

Yuehong Cassandra Tai

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

✉ yhcasstai@psu.edu 📞 [Tyhcass](#) 🌐 cassyehtai.netlify.app

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

Digital Politics, Public Opinion, Chinese Politics.

Computational Social Science

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

PUBLICATIONS

Digital Politics and Machine Learning

Biswas, Ahana, Yu-ru Lin, Yuehong Cassandra Tai and Bruce A. Desmarais. “Political Elites in the Attention Economy: Visibility Over Civility and Credibility?” *Accepted in ICWSM 2025*.

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*.

Public Opinion and Measurement

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*. [*co-first author]

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. 2022. “Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty” *American Political Science Review*.

Chinese 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

Digital Politics

“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) [**Lead Author**]

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

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

Public Opinion

“How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies?” (with Xun Cao and Fred Solt) [**Lead Author**]

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

“Trust in Bureaucracy” (with Frederick Solt) [**Lead Author**]

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

Chinese Politics

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials”

PolMeth 2024, University of California, Riverside July 2024

“Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection”

State Politics and Policy Conference 2024, University of Virginia June 2024

“Climate Clash: Fossil Fuel Influence, Public Opinion, and State Legislators’ Online Discourse”

Visions in Methodology 2024, Washington University in St. Louis May 2024

“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, University of Pittsburgh 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 Erico 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 10: Scientific Study of Politics (Undergraduate Level),	Fall 2024
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. Results from March/April 2022 Hawkeye Poll.	
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	

Comparative Politics and American Politics

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

EXTERNAL AND CAMPUS SERVICE

Member: American Political Science Association (sections on Political Methodology), the Midwestern Political Science Association and Association of Chinese Political Science

Reviewer: American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Research and Politics, The International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM), Public Opinion Quarterly, Asian Survey, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Journal of Comparative Sociology.

POLMETH Mailing List Editor: The Society for Political Methodology. 2024 -

Seed Grant Reviewer: Center for Social Data Analytics. Pennsylvania State University 2022, 2023

Planning Committee Member: 16th Postdoctoral Research Symposium. Pennsylvania State University 2023

Committee Member: Post-doctoral Scholar Committee. College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University 2022

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: 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 AND 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

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, \LaTeX , Markdown, Git (GitHub).

Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

REFERENCES

Frederick Solt, Ph.D

frederick-solt@uiowa.edu; (319)335-2340

Professor, University of Iowa

Xun Cao, Ph.D

xuc11@psu.edu; (814) 865-8749

Professor, Penn State University

Elizabeth J. Menninga, Ph.D

elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu; (319) 335-3835

Associate Professor, University of Iowa

Bruce A. Desmarais, Ph.D

bdesmarais@psu.edu; (814) 863-1595,

Professor, Penn State University

Bryce Dietrich, Ph.D

bjdietri@purdue.edu; (765) 494-4161

Associate Professor, Purdue University