

Rehan Ali Mirza

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Experience

University of Pennsylvania

Doctoral Researcher, Annenberg School for Communication

Philadelphia, PA
Aug 2025 – Present

- Use computational and mixed methods to study platform design, governance, and online discourse
- Current projects include a community moderation survey experiment; using design-based supervised learning to develop a discourse quality metric; and grounded-theory approaches to platform governance

Prosocial Design Network

Fellow

Remote
Apr 2025 – Apr 2026

- Synthesized expert working group discussions with researchers and practitioners into findings on barriers to actionable platform-design research and institutional recommendations
- Mapped 30+ LLM-enabled public-discourse tools and surveyed 25+ developers on goals, functions, and characteristics

Shorenstein Center, Harvard Kennedy School

Policy Researcher

Cambridge, MA
2023 – 2024

- Produced rapid-turnaround case studies on Facebook/Meta governance for a convening with the Obama Foundation, synthesizing internal platform documents, press coverage, and platform-design evidence into policy recommendations
- Led research and content for Election Essentials public information campaign, translating evidence on AI, disinformation, platform integrity, and mitigation strategies into voter-facing guidance

L.E.K. Consulting

Strategy Consultant

London, UK
2017 – 2021

- Delivered quantitative analysis, market research, and strategic recommendations across 20+ commercial and public-sector projects for senior client stakeholders
- Led workstreams involving financial modeling, survey analysis, large dataset analysis, and 60+ stakeholder interviews

Projects

Integrity Institute

Tech Policy Tracker, Operational Lead

Remote
Aug 2024 – Present

- Expanded the Tech Policy Tracker into a maintainable civic research tool, adding automated bill collection, LLM-assisted summarization, thematic classification, and searchable front-end access
- Created technical documentation, analytics, user-support workflows, and volunteer coordination processes to support long-term maintenance and handoff

Twitter/X

Capstone Consulting Project, Harvard Kennedy School

Cambridge, MA
Oct 2022 – Apr 2023

- Analyzed Twitter API data and conducted 12 expert interviews, identifying prosocial use cases of Twitter in autocratic contexts including small business activity, crisis response, and social activism

Trustible

AI Governance Consultant

Remote
Jul 2023 – Oct 2023

- Pitched and independently led research on privacy teams' readiness for AI governance, interviewing practitioners and authoring a published white paper on organizational readiness and skills gaps

Pensieve: Open-source tool for organizing academic notes using embeddings and LLM-assisted summarization

Selected Writing: 10+ white papers and op-eds in Tech Policy Press, Journalist's Resource, and others; rehanmirza.net

Education

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in Communication, GPA: 4.0 (current)

Advisor: Sandra González-Bailón | Center for Information Networks and Democracy

Philadelphia, PA
Aug 2025 – Present

Harvard Kennedy School

Master in Public Policy

Cambridge, MA
May 2023

University College London

MSc Global Health and Development

London, UK
Sep 2016

University of Cambridge

BA Economics

Cambridge, UK
Jun 2014

Skills

Technical: Python, R, Stata, NLP/ML, LLM-assisted classification, API integration, GitHub, Qualtrics, Tableau

Methods: Experimental design, survey design, statistical modeling, content analysis, causal inference, interviews