

Rex Weiye Deng

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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.”

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

	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
	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
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
	East China University of Political Science and Law , Shanghai, China	
	Training Camp of Political Methodology and Chinese Political Institution	Summer 2020
	Journal Reviewer: <i>Journal of Chinese Political Science</i>	
	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
Email: tavits@wustl.edu

Carly Wayne
Associate Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
Email: carlywayne@wustl.edu

Haifeng Huang
Associate Professor
The Ohio State University
Email: huang.5457@osu.edu

David B. Carter
Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
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Ted Enamorado
Associate Professor
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