

Nayantara Ranganatha
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Research interests

Political behavior, authoritarian politics, democratization, legacies of violence, transitional justice.

Education

University of Oxford 2024- Present
MPhil Politics (Comparative Government)

University of Amsterdam 2021 – 2024
BSc Political Science, Comparative Politics
Grade: 8.2/10 (*Cum laude*)
Thesis: Skating on 'thin' ice: A conjoint analysis of 'thin' and 'thick' populism as drivers of vote choice in the Netherlands (Grade: 9/10)

The Australian National University 2020 - 2021
BA Political Science, minor in Economics and Psychology

Craighouse School (Santiago, Chile) 2015 – 2019
International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma (Spanish/English)
Licencia de Educación Media (Spanish)

Research Experience

St. Antony's College, University of Oxford December 2025 – Present
Research Assistant

- Research assistant for Prof. Timothy Garton Ash and the Dahrendorf Programme.

University of Amsterdam June – July 2023
Research Assistant

- Conducted a literature review and co-wrote a chapter on populism and affective polarization (with Dr. Matthijs Rooduijn and Daniel Komáromy) for the Edward Elgars Handbook of Affective Polarization.

Research Intern February – June 2022

- Conducted a literature survey on empathy for an interdisciplinary theater experiment at the Oerol music festival, led by Dr. Matthijs Rooduijn.

Australian National University December 2020 – June 2021
Research Assistant

- Collected and synthesized archival data for a research project on the history of blushing led by Dr. Baptiste Brossard at the ANU School of Sociology tracing the history of blushing.

Publications

As co-author

1. Ranganatha, N., Komáromy, D., and Rooduijn, M. (2024). Populism and Affective Polarization. In Torcal, M., & Hartevelde, E. (Eds.), *Handbook of Affective Polarization*. Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/rh29g>.

As Research Assistant

2. Brossard, B. P. M. (2024). Eloquent Blood: A Historical Microsociology of Blushing. *Sociology*: 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385241247254>.

In Progress

3. Rooduijn, M., Gerritsen, D., Bakker, B., Slagmolen, D., Van der Geest, J., Homan, H., Pipal, C., Rebasso, I., Petropoulos Petalas D., Dunkes, R., Ranganatha, N., Van Boetzelaar, L., Abbink, S., Kim, D., Thuijls, J. Aktolug, K., Belevi, A., Boer, Q., Breedveld, P. (...). Arts-based interventions and prejudice reduction: do narratives of empathy and tolerance affect feelings towards outgroups?

Awards

1. St. Anne's College Graduate Research and Travel Grant, University of Oxford (2025)
2. Cyril Foster Funds, Department of Politics and IR, University of Oxford (2025)

Skills

Languages

- Kannada (Native), English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), German (Proficient).

Technical Languages and Infrastructures

- SPSS, R.
- Atlas.ti., Nvivo
- Microsoft Office, Google Suite

Other experiences and interests

Interviewer at Room for Discussion

April 2023 – June 2024

Room for Discussion is the official student interview platform at the University of Amsterdam. Over the past 15 years, we have hosted guests such as Christine Lagarde, Charles Michel, Thomas Piketty, Peter Singer, and Daron Acemoglu.

- An overview of the guests I interviewed can be found [here](#).

- I also started the platform's first Podcast series called '[The Ivory Tower](#)', to hold slow-paced conversations with academics about their research.

Documentary Filmmaking

2018 – Ongoing

- Co-directed two short documentaries with Elliot Zepeda Kim.
- First short documentary focused on the nationalization of mines in the Chilean town Lota. It was [published by the NGO Procultura](#) and spotlighted by the Chilean Ministry of Cultures, Arts, and Heritage on Chile's National Heritage Day in 2020.
- Conducted interviews and helped collected footage for a second documentary (in process) on the community of Chileans exiled in the Netherlands following the 1973 coup d'etat. Interviewed 25+ Dutch-Chilean exiles about their changing ties to Chilean politics over the course of the democratic transition and the 2019 social unrests.