

# 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)  
Conditionally 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

“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)

“Variations in Government Responsiveness: Policy Innovation and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis” (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	
<b>Comparative Politics and American Politics Courses</b>	
<i>University of Iowa</i>	
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, <a href="#">Venture Forward</a> , 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

<b>iPeer Mentor:</b> <i>iPeer Mentorship Program</i> . International Student and Scholar Services, University of Iowa	2021
<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>Co-Host:</b> <a href="#">2020 Iowa Caucus Conference</a> . 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: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, 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)335-2471  
 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