

# Yuehong Cassandra Tai

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The Center for Social Data Analytics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Postdoctoral Scholar** Center for Social Data Analytics, Pennsylvania State University. 2022-Present

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** Political Science, University of Iowa, U.S.A. 2017-2022  
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, American Politics  
Dissertation Title: The Role of Trust in Governance: Public Health and Tax Compliance in Cross-National Comparative Perspective  
Committee: Frederick Solt (Chair), William Reisinger, Caroline Tolbert, Julie Pacheco, and Elizabeth Suhay (American University)  
**MSc** International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 2008  
**LL.B.** Diplomacy, Renmin University of China, China 2007

## RESEARCH AREAS

### Political Science

Public Opinion, Misinformation, Elite Politics, Policy Diffusion, Chinese Politics.

### Computational Social Science

Bayesian Measurement Models, NLP/Text-as-data, Machine Learning, Statistical Models.

## PUBLICATIONS

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*.

**Tai, Yuehong Cassandra**, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. 2024. “Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty” *American Political Science Review*.

**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*.

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

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

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### Under Review

**Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Yu-ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais. “Public officials’ online sharing of misinformation: Institutional and ideological checks”

Hu, Yue, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Hyein Ko, Byung-Deuk Woo, and Frederick Solt. “Support for Democracy Is Multidimensional: Why Unidimensional Latent Variable Measures of Democratic Support Are Invalid”

Woo, Byung-Deuk, Hyein Ko, **Yuehong Cassandra Tai**, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. “Measuring Tolerance of Homosexuality in the Mass Public Across Countries and Over Time”

## Working Paper

“Climate Clash: Fossil Fuel Influence, Public Opinion, and State Legislators’ Online Discourse” (with Xun Cao, Yu-ru Lin and Bruce A. Desmarais)

“The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials” (with Nitheesha Nakka, Sarah Michele Rajtmajer, Kevin Munger, Yu-ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais)

“How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies?” (with Xun Cao and Fred Solt)

“Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection” (with Issac Michael Pollert, Nitheesha Nakka, and Lingyu Jack Fuca)

“Dynamic Trust and States’ Failure in Public Health: Evidence from a Global Time Series Data”

“Trust in Bureaucracy” (with Frederick Solt)

“The Skeptical Public: Trust in the United Nations” (with Yooneui Kim)

“Policy Burden, Issue Salience, and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China” (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “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, PSU 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 Skeptical Public: Trust in the United Nations” with Yooneui Kim  
International Studies Association Conference (non-presenting co-author) 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” with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi  
APSA Chinese Politics Mini-Conference Oct 2021
- “Judge’s Gender and Oral Language Skills: An Empirical Analysis of Chinese Courtroom Audio” with Dong Eric Yu  
Race, Gender, and the Judiciary Panel, APSA Conference (non-presenting co-author) 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

### Methods Courses

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. <a href="#">Results from March/April 2022 Hawkeye Poll.</a>	
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.	
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	
Invited Workshop, East China Normal University, Shanghai	
Introduction to Python (Graduate Level),	Dec 2020
Web scraping, social media data wrangling and analysis	
<b>Comparative Politics and American Politics</b>	
Guest Lecturer, University of Iowa	
Public Opinion	Fall 2021
Public Opinion and Democracy	
National Security Policy	Spring 2020
Cyber Security	
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

## DISCIPLINARY AND CAMPUS SERVICE

<b>Seed Grant Reviewer:</b> Center for Social Data Analytics. Pennsylvania State University	2022, 2023
<b>Planning Committee Member:</b> 16th Postdoctoral Research Symposium. Pennsylvania State University	2023
<b>Committee Member:</b> Post-doctoral Scholar Committee. College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University	2022
<b>iPeer Mentor:</b> iPeer Mentorship Program. International Student and Scholar Services, University of Iowa	2021
<b>Discussant:</b> Government Transparency in China. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Apr 2021
<b>Session Chair and Discussant:</b> 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 for Global Student Award, 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

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

Statistical Consultant, [Venture Forward](#), GoDaddy Inc Spring 2020 - Summer 2021

Collaborated with Professor Caroline Tolbert (University of Iowa) and GoDaddy Inc (the world’s largest registrar of domain names) to analyze how microbusinesses empower communities economically and provide tools for policymakers, using a dataset of 20+ million domain name websites in the U.S.

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 the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Tweets on Immigration Project, University of Iowa Summer 2019

Worked 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

Assisted Professor Frederick Solt with inequality data collection.

Comparative Political Trust Project, University of Iowa Spring 2018

Worked with Professor Wenfang Tang to combine global survey datasets and conducted analysis.

## 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

Member of The Society for Political Methodology

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

### Certificates

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, Stata, Python, Stan, JAGS, SQL, Mplus, Java,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Markdown, Git (GitHub).

Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

## REFERENCES

**Frederick Solt, Ph.D**

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Associate Professor, University of Iowa

**Xun Cao, Ph.D**

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Professor, Penn State University

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

[bdesmarais@psu.edu](mailto:bdesmarais@psu.edu); (814) 863-1595,

Professor, Penn State University

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

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Associate Professor, University of Iowa