

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

The CoronaNet Research Project recognizes **Wencong Ruan** for their outstanding contributions as a Research Assistant (RA). Wencong Ruan worked from 2020-05-17 to 2020-05-22 for the project. Without their support documenting and updating government policies in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, CoronaNet would not have been able to provide systematic and detailed information on how the government of Tonga responded to the pandemic. We appreciate the dedication and incredible effort put into volunteering for this data collection effort in a time of truly exceptional global uncertainty.

The CoronaNet Research Project collates data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. Its primary objective is to collect as much information as possible about the diverse actions governments are taking to contain the spread and effects of COVID-19. This includes not only gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, but who they are targeting the policies toward (e.g. other countries), how they are doing it (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and when they are doing it. Together with over 300 political, social and public health science scholars from all over the world, CoronaNet makes publicly available an initial release of a comprehensive hand-coded dataset of more than 17,000 separate policy announcements from governments around the world visible since December 31st 2019. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

- Wencong Ruan collected an impressive number of policies and became a country expert for Tonga. To fulfill this role, Wencong Ruan participated in our online training session, identified information on government policies made in response to COVID-19 from various information sources including government websites and newspaper articles and documented the government policies that they found following the procedures and classification scheme outlined in the CoronaNetCodebook. They further contributed to the CoronaNet community by posting and reading questions and comments on the CoronaNet Slack channel and participating in CoronaNet's weekly RA Zoom meetings.
- Regional Manager: The RA participated in a course at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. Taking part in the class 'Analyzing the Coronavirus Pandemic in Real Time: An Introduction to Evidenced-Based Global Public Policy' allows the students to gain experience in applying quantitative and statistical analyses in order to generate original knowledge that can help us better understand the politics of the pandemic. In this course, the notion of "evidence-based public policy" is introduced and explored on the basis of own work that addresses a variety of questions about the drivers and consequences of the public policies adopted across the globe in response to the pandemic.

Wencong Ruan has invested substantial time and effort in collecting up-to-date information of great value to policy makers, scientists and the global community. We appreciate them for their exceptional sense of solidarity and their contribution to this important public good and are deeply thankful to Wencong Ruan for being part of this project.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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