

PRAKHAR SRIVASTAVA

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PROFILE

Prakhar Srivastava is Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences Division, School of Arts and Sciences at Ahmedabad University. He studies how people around the world understand and experience human connection, and how this understanding can be used to build better interventions, measurement tools, and policies. His doctoral research examined Hindu-Muslim cross-group friendship in India, showing how a single friendship across group lines can improve attitudes toward other groups and foster more multicultural thinking. He is a founding member of the Social Connection Research Lab at Jamia Millia Islamia, and has led India's contribution to the Templeton-funded Global Index of Social Connection. He also served as Open Science Officer for the European Union's Lonely-EU project.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social connection, loneliness, belonging, and human flourishing; cross-group friendship and intergroup relations; open science, ethical research practices, and applications of psychology for individual and societal wellbeing.

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology

Oct 2019–Feb 2026

Department of Psychology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

- Dissertation: “The Ripple Effect of Contact: Examining the Transfer Effects of Hindu–Muslim Friendship in India,” examining how cross-group friendship generalizes to primary and secondary outgroups and fosters multicultural thinking. Supervisor: Prof. Samina Bano.
- Founding member, Social Connection Research Lab, Department of Psychology, Jamia Millia Islamia; contributed to establishing the lab's vision and mission, shaping early research directions, mentoring lab members, and supporting outreach and institutional recognition.
- Taught UG/PG courses in Organizational Psychology, Research Methods, Counseling Psychology, Statistics, and General Psychology as Senior Research Fellow; mentored students in research design, data analysis, and scientific writing.

MA in Applied Psychology

2016–2018

Banaras Hindu University

BA (Honours) in Psychology

2013–2016

Jamia Millia Islamia

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Division

Jul 2026–Present

School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University

Senior Researcher & Open Science Officer

Feb 2025–Jun 2026

Annecy Behavioral Science Lab, France

- Core team member for the Global Index of Social Connection (funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation); contributed to evidence-based work on social health by coordinating interdisciplinary teams, supporting research workflows, and assisting with analytical and public-facing reports.
- Open Science Officer for the EU-funded Lonely-EU project (monitoring and addressing loneliness and social isolation across Europe); led development of the Research Management Philosophy (RMP) and Data

Management Plan (DMP); ensured open-science workflows, FAIR standards, and ethical research governance across EU partners.

- Co-supervised development of the Lonely-EU Network (academia, clinicians, NGOs, policymakers, industry) and a systematic review synthesizing European measures of loneliness and social isolation.
- Data Protection Officer (DPO) for Entrelacs and Solstice (ABSL's mental-health startup and clinic); led GDPR compliance, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), secure data governance, and privacy-by-design processes.
- Supported development of Entrelacs, ABSL's AI-based personalized mental-health assessment platform; coordinated interdisciplinary work across research, UX, engineering, and AI teams; engaged funding agencies, Expert Advisory Boards, and partner organizations.

Research Contractor (Country Lead)

Jul 2024–Feb 2025

Annecy Behavioral Science Lab, France

- Led the India team for the Global Index of Social Connection project; managed sampling, coordination, and qualitative data collection across diverse regions.
- Led the design, conduct, and qualitative analysis of 50 in-depth interviews on social connection, loneliness, and wellbeing, coordinating a multi-member research team; primary author of the India Country Report.
- Coordinated with multi-country teams to maintain methodological consistency across regional datasets.

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Best Paper Award, “The Role of Chatbots in Transforming Mental Health Care: A Research Overview,” WellCon-2024, Farook College, Kozhikode, 2024.
- Best Paper Award, “Looking at the Bright Side: A Bibliometric Perspective on Positive Psychological Studies Related to Covid-19,” International Conference on Mental Health and Covid-19, AMU Aligarh, 2022.
- Qualified for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and eligibility for Assistant Professor, UGC-NET, June 2019 (NTA Ref. No. 190510421401).
- Promoted to Senior Research Fellow (SRF), Department of Psychology, Jamia Millia Islamia, February 2024.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Srivastava, P., & Bano, S. (2025). Mapping the landscape of cross-group friendship research: A bibliometric review. *Current Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-07466-y>

Deka, T., Bano, S., & Srivastava, P. (2025). Understanding social connectedness: A phenomenological study on individuals with depression in India. *Current Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-08187-y>

Bano, S., Srivastava, P., SM, S. E. M., Nishat, A., & Ahmad, I. (2024). Mapping the past, present, and future of belongingness research: A bibliometric and thematic analysis. *Journal of Belonging and Human Connection*, 1–36. <https://doi.org/10.1163/27722856-bja10002>

Srivastava, P., Bano, S., & Abidi, S. (2024). Post-pandemic learning: Insights from Indian college students. *Voices of Teachers and Teacher Educators*, 13(2), 129–143.

