S., Selby, E., Glover, T., Vasko, C., Jagdeep, A., Abdallah, L., Harley, S., Ibrahim, C., Kalisch-Cellai, C., Karra, P., Mehta, A., & **Rajpal, R.** (2024). One Click Away: A Study on the Prevalence and Accessibility of Non-Suicidal Self Injury, Suicide, and Eating Disorder Content in Search Engines. *Network Contagion Research Institute*. [ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0028/276526/one-click-away-ncri-report](http://ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/276526/one-click-away-ncri-report)

## Presentations

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### National Presentations

**Rajpal, R.R.** (2025, April). Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? [Poster Presentation]. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Funck, A., **Rajpal, R.R.** (2024, September). Is Talking Politics Always Risky Business? Experimental Interventions to Create Positive Political Discussion in Non-Political Spaces [Poster Presentation]. American Political Science Association Political Psychology Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Other Presentations

**Rajpal, R.R.** (2025, April). Exploring Political Content on Social Media: What Does Playful Activism Really Do? [Poster presentation]. Political Science Thesis Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Connelly, R., **Rajpal, R. R.** (2025, April). State Demographics and Representation: What Inspires Women of Color to Run? [Poster presentation]. Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**Rajpal, R.R.** (2024, April). Understanding the Techno-political Landscape: The Evolution of Digital Activism [Poster presentation]. Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship Research Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**Awards and Fellowships**

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2025	Henry Rutgers Scholar Award, Rutgers University	[ Thesis Award]
2025	Paul Robeson Scholar, Rutgers University	
2025	Neil McDonald Prize, Rutgers University	
2025	Jacob Cooper Prize in Logic, Rutgers University	
2025	Design Justice Lab Research Fellowship, Rutgers University	
2024	<i>Pi Sigma Alpha - Beta Omicron</i> Honor Society, Political Science Honor Society	
2023	<i>Phi Sigma Tau - Theta</i> Honor Society, Philosophy Honor Society	
2023-2024	Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship, Rutgers University	
2022-2025	School of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award, Rutgers University	
2021-2025	Dean's List, Rutgers University	

**Teaching Experience**

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<b>Kelly Education</b>	Jan - June 2025
Substitute Teacher	
<b>Department of Psychology, Rutgers University</b>	Sep 2023 - Dec 2024
Learning Assistant, General Psychology 101	

**Professional Experience**

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<b>Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office</b>	Sep 2023 - Apr 2024
Trial and Juvenile Crime Intern	

**Leadership**

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<b><i>Phi Sigma Tau - Theta</i> Honor Society</b>	
President	Apr 2024 - Apr 2025
Social Media Officer	Apr 2023 - Apr 2024

**The Institute of Domestic and International Affairs**

Vice President	Apr 2024 - Apr 2025
Director of Digital Content	Apr 2023 - Apr 2024
Committee Director/Assistant Director [Educator Role]	Jan 2023 – Feb 2025

**Skills**

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<b>Coding:</b> R/RStudio, Python, STATA, Excel, JavaScript, HTML, CSS	
<b>Technical:</b> Qualtrics, Adobe Studio, Canva, Microsoft/Google Office	