PAROMA SONI

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EXPERIENCE

POLITICO
Data and Graphics Reporter *Aug. 2023 – Present*
- Pitch and produce original, graphics-driven explainers on trade and agriculture policy for POLITICO's premium subscribers
- Collaborate on quick-hit explainers with reporters across the newsroom on complex policy changes
- Work on longform data investigations for POLITICO's main site, including a precinct-level analysis of voter turnout in swing states and political contributions from industry groups

FiveThirtyEight
Associate Visual Journalist *Jun. 2022 – Aug. 2023*
- Pitched, collaborated and developed ambitious data and graphics projects, including one on election deniers on the midterm ballots and another on abortions post-Dobbs
- Crafted static and bespoke charts to accompany daily and feature stories across the newsroom
- Contributed code, design and feedback to large-scale interactive projects

Columbia Journalism Review
Delacorte Magazine Fellow *Aug. 2021 – May 2022*
- Pitched and reported deeply researched stories on the media, technology and journalism, including a months-long data investigation into the Modi government's censorship of Twitter
- Assisted the team with data analysis and visualization
- Contributed stories and reporting to CJR's quarterly magazine

NY City Lens
Reporter *Jan. 2021 – Jun. 2021*
- Pitched and reported stories weekly on local NYC issues for this award-winning Columbia publication, including one on caste violence among Indian immigrants in New York
- Work collaboratively on print, video, multimedia and data stories

BuzzFeed India
Video Producer *Feb. 2019 – Aug. 2020*
- Pitched and directed original video content across platforms on social issues, including Bollywood's impact on rape culture
- Led the team in producing two 5-6-minute videos per week
- Edited 14 compilation videos per month for BuzzFeed brands
- Sourced and produced content for viral social media videos

Slate Magazine
Video Intern *Jan. 2018 – May 2018*
- Researched, filmed and edited video projects including one on sex workers and consent in the #MeToo era
- Handled quick-turn edit requests, scripts, re-works, graphics and subtitling, and assisted on live shoots

EDUCATION

Columbia Journalism School *Aug. 2021*
Master of Science in Data Journalism
Full scholarship recipient; program focused on using coding, open-source tools, web scraping, AI and visualization for investigative reporting and data-driven stories. Highlights:
- In-depth news feature on the impact of COVID on Mumbai's lower-caste fisherwomen
- Interactive map of gun violence and racial inequality in New York City during the pandemic
- Master's project on the Indian government's use of social media data to target journalists and activists

Trinity College, Hartford CT *May 2017*
Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights and Film Studies
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Davis Scholar. Honors theses:
- "Flames in the Shadows – The Marathwada Riots and the Struggle for Dalit Liberation" advised by Vijay Prashad
- "Mosaic", 20 min. narrative short film on urban youth in India advised by James Younger

FREELANCE PROJECTS

- **The Markup**: "Still Loading" – a multiple award-winning investigation into internet speed disparity within cities (contributed interactive maps and graphics)
- **BBC**: Articles for BBC Studios on diversity in healthcare and AI in carbon emissions tracking
- **The Swaddle**: Opinion pieces on the Indian response to George Floyd's murder, Trump's F-1 visa ban, COVID-19 for the Indian diaspora, Mindy Kaling, and public health
- **Scroll.in**: Deep dive into how Mumbai's lower-caste fisherwomen survived the pandemic and strict lockdowns
- **The Wire**: News analysis of Trump's F-1 visa ban and its impact on the migration of Indian students

SKILLS

- ***DATA***:
  Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, R, SQL, Regex, APIs, Adobe Illustrator,QGIS, Matplotlib, Mapbox, Tableau, Datawrapper, Open Refine, Excel

- ***VIDEO***:
  Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, After Effects, Lightroom, Illustrator, Final Cut Pro X, Logic Pro Canon 1D/5D/7D

- ***WEB***:
  WordPress, Clay/CMS. Google Analytics, Wix Web Design, Social Media Analytics and SEO, YouTube Optimization

- ***LANGUAGES***:
  English ★★★★★
  Hindi ★★★★★
  Gujarati ★★★
  Spanish ★★