Yuehong Cassandra Tai

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Pennsylvania State University

Assistant Research Professor, Center for Social Data Analytics	2025-
Assistant Director, Center for Social Data Analytics	
Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Social Data Analytics	2022-2024

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Program in Political Science, University of Iowa, U.S.A.	2017-2022
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, American Politics	
MSc in International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	2008
LL.B. in Diplomacy, Renmin University of China, China	2007

RESEARCH AREAS

Political Science

Responsible AI in Governance, Political Communication, Public Opinion, Chinese Politics.

Computational Social Science

GenAI Pipelines and Evaluation, LLMs/ NLP/ Text-as-data, Bayesian Measurement Models, Applied Statistical Methods.

PUBLICATIONS

AI and Computational Social Science

14. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Yu-Ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2025. "Public Officials' Online Sharing of Misinformation: Institutional and Ideological Checks." *Conditionally Accepted at Political Communication.*

13. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Nitheesha Nakka, Khushi Navin Patni, Sarah Rajtmajer, Kevin Munger, Yu-Ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2025. "The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials." *Scientific Data.*

12. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Khushi Navin Patni, Nicholas Daniel Hemauer, Bruce A. Desmarais, and Yu-Ru Lin. 2025. "GenAI vs. Human Fact-Checkers: Accurate Ratings, Flawed Rationales." In *Proceedings of the 17th ACM Web Science Conference 2025.*

11. Nakka, Nitheesha, Issac Pollert, Lingyu Fuca, and **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**. 2025. "Navigating Hate and Anti-Hate Speech: Bridging Large Language Model and Human Expertise in Public Officials' Online Communication." [**with graduate students**] *Accepted at CySoc 2025 International Workshop on Cyber Social Threats.*

10. Biswas, Ahana, Yu-Ru Lin, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai** and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2025. "Political Elites in the Attention Economy: Visibility Over Civility and Credibility?" In *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media.*

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9. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Roan Buma and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2023. "Official Yet Questionable: Examining Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Tweets." *Journal of Information Technology & Politics.*

Public Opinion and Measurement

8. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**.2025. "Comparative Estimates of Public Trust in Government Across 115 Countries, 1973–2020" *Accepted at Research & Politics.*

7. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**. 2025. "The Upsides and Downsides of Generalized Trust: The Mediating Effect of Democratic Institutions." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research.*

6. Hu, Yue, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Hyein Ko, Byung-Deuk Woo, and Frederick Solt. 2025. "An Incomplete Recipe: One-Dimensional Latent Variables Do Not Capture the Full Flavor of Democratic Support." *Research & Politics.*

5. Woo, Byung-Deuk, Hyein Ko, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. 2024. "Public Support for Gay Rights Across Countries and Over Time." *Social Science Quarterly.*

4. Hu, Yue, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai***, and Frederick Solt. 2024. "Revisiting the Evidence on Thermostatic Response to Democratic Change: Degrees of Democratic Support or Researcher Degrees of Freedom?" *Political Science Research and Methods.* [* **co-first author**]

3. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. 2022. "Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty" *American Political Science Review.*

Chinese Politics

2. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi. 2022. "Policy Adoption and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis" *Journal of Asian Public Policy.*

1. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**. 2022. "Determinants of Chinese Provinces' Responses to the 2018 Vaccine Scandal: Policy Orientation and Neighboring Effect" *Asian Survey.*

WORKING PAPERS

5. Yu, Dong Erico, and **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**. "Speak 'As Good As Men'? An Empirical Study of Gender Variation in Chinese Courtroom Audio" [**Revised & Resubmitted**]

4. Hu, Yue, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, and Frederick Solt. "Data Wrangling Before Harmonization: Best Practices for Getting Past the 'Janitor Work.'" [**Revised & Resubmitted**]

3. **Tai, Yuehong Cassandra** and Frederick Solt. "Trust in Civil Servants: A Cross-National Dataset for Public Policy Research, 1986–2022" [**Revise & Resubmit**]

2. Kim, Yooneui and **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**. "The Skeptical Public: Trust in the United Nations"

