

# Yuehong Cassandra Tai

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** Program in Political Science, University of Iowa, U.S.A. 2017-Current

*Fields:* Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, American Politics

*Dissertation Title:* Public Trust and Governance Challenges

*Committee:* Frederick Solt (Chair), William Reisinger, Caroline Tolbert, Julie Pacheco, and Elizabeth Suhay (American University)

### Dissertation Abstract:

In my dissertation, I propose taking comparative trust and policy attributes to understand that different types of trust have reinforcing or counterbalancing effects on public compliance with policies, and these effects vary across policy attributes. I argue that trust in implementing institutions should be most important in policies where the state and public share the interest, such as vaccination while the importance of political trust will be at least matched by that of social trust in policies where the interests of state and society have a fundamental tension, such as taxation. Drawing from 250 survey datasets, I employ a sophisticated Bayesian IRT model, to measure trust in representative institutions, trust in implementation institutions, and generalized trust. I create a comprehensive trust data set covering 151 countries over 47 years, from 1973 to 2020. To identify the causal effects, I use causal graphs and run a dynamic fixed-effects model with system generalized method of moments estimator. I expect to find that trust in implementing institutions has the most considerable effect on compliance with vaccination. I contend the importance of political trust is at least matched by that of social trust on compliance with paying taxes. My dissertation gives implications for policymakers and policy implementors on how to break the vicious circle of public distrust and deadlock of policy reform and how to prepare for governance challenges like future pandemics, infodemics, and climate change.

**MSc** in International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 2008

**LL.B.** in Diplomacy, Renmin University of China, China 2007

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

### Comparative Politics

Comparative Public Opinion, Trust, Policy Analysis, Chinese Politics, Political Communication.

### Political Methodology

Bayesian Statistics, Measurement Models, Machine Learning, Duration and Spatial Analysis.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### Revised & Resubmitted

“Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty” (with Yue Hu and Frederick Solt)  
at *American Political Science Review*

## Under Review

“Judge’s Gender and Oral Language Skills: An Empirical Analysis of Chinese Courtroom Audio”  
(with Dong Erico Yu) at *Politics and Gender*

## Working Paper

### *Policymaking and Policy Diffusion*

“Policy Orientation and Diffusion in Responsive Governance: Responses to the Chinese 2018 Vaccine Scandal”

“When does Crisis Severity Speed Response? Policy Burden and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China” (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)

“Gubernatorial Executive Orders vs Legislation: Determinants of States’ Action Choice during COVID19 Pandemic”

### *Political Communication and Social Media*

“Who is Leading Public Opinion on Social Media in China”

“Has President Trump Changed the Way Americans Talk about Immigration on Twitter?” (with Bryce J. Dietrich, Nick Beauchamp, Caglar Koylu, and Jielu Yao)

“Maintaining authoritarian resilience during the public health crisis: An analysis of Chinese state media’s social media posts during the COVID-19 outbreak” (with Ge Zhu, Rachel Young, Li Chen)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“When does Crisis Severity Speed Response? Policy Burden and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China” (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi), 6th Annual APSA Chinese Politics Mini-Conference Oct 2021

“Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty” (with Yue Hu and Frederick Solt), Joint Quantitative Political Science Conference for Asia and Australasia Jan 2021

“Policy Orientation and Diffusion in Responsive Governance: Responses to the Chinese 2018 Vaccine Scandal”, Association of Chinese Political Studies Annual Meeting Nov 2020

“Who is Influencing Public Opinion during a Public Health Crisis on Social Media in China?”, Southern Political Science Association Conference Jan 2020

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Guest Lecturer, University of Iowa**

Advanced Method (Graduate Level) Fall 2021

Machine Learning

Public Opinion (Undergraduate Level) Fall 2021

Public Opinion and Democracy

Analyzing Political Data (Undergraduate Level) Spring 2021  
P-Value

Multiple Regression

National Security Policy (Undergraduate Level) March 2020  
Cyber Security

### **Teaching Assistant**

*ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan*

Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II:Advanced Topics Summer 2021  
Graded students' assignments with detailed comments and offered one-on-one consultations on students' personal project.

*University of Iowa*

Intro to Political Behavior Fall 2019  
Conducted weekly discussion sections and offered guidelines and suggestions for each of group projects.

