Yuehong Cassandra Tai

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Program in 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)
Dissertation Abstract:

Why do some countries fail to immunize their populations? Why, despite their natural reluctance to pay taxes, do people pay taxes? In my dissertation,I make the following arguments: first, in policies where the state and the public have shared interests, such as vaccination policies, trust in implementing institutions will result in a bigger change in policy outcomes than trust in representational institutions; and second, in policies where the state and the public have fundamental tensions, such as taxation policies, generalized trust will play a contingent role on compliance attitudes, depending on the development of liberal democracy. Drawing from 2,108 national surveys, I employ a Bayesian IRT model, I measure and create a political trust data set covering 150 countries over 47 years, from 1973 to 2020. Results show that trust in implementing institutions has the most considerable effect on vaccination coverage; people who trust in others are less willing to pay taxes in less democratic countries. My research implies that governments can be prepared for challenges like future pandemics and climate change if they improve the quality of bureaucracy and the accountability as well as inclusiveness of political institutions.

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, Policy Diffusion, Political Communication, Chinese Politics.

Political Methodology

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

PUBLICATION

"Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty" (with Yue Hu and Frederick Solt) *American Political Science Review*. FirstView. Preprint.
"Determinants of Chinese Provinces' Responses to the 2018 Vaccine Scandal: Policy Orientation and Neighboring Effect" *Asian Survey*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under Review
"Policy Burden, Issue Salience, and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China" (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)
"On Data 'Janitor Work' in Political Science" (with Yue Hu and Frederick Solt)
"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

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

"When Correcting Misinformation Does Not Work: Creating Norms for Public Health" (with Frederick J. Boehmke)

"Policy Imitation in China" (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)

"Gubernatorial Executive Orders vs Legislation: Determinants of States' Action Choice during COVID19 Pandemic"

"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"

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
  Guided students to design HP survey questions on both national and local politics, field survey via phone and online, analyze data, release press, and write analytical paper. Results from March/April 2022 Hawkeye Poll.

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 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

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
Associate Professor, University of Iowa