

08/03/2021

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Wencong Ruan to our team as a volunteer research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Wencong Ruan was active with our project from 2020-05-20 to 2020-07-19 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Tonga. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Wencong Ruan, 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.

Wencong Ruan has been a country expert for Tonga. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Tonga 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.

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

- TUM Course: Wencong Ruan participated in the course ‘Analyzing the Coronavirus Pandemic in Real Time: An Introduction to Evidenced-Based Global Public Policy’ course at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. The course gave students experience in applying quantitative and statistical analyses in order to generate original research to help us better understand the politics of the pandemic. In this course, the concept of “evidence-based public policy” was introduced and explored on the basis of students’ own work to address a variety of questions about the drivers and consequences of the public policies adopted across the globe in response to the pandemic.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Wencong Ruan 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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CoronaNet Research Team

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