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 countries' success in 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 2,108 national surveys, I employ a Bayesian IRT model, to measure trust in representational institutions, trust in implementing institutions, and generalized trust. I create a comprehensive trust data set covering 150 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 vaccination coverage. I contend the importance of political trust is at least matched by that of social trust on taxation. 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, Chinese Politics, Political Communication, Policy Diffusion.

Political Methodology

Computational Modeling, Bayesian Statistics, Measurement Models, Machine Learning.

PUBLICATION

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

"Determinants of Chinese Provinces' Responses to the 2018 Vaccine Scandal: Policy Orientation and Neighboring Effect" Accepted at *Asian Survey*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under Review

"Policy Adoption and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis" (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)

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

Working Paper

Policymaking and Policy Diffusion

"Policy Burden, Issue Salience, 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 Influencing Public Opinion during a Public Health Crisis on Social Media in China?"

"Private VS Public Social Media: Private One Produces Critical Public Opinion 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)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"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 Erico Yu), Race, Gender, and the Judiciary Panel, APSA 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

Method Courses

Instructor, Hawkeye Poll (Undergraduate Level), University of Iowa   Spring 2022

Guest Lecturer, Advanced Method (Graduate Level), University of Iowa   Fall 2021

    Machine Learning

Teaching Assistant, Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II:Advanced Topics, ICPSR Summer
Program, University of Michigan   Summer 2021

    Graded students' assignments with detailed comments and offered one-on-one consultations on students' personal project.

Guest Lecturer, Analyzing Political Data (Undergraduate Level), University of Iowa   Spring 2021

    P-Value
    Multiple Regression

Invited Talk, Intro to Python, East China Normal University, Shanghai   Dec 2020

    Introducing web scraping, social media data wrangling and analysis

Comparative Politics and American Politics Courses

University of Iowa

Guest Lecturer, Public Opinion (Undergraduate Level)   Fall 2021

    Public Opinion and Democracy

Guest Lecturer, National Security Policy (Undergraduate Level)   March 2020

    Cyber Security

Teaching Assistant, Intro to Political Behavior   Fall 2019

    Conducted weekly discussion sections and offered guidelines and suggestions for each of group projects.

Teaching Assistant, Intro to Comparative Politics   Fall 2018, Spring 2019

    Prepared supporting materials for sections, delivered brief lectures in section, and crafted weekly worksheets.

Teaching Assistant, The Presidency   Fall 2017

    Graded papers.

Teaching Assistant, (Online Course) Intro to Comparative Politics   Summer 2018,2019

    Provided students with detailed feedback on their assignments and graded papers.

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 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 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.* 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, Stata,Python, Stan,JAGS, 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)335-2471
Professor, University of Iowa
Elizabeth Menninga, **Ph.D**   elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu;(319)335-3835
Assistant Professor, University of Iowa