Intro to Comparative Politics Fall 2018, Spring 2019  
Prepared supporting materials for sections, delivered brief lectures in section, and crafted weekly worksheets.

The Presidency Fall 2017  
Graded papers.

(Online Course) Intro to Comparative Politics Summer 2018,2019  
Provided students with detailed feedback on their assignments and graded papers.

### **Invited Talks**

*East China Normal University, Shanghai*

Intro to Python: Web Scraping, Social Media Data Wrangling and Analysis Dec 2020

## **RESEARCH POSITIONS**

Statistical Consultant, [Venture Forward](#), GoDaddy Inc Spring 2020 - Summer 2021  
Collaboration with Professor Caroline Tolbert (University of Iowa) and GoDaddy Inc (the world's largest registrar of domain names,) to analyze how microbusinesses empower community economically and provide tools for policymakers, using a dataset of 20+ million domain name websites in the US.Projec.

Project Member, Iowa Hawkeye Poll, University of Iowa Fall 2019  
Aided in the creation and analysis of a survey designed to measure Iowan's political preferences in U.S 2020 presidential election.

Tweets on Immigration Project, University of Iowa Summer 2019  
Work with Professor Bryce Dietrich on analyzing how Trump's tweets changed the way Americans talk about immigration on Twitter.

Standardized World Income Inequality Database Project,University of Iowa, Summer 2019  
Assist Professor Frederick Solt with inequality data collection.

Comparative Political Trust Project, University of Iowa Spring 2018  
 Work with Professor Wenfang Tang to combine global survey datasets and conducted analysis.

## AWARDS & HONORS

Nominated to Global Student Awards, University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Graduate Post-Comp Research Fellowship (\$10,500), University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Graduate College Summer Fellowship (\$5,000), University of Iowa	Summer 2021
Department Research Grant (\$1,000), University of Iowa	Spring 2020
GSS Travel Funds (\$1,000), University of Iowa	Spring 2020
Department Research Grant (\$300), University of Iowa	Spring 2019
Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Graduate Travel Grant (\$500), University of Iowa	Fall 2019
Department Summer Training Grant (\$2400), University of Iowa	Summer 2018

## DISCIPLINE AND CAMPUS SERVICE

**iPeer Mentor:** *iPeer Mentorship Program*. International Student and Scholar Services, University of Iowa 2021

**Discussant:** *Government Transparency in China*. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting Apr 2021

**Session Chair and Discussant** for *Time and Space*. Political Science Methodology Conference for Asia and Australasia Jan 2021

**Co-Host:** *2020 Iowa Caucus Conference*. Department of Political Science, University of Iowa Feb 2020

**Session Chair** for *Understanding Polarization, Covid & Computation and Social Media & Politics*. Politics and Computational Social Science and Political Networks Aug 2020

**Discussant:** *Chinese Politics*. Southern Political Science Association Conference Jan 2020

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of American Political Science Association  
 Member of Midwest Political Science Association  
 Member of Association of Chinese Political Science  
 Member of Southern Political Science Association  
 The Society for Political Methodology

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

### Certificate

Certificate in Informatics, The University of Iowa, U.S.A.	2021
Programming in Python, Java, and SQL.	
ICPSR, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	2018
Causal Inference for the Social Sciences & Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics.	

### Skills

Analysis & Programming: R, Python, Stan, JAGS, Stata, SQL, Mplus, Java.  
Application:  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Markdown, Git(GitHub).  
Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

## REFERENCES

<b>Frederick Solt, Ph.D</b>	<a href="mailto:frederick-solt@uiowa.edu">frederick-solt@uiowa.edu</a> ; (319)335-2340
Associate Professor, University of Iowa	
<b>William M. Reisinger, Ph.D</b>	<a href="mailto:william-reisinger@uiowa.edu">william-reisinger@uiowa.edu</a> ; (319)335-2351
Professor, University of Iowa	
<b>Caroline Tolbert, Ph.D</b>	<a href="mailto:caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu">caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu</a> ; (319)335-2340
Professor, University of Iowa	
<b>Elizabeth Menninga, Ph.D</b>	<a href="mailto:elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu">elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu</a> ; (319)335-3835
Assistant Professor, University of Iowa	