1. Ma, Haofeng, Jeongho Choi, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. "Macrodiscontent Across Countries" [**Under Review**]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

AI and Computational Social Science

7. "From Annotation to Oversight: A Pipeline Approach to GenAI Evaluation" (with Hyein

Ko and Nora Webb Williams) [**Co–lead Author**]

6. "Who Speaks for AI? Local News Papers and AI Policy News Frames" (with Hyein Ko)

5. "Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection" (with Issac Michael Pollert, Nitheesha Nakka, and Lingyu Jack Fuca) [**Lead Author**]

4. "Who Speaks, Who Falls Silent: Strategic Climate Messaging by State Legislators on Facebook and X" (with Xun Cao, Yu-Ru Lin and Bruce A. Desmarais) [**Lead Author**]

3. "Large Language Models in Social Science: A Literature Review of LLMs and GenAI in Political Science and Communication" (with Pooja Iyer)

Public Opinion

2. "How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies?" (with Xun Cao and Fred Solt) [**Lead Author**]

1. "Surfing Waves or Making Waves? Declining Trust in Democracy and Election of Personalist Leaders" (with Jia Li and M. Rosemary Pang)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Who Speaks, Who Falls Silent: Strategic Climate Messaging by State Legislators on Facebook and X"

Protecting the Election: AI & Governance, Washington University in St.Louis, MO   Oct 2025

"Who Speaks, Who Falls Silent: Strategic Climate Messaging by State Legislators on Facebook and X"

PolNet-PaCSS 2025, Harvard University, MA   Aug 2025

PolMeth 2025, Emory University, GA   July 2025

"State Legislators' Misinformation and the Limits of LLMs' Evaluative Reasoning"

Information and Misinformation in Elections, California Institute of Technology, CA   Jan 2025

"The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials"

(Large) Language Models in Social Science 2024, University of Pennsylvania, PA   Sep 2024

PolMeth 2024, University of California, CA   July 2024

"Climate Clash: Fossil Fuel Influence, Public Opinion, and State Legislators' Online Discourse"

APSA 2024, University of Pennsylvania, PA   Sep 2024

Visions in Methodology 2024, Washington University in St.Louis, MO   May 2024

"Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection"

State Politics and Policy Conference 2024, University of Virginia, VA   June 2024

"The Prevalence of Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Facebook Posts"

American Political Science Association Conference 2023, LA   Sep 2023

"Dynamic Trust and States' Failure in Public Health: Evidence from Global Time Series Data"

American Political Science Association Conference 2023, LA   Aug 2023

"The Prevalence of Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Facebook Posts"

State Politics and Policy Conference 2023, University of Pittsburgh, PA   May 2023

"How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies? Constructing Measures of Climate

Change Public Concern and Testing Their Effects on Policy Outputs"

    Political Economy and International Relation Workshop, PSU   Mar 2023

"The Upsides and Downsides of Generalized Trust: The Mediating Effect of Democratic Institutions and Trust in Implementing Institutions"

    Southern Political Science Association Conference   Jan 2023

"Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty"

    C-SoDA Brownbag Series   Oct 2022

"Examining States' Public Health Failures by Measuring Trust Cross Countries and Over Time"

    C-SoDA Kickoff Poster Presentation   Sep 2022

"Dynamic Trust and States' Failure in Public Health: Evidence from a Global Time Series Data"

    Midwest Political Science Association Conference   Apr 2022

    Iowa Women Studying Politics (IWSP) Conference   Feb 2022

"Policy Burden, Issue Salience, and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China"

    APSA Chinese Politics Mini-Conference   Oct 2021

"Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty"

    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

Method Courses

Instructor, Penn State University

C-SoDA Research Practicum: AI and Governance (Undergraduate Level)   Fall 2025

Instructor, Penn State University

PLSC 10: Scientific Study of Politics (Undergraduate Level)   Fall 2024

Instructor, Penn State University

PLSC 308: Introduction to Political Research (Undergraduate Level)   Spring 2024

Instructor, Penn State University

SoDA 308: Research Design for Social Data Analytics (Undergraduate Level)   Fall 2023

Independent Instructor, University of Iowa

Hawkeye Poll (Undergraduate Level)   Spring 2022

Guided students to design survey questions on both national and local politics, carry out telephone interviews,analyze and interpret data, and write release press and analytical papers.

