

# 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 Policy Outcomes in Shared-interest Policy and Conflicting-interest Policy

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

### Dissertation Abstract:

In my dissertation, I seek to answer the questions, “Why do people not comply with a shared-interest policy which benefits both government and public generally, like public health policy? Why do people comply with a conflicting-interest policy in which there is a fundamental tension between the state and the society, like taxation?” I propose taking comparative trust and policy attributes to understand that different types of trust have reinforcing or counterbalancing effects on public compliance, and these effects vary across policy attributes. Drawing from 250 different survey datasets, I employ a sophisticated Bayesian IRT model, to measure four types of trust (trust in representative institution, trust in implementing institution, generalized trust, and particularized trust) and create a comprehensive trust data set covering 151 countries over 47 years, from 1973 to 2020. To identify the causal effects in a panel data context, I use causal graphs and run a dynamic fixed-effects model with system generalized method of moments (GMM) estimator. I find that trust in implementing institutions has the most considerable effect on public compliance with vaccination but then the importance of political trust is at least matched by that of social trust on public 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 Political Science, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 2008

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

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

### Comparative Politics:

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

### Political Methodology:

Bayesian Statistics, Latent Variable Measurement, Machine Learning for Non-traditional Data, Duration and Spatial Analysis.

## PUBLICATION

### 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)

### Working Paper

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

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

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

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

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

“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? COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China” (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi), American Political Science Association Conference, forthcoming 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

Text Analysis and Machine Learning (Graduate Level) Fall 2021

Text Analysis in Comparative Perspective

Analyzing Political Data (Undergraduate Level)	Spring 2021
P-Value	
Multiple Regression	
National Security Policy (Undergraduate Level)	March 2020
Cyber Security	
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	
<i>ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan</i>	
Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II:Advanced Topics	Summer 2021
<i>University of Iowa</i>	
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.	
<b>Invited Talks</b>	
Intro to Python: Web Scraping, Social Media Data Wrangling and Analysis, East China Normal University, Shanghai	Dec 2020

## APPOINTMENTS

Statistical Consultant, Project Haystack, GoDaddy.com	Spring 2020 - Summer 2021
Collaboration with Professor Caroline Tolbert (University of Iowa) and GoDaddy.com to measure the density of domain name websites (at the CBSA, county, and zip code level) using a dataset of 26 million GoDaddy customers in the US.	
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 empirical analysis.	

## AWARDS & HONORS

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

<b>iPeer Mentor:</b> <i>iPeer Mentorship Program</i> . International Student and Scholar Services, University of Iowa	2021
<b>Co-Host:</b> <i>2020 Iowa Caucus Conference</i> . Department of Political Science, University of Iowa Conference Details: <a href="https://clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/Shambaugh-2020Caucus">https://clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/Shambaugh-2020Caucus</a>	Feb 2020
<b>Discussant:</b> <i>Government Transparency in China</i> . Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Apr 2021
<b>Session Chair and Discussant</b> for <i>Time and Space</i> . Political Science Methodology Conference for Asia and Australasia	Jan 2021
<b>Session Chair</b> for <i>Understanding Polarization, Covid &amp; Computation and Social Media &amp; Politics</i> . Politics and Computational Social Science and Political Networks	Aug 2020
<b>Discussant:</b> <i>Chinese Politics</i> . 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**

**Frederick Solt, Ph.D**

[frederick-solt@uiowa.edu](mailto:frederick-solt@uiowa.edu); (319)335-2340

Associate Professor, University of Iowa

**William M. Reisinger, Ph.D**

[william-reisinger@uiowa.edu](mailto:william-reisinger@uiowa.edu); (319)335-2351

Professor, University of Iowa

**Caroline Tolbert, Ph.D**

[caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu](mailto:caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu); (319)335-2340

Professor, University of Iowa

**Elizabeth Menninga, Ph.D**

[elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu](mailto:elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu); (319)335-3835

Assistant Professor, University of Iowa