Srivastava, P., Mubasheer, S. E., & Bano, S. (2023). Addiction and social connectedness: A bibliometric analysis. *Indian Journal of Health and Well-being*, 14(4), 436–442.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS / UNDER REVIEW

- Multi-Country Investigation into the Conceptualization and Experience of Social Connection, Social Isolation, and Loneliness (with H. R. IJzerman, M. Silan, A. Shankar, and researchers from eight countries). Under review
- Personalized Loneliness Intervention (with L. Coll-Planas, S. Akhtar, and collaborators). Under review
- Social Connection in Older Adults: A Bibliometric and Thematic Analysis (with I. Ahmad, S. Bano, and others, Jamia Millia Islamia). Under review
- Mapping the Landscape of Family-Focused Suicide Research: A Bibliometric and Thematic Analysis (with S. E. Mubasheer, S. Bano, and others, Jamia Millia Islamia). Under review, Marriage and Family Review.

EDITORIAL ROLES

Section Editor, Handbook of Belonging Research (Routledge)

In progress

Responsible for selecting, curating, and reviewing contributions for a major international volume on belonging, in collaboration with Prof. Kelly-Ann Allen (Monash University) and an international editorial team; one of the first comprehensive volumes synthesizing global scholarship on belonging across psychology, sociology, education, and public health.

REPORTS, POLICY, AND OPEN SCIENCE OUTPUTS

- IJzerman, H. R., Vezzoni, C., & Srivastava, P. Europe's Loneliness Measurement Challenge: Building Evidence-Based Infrastructure. LONELY-EU Policy Brief 2026/01 (European Union funded).
- India Country Report, Global Index of Social Connection (Templeton World Charity Foundation).
- Multi-Country Reports, Global Index of Social Connection (Brazil, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Philippines, Morocco, United States, and China)
- Lonely-EU Research Management Philosophy and Data Management Plan; FAIR-compliant, GDPR-aligned governance framework for the EU consortium.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

- IJzerman, H. R., & Srivastava, P. (2025). Loneliness Is a Global Problem. *Psychology Today*.
- IJzerman, H. R., Srivastava, P., & Mosalakanti, S. (2025). How India Defines Belonging. *Psychology Today*.
- IJzerman, H. R., & Srivastava, P. (2025). Belonging in Camden: Community, Place, and Social Connection. Annecy Behavioral Science Lab/LinkedIn public scholarship essay.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Thriving Beyond Prejudice: A Study of Indian Muslim Adolescents. National Conference on Psychology in a Globalized World (NCPGW 2025), Jamia Millia Islamia, 6–7 Feb 2025.
- Beyond Direct Contact: Mediating Pathways of Generalization in Hindu-Muslim Friendship. NCPGW 2025, Jamia Millia Islamia, 6–7 Feb 2025.
- The Role of Chatbots in Transforming Mental Health Care: A Research Overview. WellCon-2024, Farook College, Kozhikode, 3–4 Feb 2024.
- Exploring Recent Trends in Addiction and Social Connectedness: A Science Mapping Study. 1st ANCSAP-2023, NDDTC, AIIMS New Delhi, 10–11 Mar 2023.
- Looking at the Bright Side: A Bibliometric Perspective on Positive Psychological Studies Related to Covid-19. International Conference on Mental Health and Covid-19, AMU Aligarh, 25–26 Nov 2022.
- Top 100 Cited Studies on Intergroup Relations: A Bibliometric Analysis. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, 18–19 Apr 2022.
- Relationship between Gratitude and Subjective Happiness among College Students. ICSSR International Conference, University of Lucknow, 22–23 Oct 2021.
- Gratitude and Subjective Well-Being of College Students. National Seminar on Health & Well-Being, Jamia Millia Islamia, 12–13 Nov 2014.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Psychology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

- Organizational Psychology (BA Sem-4): Introduced students to workplace behavior, leadership, and motivation using applied case discussions.
- Research Methods and Statistics (BA Prog Sem-5): Trained students in research design, data analysis, and report writing.
- Counseling Psychology (BA Sem-3): Focused on counseling theories, communication skills, and ethical practice.

- General Psychology (MA Sem-1): Delivered foundational lectures connecting psychological theory with real-life applications.
- Mentorship: Guided undergraduate and postgraduate students in research design, data analysis, and academic writing.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Approaches to Qualitative Research: Grounded Theory and Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis. Department of Clinical Psychology, ICFAI University, Tripura, 2021.
- A Starter's Guide to Open Science. Erasmus University Rotterdam via Coursera, 2024.
- The ABC's of GDPR: Protecting Privacy in an Online World. Coursera, 2025.
- BETA: Behavioral Insights for Public Policy. Australian Government, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, American Psychological Association (APA), Membership ID: C2304612905.

LANGUAGES

- English (Professional Fluency)
- Hindi (Native Fluency)