

PAROMA SONI

 www.paromasoni.com |  paromaz6@gmail.com |  [@paromasoni](https://twitter.com/paromasoni)

EXPERIENCE

FiveThirtyEight | Jun 2022 – Present
Associate Visual Journalist, New York

- 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 | Aug 2021 – May 2022
Delacorte Magazine Fellow, New York

- Pitched and reported deeply researched think pieces covering media, technology and journalism, including investigating corruption and press freedom in Mexico
- Assisted the team with data analysis and presentation
- Contributed stories and research to CJR's magazine

NY City Lens | Jan 2021 – Jun 2021
Reporter, New York

- 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 and another on food deserts in the Bronx
- Work collaboratively on print, video, multimedia and data stories across all social media platforms

BuzzFeed India | Feb 2019 – Aug 2020
Video Producer, Mumbai

- Pitched, directed and produced original video content across social media platforms on subjects including rape culture in India and societal obsession with grades
- Led and assisted the team producing two 5-6-minute videos per week
- Edited 14 compilation videos per month for BuzzFeed Tasty, Nifty and Bring Me
- Sourced user-generated content and developed social media videos on trending viral topics

Slate Magazine | Jan 2018 – May 2018
Video Intern, New York

- 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
- Assisted in live shoots and post-production
- Maintained and optimized Slate's YouTube channel

Working Families Party | Jun 2017 – Jan 2018
Media & Engagement Coordinator, New York

- Built outreach strategy for political campaigns
- Canvassed for new members & monthly \$800 donations
- Created branded content & social media videos
- Trained new recruits in communications skills

EDUCATION

Columbia Journalism School | Aug 2021
Master of Science in Data Journalism
Shobhana Bhartia Scholar; Coll Family Scholar

Program focused on using coding, open-source intelligence, 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 Scholarship

Published honors theses:

- *Human Rights*: "Flames in the Shadows – The Marathwada Riots and the Struggle for Dalit Liberation" advised by Vijay Prashad
- *Film Studies*: "Mosaic", 20 min. narrative short film on urban youth in India advised by James Younger

FREELANCE PROJECTS

- **The Markup**: "Still Loading" – an investigation into internet speed disparity within cities (interactive maps and graphics)
- **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
- **ScrollIn**: a deep dive into how Mumbai's lower-caste fisherwomen survived the pandemic and strict lockdowns
- **The Wire**: a 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
- **WEB:**
WordPress, Clay/CMS, Google Analytics, Wix Web Design, Social Media Analytics & SEO, YouTube Optimization
- **VIDEO:**
Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, After Effects, Lightroom, Illustrator, Final Cut Pro X, Logic Pro, Canon 1D/5D/7D
- **LANGUAGES:**
English ★★★★★
Hindi ★★★★★
Gujarati ★★★
Spanish ★★