Teaching Assistant, University of Michigan

Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II: Advanced Topics, ICPSR Program, Summer 2021

Graded students' assignments with detailed comments and offered one-on-one consultations on students' individual projects.

Invited Talk and Guest Lecture

Guest Speaker, Penn State University

Social Science Research Institute Open House (Scheduled)   Fall 2025

    Hands-On with AI: Evaluating and Applying Models for Social Science Data

Guest Speaker, Penn State University

Social Science Research Institute Open House (Open to Faculty Members in SSRI) Spring 2025

    How to Navigate High Performance Computing

Guest Lecturer, Penn State University

Approaches and Issues in Big Social Data (Graduate Level)   Spring 2025

    GenAI vs. Human Fact-Checkers: Accurate Ratings, Flawed Rationales

Guest Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Data Analytics and Computational Social Science (Graduate Level)   Fall 2024

    LLMs in social science

Guest Speaker, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

Summer Speaker Series (Graduate Level)   Summer 2023

    Latent Variable Measurements

Guest Lecturer, Penn State University

Approaches and Issues in Big Social Data (Graduate Level)   Spring 2023

    Measurement

Guest Lecturer, University of Iowa

Advanced Methods Seminar (Graduate Level)   Fall 2021

    Machine Learning

Analyzing Political Data (Undergraduate Level)   Spring 2021

    P-Value & Multiple Regression

Public Opinion

    Public Opinion and Democracy   Fall 2021

National Security Policy

    Cyber Security   March 2020

Workshop, East China Normal University, Shanghai

Introduction to Python (Graduate Level)   Dec 2020

    Web scraping, social media data wrangling and analysis

Comparative Politics and American Politics Courses

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

    Introduction to Political Behavior   Fall 2019

    Introduction to Comparative Politics   Fall 2018, Spring 2019

    The Presidency   Fall 2017

    Introduction to Comparative Politics (Online Course)   Summer 2018, 2019

EXTERNAL AND CAMPUS SERVICE

Member: American Political Science Association (sections on Political Methodology), the Midwestern Political Science Association and Association of Chinese Political Science

Reviewer: American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Research and Politics, The International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM), International World Wide Web Conference 2025 (WWW2025), International World Wide Web Conference 2026 (WWW2026), Public Opinion Quarterly, Asian Survey, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Journal of Comparative Sociology.

POLMETH Mailing List Editor: The Society for Political Methodology.   2024 -

Seed Grant Reviewer: Center for Social Data Analytics. Pennsylvania State University   2022, 2023,2024,2025,2026

Planning Committee Member: 16th Postdoctoral Research Symposium. Pennsylvania State University   2023

Committee Member: Postdoctoral Scholar Committee. College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University   2022

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:Time and Space. Political Science Methodology Conference for Asia and Australasia   Jan 2021

Co-Host: *2020 Iowa Caucus Conference*. University of Iowa   Feb 2020

Session Chair: 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

AWARDS & HONORS

Nominated to Global Student Awards, University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Finalist for annual "Thesis Challenge," 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

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

Courses Taken in Graduate School

Methodology and Quantitative Analysis: Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Methodology; Modeling Time and Space; Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Models

Computational and Data Science Methods: Computational Methods for Comparative Politics; Text as Data; Introduction to Informatics; Network Analysis; Bayesian Analysis, Database Management

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, SQL, Stata, Stan, JAGS, Mplus, Java.

Application: LaTeX, Markdown, Git(GitHub).

Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

REFERENCES

Frederick Solt, **Ph.D**

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Professor, University of Iowa

Xun Cao, **Ph.D**

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Professor, Penn State University

Elizabeth J. Menninga, **Ph.D**

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Associate Professor, University of Iowa

Bruce A. Desmarais, **Ph.D**

bdesmarais@psu.edu; (814) 863-1595,

Professor, Penn State University

Bryce Dietrich, **Ph.D**

bjdietri@purdue.edu; (765) 494-4161

Associate Professor, Purdue University