

Rex Weiye Deng

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🐦 [@rexhere1](https://twitter.com/rexhere1)

Education

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri
– *Dissertation: How Entertainment Fosters Political Compliance in China*
Ph.D., Political Science, expected in 2026
M.A., Political Science, 2023
Subfields: Comparative Politics (Major), Political Methodology (Minor)

Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
B.A., Economics, 2020

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR, China
B.Sc. (First-Class Honors), Global China Studies, 2020

Research Interests

Comparative Politics: Authoritarian Politics, Political Communication, State Building, China
International Relations: Public Diplomacy, International Cooperation
Political Methodology: Text Analysis, Computational Models

Working Papers

Deng, Rex W. “Negative Propaganda and Regime Evaluations: Evidence from China.”
Revise and Resubmit.

Deng, Rex W. “Screened Realities: How Entertainment Fosters Political Compliance in China.”
• Rebecca Morton Poster Award, 2025 Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science

Deng, Rex W. “Softening the Crisis: How Cultural Diplomacy Fosters Interstate Reconciliation.”

Carter, David B. and Rex W. Deng. “How Do State-Led Infrastructure Projects Affect Trust in Historically Hard-to-Reach Places?” Under review.

Charaniya, Amaan, Rex Weiye Deng, Dahjin Kim, Gechun Lin, William Nomikos, and İpek Ece Şener. “Can Leaders Shape Public Opinion During a Foreign Policy Crisis? Evidence from U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan.” Under review.
• Best Paper for the Foreign Policy Section, APSA 2023

Deng, Rex W., Taishi Muraoka, and Margit Tavits. “Exploiting Extremism: Strategic Responses of Radical Right Parties to Right-Wing Violence in Europe.”

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| Work in Progress | Deng, Rex W. and Haifeng Huang. “The Blessing and Curse of Cute Propaganda.” | |
| | Deng, Rex W. and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Turning Crisis into Opportunities: How Authoritarian Regime Appeal to Mass Emotions in Crisis Communication.” | |
| Honors & Grants | Research Grant | |
| | Juniors Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (\$6,000) | 2025 |
| | Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (\$3,000) | 2024 |
| | Graduate Research Dissertation Grant, Washington University (\$1,000) | 2024 |
| | Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University (\$15,000) | 2024 |
| | • Co-PI: Margit Tavits and Taishi Muraoka | |
| | Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University (\$12,000) | 2024 |
| | • Co-PI: Ted Enamorado | |
| | Legislative Studies Quarterly Research Award, Washington University (\$5,000) | 2020 |
| | Travel Grant | |
| | ISA Travel Grant | 2025 |
| | APSA Political Psychology Section Distinguished Junior Scholar Award | 2024 |
| | APSA Travel Grant | 2023 |
| | APSA Travel Grant; APSA Foreign Policy Section Travel Grant | 2022 |
| | Other Awards | |
| | School of Political Science and Economics Award, Waseda University | 2019 |
| | • Awarded for the first Waseda Data Science Competition | |
| | • Theme: Predict results of Japan’s Upper House Election in 2019 | |
| | • With Wenhao (Brian) Jiang, Yuji Mizushima, and Siyuan Shang | |
| | Dean’s List, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology | 2016–2018 |
| | Scholarships | |
| | Asian Future Leadership Scholarship, Bai Xian Asia Institute (≈ \$28,680) | 2018 |
| | • Full tuition and living expenses for study at Waseda | |
| | Ho & Ho Foundation Scholarship, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (≈ \$76,000) | 2015 |
| | • Full tuition and living expenses for study at HKUST | |
| Presentations | Annual Meetings of Professional Associations | |
| | American Political Science Association (APSA) | 2022–2024 |
| | International Studies Association (ISA) | 2025 |
| | Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) | 2022, 2023 |
| | Western Political Science Association (WPSA) | 2023, 2025 |
| | Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) | 2025 |
| | Peace Science Society (International) | 2024 |
| | ISA-Midwest | 2022 |

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| | Workshops and Seminars | |
| | Empirical Studies of Conflicts (ESOC) Annual Meeting (National Taiwan University/Emory University) | 2025 |
| | Frontiers in Political Methodology (WashU) | 2025 |
| | Virtual Workshops on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR) | 2025 |
| | Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (NYU) | 2025 |
| | Comparative Politics Annual Conference (CPAC; WashU) | 2023–2025 |
| | State Capacity Conference (Yale) | 2022 |
| | The Politics of State Authority and Insecurity Workshop (Rutgers University) | 2022 |
| | | |
| RA Experience | Washington University in St. Louis , Department of Political Science | |
| | Research assistant (Carly Wayne) | 2021–2023 |
| | Research assistant (Margit Tavits, Jacob Montgomery, and Christopher Lucas) | 2023 |
| | Research assistant (Michael Olson) | 2022 |
| | Research assistant (Lucia Motolinia) | 2022 |
| | | |
| TA Experience | Columbia University , Department of Political Science | |
| | Research assistant (Junyan Jiang) | 2020 |
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| | Washington University in St. Louis , Department of Political Science | |
| | <i>Undergraduate Level</i> | |
| | Introduction to Comparative Politics (Guillermo Rosas) | Spring 2024 |
| Additional Training | Psychology of War (Carly Wayne) | Fall 2023 |
| | Introduction to International Politics (David Carter) | Fall 2022, 2023 |
| | Quantitative Political Methodology (Ted Enamorado) | Spring 2022 |
| | Data Science for Politics (Jacob Montgomery) | Fall 2021 |
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| Service | Washington University in St. Louis , St. Louis, Missouri | |
| | Spatial Statistics (Scott Cook) | Summer 2024 |
| | Text-As-Data (Brandon Stewart) | Summer 2023 |
| | Time Series Analysis (Clayton Webb) | Summer 2022 |
| | Python camp (Benjamin Noble) | Summer 2021 |
| | Math camp (Jacob Montgomery) | Summer 2020 |
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| | East China University of Political Science and Law , Shanghai, China | |
| | Training Camp of Political Methodology and Chinese Political Institution | Summer 2020 |
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| | Journal Reviewer: <i>Journal of Chinese Political Science</i> | |
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| | Coordinator, Comparative Politics Annual Conference 2025 | |
| | Manager, WashU Political Data Science Lab, Fall 2022 – Fall 2023 | |

Technical Skills

R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Tableau, \LaTeX

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese (native)
English (fluent), Japanese (intermediate)

References**Margit Tavits**

Dr. William Taussig Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
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David B. Carter

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Washington University in St. Louis
davidcarter@wustl.edu

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Haifeng Huang

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