

ANGEL M. VILLEGRAS-CRUZ (安河)
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University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Institutional Research Analyst 2024 – Present
Office of Data Insights and Reporting, University of Rochester Rochester, NY

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science and Asian Studies 2021 – 2024

Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

Major Fields: International Relations and Asian Studies

Minor Field: Comparative Politics

M.A. in Political Science 2019 – 2021

Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

M.A. in International Relations 2016 – 2019

Beijing Normal University Beijing, China

B.A. in Sociology and Minor in History | *Magna Cum Laude* 2009 – 2014

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus San Juan, PR

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Course in College Teaching Spring 2022

Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

Graduate Student Online Teaching Certificate Fall 2020

Pennsylvania State University World Campus

Intensive Chinese (Mandarin) Language Program 2014 – 2016

Beijing Normal University Beijing, China

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: International Affairs | Public Diplomacy | Chinese Politics | Chinese Foreign Policy | Social Media and Politics | Sino-American Relations | International Political Economy

Methodological: Quantitative Political Science | Text as Data | Survey Experiments | Digital Humanities

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2025. "Communicating State Repression to the International Community: A Case Study of How Chinese Diplomats Frame their Actions in Xinjiang." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/orae028>.

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2024. "Online Infrastructure and Social Media Affordances: A Quantitative Description of African MFAs' Diplomatic Strategies on Social Media." *South African Journal of International Affairs* 31(3), 353–378. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2024.2436389>.

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2024. "Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Self-Reported Medical Donations in Chinese Digital Diplomacy." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jea.2024.13>.

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz, María Montemayor de Teresa, Antonio Alejo, and Astrid de la Torre Lüderitz. Forthcoming. "Public Diplomacy *en Español*: An Analysis of Spanish-language Public Diplomacy Scholarship." *Journal of Public Diplomacy* 4(1), 25–50. <https://doi.org/10.23045/JPD.2024.4.1.003>.

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2024. "The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions." *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*, 656-690. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1871191x-bja10194>.

Kevin Munger, **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**, Jorge Gallego, and Mateo Vásquez-Cortés. 2024. “‘Reenviado Muchas Veces’: How WhatsApp Users in Mexico and Colombia Understand Political Information.” *Political Communication*, 41(5), 719–742. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2024.2326130>

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2014. “El discurso de la Iglesia Protestante en torno a la Segunda Guerra Mundial en la Revista Puerto Rico Evangélico, 1940-1945” [The representation of World War II in the inter-denominational magazine, Puerto Rico Evangelico, 1940-1945]. *Revista [IN]Genios* 1 (1): 1-11.

EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lucas Winter, Jason Warner, and **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. “Instruments of Chinese Military Influence in Argentina.” *M-DIME Project*. U.S. Army Foreign Military Studies Office.

Lucas Winter, Jason Warner, and **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. “Instruments of Russian Military Influence in Argentina.” *M-DIME Project*. U.S. Army Foreign Military Studies Office.

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2022. “Male, U.S. Full History Professor, and China Scholar: The Recipe to Get Published in The Journal of Asian Studies, 2000-2020.” *criticalasianstudies.org* Commentary Board. November 15. <https://doi.org/10.52698/KSEJ3511>.

BOOK REVIEWS

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2024. “China and Its Small Neighbors: The Political Economy of Asymmetry, Vulnerability, and Hedging by Sung Chull Kim.” *Pacific Affairs* 97 (3).

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. 2019. “读楼项飞《中国与拉美国家相互依赖模式研究》” [A Study of Sino-Latin American Interdependency Models by Lou Xiangfei]. *Journal of BNU Public Administration* 7.

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. “Who Speaks for Beijing? Insights from a New Dataset on China’s Diplomatic Elite” (R&R *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*)

Angel M. Villegas-Cruz. “Ethnic Minorities as International Actors: A Case Study of Ethnic Minorities in China’s Regional Diplomacy in the Xi Jinping Era” (Under Review)

Boliang Zhu, Aubrey Waddick, Yilang Feng, and **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** “Firms Caught in Crossfire: International Stakes and Domestic Politics in Corporate Positioning on De-Globalization.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Rochester

Instructor of Record

CIRC Summer School: Introduction to R

Summer 2025

Pennsylvania State University

Instructor of Record

PLSC 309: Quantitative Political Analysis

Spring 2024

PLSC 14: Introduction to International Relations

Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant

Professor Amy Linch’s PLSC 7N: Contemporary Political Ideologies

Fall 2024

Professor Jeremy Ladd’s PLSC 309: Quantitative Political Analysis

Fall 2021

Professor Kevin Munger’s PLSC 497: Text as Data

Spring 2021

Professor Boliang Zhu’s PLSC 497: Analytical Political Economy

Spring 2020 – Fall 2020

Professor Matthew Golder’s PLSC 003: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Fall 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania State University

