

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Vanessa Cheng to our team as a volunteer Expert research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Vanessa Cheng has been active with our project since 2020-05-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Fiji, New Zealand. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Vanessa Cheng, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts over 70 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Vanessa Cheng has been a country expert for Fiji, New Zealand. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Fiji, New Zealand as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

Based on their performance, RAs are promoted to Advanced and then to Expert RAs, which is the position held by Vanessa Cheng. This role involves coding an outstanding number of 250 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 6 months. Expert research assistants have gained extensive knowledge of PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They are actively involved in the development of the taxonomy and the project structure, and guide other research assistants. With their profound expertise, they play a fundamental role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Vanessa Cheng took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Internship:** Vanessa Cheng has joined and successfully finished an internship program as part of their work for CoronaNet. Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet. Interns are expected to participate consistently in CoronaNet activities and show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects.
- **Data validation:** This role involves re-coding data previously collected by other RAs in order to verify and ensure coding consistency. This role, which is only open to experienced and high-performing RAs at CoronaNet, requires extensive additional training in the project's collection procedures, high attention to detail, and ability to work well in a team setting.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Vanessa Cheng for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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