# 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 institution, trust in implementing institution, generalized trust, and particularized 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 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 taxation. My dissertation concludes that to break the vicious circle of public distrust and deadlock of policy reform, policymakers and policy implementors should rebuild public trust in preparing 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

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#### **Under Review**

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

"Policy Orientation and Diffusion in Responsive Governance: Responses to the Chinese 2018 Vaccine Scandal" at *Policy Studies Journal* 

#### Working Paper

Policymaking and Policy Diffusion

"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

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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.

 ${\bf Standardized\ World\ Income\ Inequality\ Database\ Project,} University\ of\ Iowa,$ 

Summer 2019

Assist Professor Frederick Solt with inequality data collection.

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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

**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

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{Session Chair} \ \text{for} \ \textit{Understanding Polarization}, \ \textit{Covid & Computation} \ \text{and } \textit{Social Media} \ \textit{\& Politics}. \\ \textbf{Politics and Computational Social Science and Political Networks} & \textbf{Aug 2020} \\ \end{array}$ 

**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

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# 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: LATEX, Markdown, Git(GitHub).

Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

# REFERENCES

Frederick Solt, Ph.D frederick-solt@uiowa.edu; (319)335-2340

Associate Professor, University of Iowa

William M. Reisinger, Ph.D william-reisinger@uiowa.edu; (319)335-2351

Professor, University of Iowa

Caroline Tolbert, Ph.D caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu; (319)335-2340

Professor, University of Iowa

Elizabeth Menninga, Ph.D elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu;(319)335-3835

Assistant Professor, University of Iowa

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