Research Assistant to Professor Boliang Zhu	2020, Spring 2022 & Summer 2024
Research Assistant to Boliang Zhu & Rachel Wellhausen (UT - Austin)	Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Professor Jonathan Abel	Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Professor Kevin Munger	2021
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus	
Undergraduate Research Assistant to Professor Yarimar Rosa-Rodríguez	2011 – 2012

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow

U.S. Army's Foreign Military Studies Office	Fall 2023
• Description: Open-source researching and analyzing Chinese and Russian military influence in Latin America	Remote

English & Spanish Language Teacher

思睿英语 [Seory English Center]	2015 – 2019
• Description: Teaching English and Spanish language classes for children and adults whose first language is Chinese	Beijing, China

Social Researcher

Community Participation Office, San Juan Municipal Government	Spring 2014 – Summer 2014
• Description: Digitally mapping San Juan's communities with their socio-demographic details and improving quality of public services	San Juan, PR

HONORS AND AWARDS

Robert S. Friedman Award for Excellence in Teaching (\$1,000)	Spring 2024
Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University	

APSA Lee Ann Fujii Travel Grant (\$400)	Fall 2023
American Political Science Association	

Program in Comparative Politics Research Award (\$1,300)	Spring 2023
Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University	

Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Dissertation Support Grant (\$2,000)	Spring 2023
College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University	

Miller-LaVigne Fellowship (Tuition & Stipend)	2022-2023
Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University	

Keith R. Karako Award (\$1,250)	Summer 2022
Department of Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University	

Summer Graduate Research Award (\$4,050)	Summer 2021
Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University	

Best Political Science Master's Essay, 2020-2021 (\$1,000)	Spring 2021
Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University	

APSA Minority Fellow (\$2,000)	Spring 2020
American Political Science Association	

Bunton-Waller Graduate Award (Tuition & Stipend)	2019 – 2022
College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University	

中国政府奖学金 [Chinese Government Scholarship] (Tuition & Stipend)	2015 – 2019
China Scholarship Council, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China	

优秀学生 [Excellent Student Award] (¥300)	Fall 2015
College of Chinese Language and Culture, Beijing Normal University	

SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), Chinese-Mandarin (Advanced-HSK 5), Italian (Intermediate), Portuguese (Beginner)

Software: R, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, Stata, Python, QGIS, SPSS

CONFERENCES

"Public Diplomacy *en Español*: An Analysis of Spanish-language Public Diplomacy Scholarship," Korean Association for Public Diplomacy Conference, South Korea (Nov. 16 – 18, 2023)

"Public Diplomacy and Social Media: Testing the Effectiveness of China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy," APSA Conference, Los Angeles (Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 2023)

"Social Media and Foreign Elites: Testing the Effectiveness of Digital Diplomacy," ISA Conference, Montreal (Mar. 15 – 18, 2023)

"Communicating State Repression to the International Community: A Case Study of How Chinese Diplomats Frame their Actions in Xinjiang," ISA Northeast Conference, Baltimore (Nov. 4 – 5, 2022)

"The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions," MPSA Conference, Chicago (Apr. 7 – 10, 2022)

"Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Chinese Digital Diplomacy and Mask Diplomacy," MPSA Conference, Chicago (Apr. 7 – 10, 2022)

"Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Chinese Digital Diplomacy and Mask Diplomacy," Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, Villanova University (Oct. 23 – 24, 2021)

"Firms Caught in Crossfire: International Stakes and Domestic Politics in Corporate Positioning on De-Globalization," International Political Economy Society Conference, Ohio State University (Nov. 13 – 14, 2020)

"The 'Other' and the Second World War in the big screen: Europe and Nationalism in Golden Age Mexican Cinema, 1942-1943," Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, San Juan (May 3 – 4, 2014)

"El discurso de la Iglesia Protestante en torno a la Segunda Guerra Mundial en la revista Puerto Rico Evangélico, 1940-1945" [The representation of World War II in the inter-denominational magazine, Puerto Rico Evangelico, 1940-1945], History Week, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus (Mar. 17 – 20, 2014)

INVITED TALKS

"The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions," Ewha Woman's University Public Diplomacy Center, South Korea (June 6, 2022)

SERVICE

Department of Political Science, Penn State

- Graduate Studies Committee (2023 – 24)
- Advisory Committee (2022 – 23)

Department of Asian Studies, Penn State

- Graduate Studies Committee (2022 – 23)

Disciplinary

- Reviewer: *Asian Studies Review*, *CONfines Revista de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales*, *Communication & Society*, *Journal of Quantitative Description*, *Journal of Public Diplomacy* (x2), *Political Research Quarterly*, *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy* (x2), *Review of International Organizations*
- Panel Organizer: APSA Conference 2023
- Volunteer Staff: ISA Conference 2023

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- International Studies Association (2021 – 2024)
- American Political Science Association (2019 – 2024)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2021 – 2022)
- Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (2021 – 2022)

REFERENCES

References available upon request

Last updated on January 4, 2026