

Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

Platform visibility of political protests through visual news framing across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal

Faculty Mentor: Erik Nisbet, Professor, School of Communication

Project Synopsis: This study investigates the visual news framing of large-scale anti-corruption protests in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal in 2025. Using computational visual analysis, it analyzes the visual framing of international and domestic news coverage of the protests and compares differences in their visual features across these three Asian countries. It also seeks to examine the relationship between the features of these visual frames and their social media engagement as an indicator of platform visibility, controlling for the news media domain, story attributes, and country variables, using regression analysis. It examines how visual news framing contributes to the visibility of political mobilization in the Global South, potentially affecting the perceived legitimacy of protests and inspiring further political action.

Project Term: Summer and Academic Year 2026

Project Location: Remote

Job Description: The project is looking for a research assistant who can perform the following roles:

- Conduct a literature review on political protests and visual news framing in the study's multi-country contexts
- Help process and analyze visual and textual data using computational methods (computer vision, vision language model, text analysis, etc.)
- Write and run Python code to perform the above tasks
- Perform descriptive data analysis and other summative data tasks

Time Commitment: 10-20 flexible hours a week

Number of available positions: One