

YAN WANG

Department of Social Statistics
University of Manchester
Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6GY, UK

Email: yan.wang-5@manchester.ac.uk
Home: <https://ywangsoc.com/>
ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3214-4271>

Academic Appointments

2023– Assistant Professor in Social Statistics, Department of Social Statistics, University of Manchester
2023 Assistant Professor in Digital Sociology, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University
2021–2023 Research Fellow, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics
2020–2021 LSE Fellow, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics
2019–2020 Teaching Fellow in Quantitative Research Methods, Department of Political Science, University College London

Research Affiliations

2023–2025 Visiting Fellow, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics
2022–2025 Affiliate, Data Science Institute, London School of Economics

Education

2015–2020 Ph.D., Sociology, London School of Economics
Dissertation Title: *Social Policy, State Legitimacy and Strategic Actors: Governmentality and Counter-conduct in Authoritarian Regime*
Supervisors: Carrie Friese (Sociology), Noam Yuchtman (Management), Michael McQuarrie (Sociology), Mayling Birney (International Development), Craig Calhoun (Sociology)
2013–2015 M.A., Public Policy and Administration, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University
2010 Exchange Student, Sociology, School of Social Science, Hong Kong University
2009–2013 B.A., Sociology, School of Social Science, Tsinghua University

Publications

Book

- **Wang, Yan.** (2022). *Pension policy and governmentality in China: Manufacturing public compliance*. LSE Press.

Journal Articles

- **Wang, Yan.** (2024). Building deservingness and fairness with discourse: how states construct the social legitimacy of pension schemes. *Critical Policy Studies*.
- Zhu, Xufeng, **Wang, Yan.** (2023). Policy Experimentation as Dialogue: Social Policy, Shared Responsibility, and Regime Support in China. *The China Quarterly*.
- **Wang, Yan,** Luo, Ting. (2022). Politicising for Non-Politics: The ‘Self-motivated’ Nationalism in China’s Idol-Fandom. *Information, Communication, & Society*.

- **Wang, Yan**, Zhang, Yuxi. (2022). Contesting for Consensus: Social sentiment towards fellow citizens' COVID-related behaviours in China. in Book '*Pandemic Narratives in China and the World: Technology, Society, and Nations*', edited by Bingchun Meng, Guobin Yang, and Elaine Yuan.
- **Wang, Yan**. (2022). Pragmatism or Politicism: Local Officials' Decision Making in Social Policy Experimentation. *SSRN*.
- Wang, Xiaonan, **Wang, Yan**. (2021). Too Cynical: How Stock Market in China Dismissed Anticorruption Signals. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 1-37.

Working Papers

- [1] Luo, Ting, **Wang, Yan**. The art of storytelling: Pro-regime narratives on Chinese social media and the official opinion leaders. Revise and Resubmit.
- [2] Avalos, C., Nick Shryane, and **Wang, Yan**. 2025. When Does Food Label Readability Matter? A Non-Equivalent Dependent Variable Design to Isolate the Content-Specific Effects on Food Choice. Preprints.
- [3] **Wang, Yan**. Cleavage map of focal issues: the attitudinal divisions in cyberspace on re-distributive social welfare. Working paper.
- [4] Pol Rovira-Wilde, **Wang, Yan**. Towards a Natural Language Processing Pipeline for Measuring Types of Issue-specific Polarisation using UK Party Manifestos. Working paper.
- [5] A Tale of Two Discourses: Social Media Discussion on Pension Reforms in China, with Huang, Xian. Working paper.

Work in Progress

- REVERBERATE: Modelling How Preferences, Attitudes, and Attention Reverberate Between Public Opinion and Elite Policy Debate, with Leifeld Philip
- Health communication and social media: the health shelf on Youtube
- The evil state or the abandoned generation? The dynamic cleavage of cyber debates around China's retirement age policy

Research Grants

2024-2025	Cathie Marsh Institute Seed Corn Fund (PI), University of Manchester, £4,700
2024-2025	Humanities Strategic Civic Engagement Fund (Co-I), University of Manchester, £4,000
2024	School of Social Sciences Small Grant (PI), University of Manchester, £2,000
2021-2023	Small Research Grants (Co-I), British Academy, £9,886
2020-2021	Research Infrastructure and Investment Fund (RIIF), LSE Methodology, £1,500

Teaching and Supervision

Lecturer

2023-	Quantitative text analysis in social sciences; Network Analysis; Understanding Social Media Data	U Manchester
2023	Contemporary Social Problems; Sociological Thoughts for Our Times	U Lancaster
2021-2023	MSc Course: Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the MPA Programme	LSE
2020-2021	MSc/PhD Course: Machine Learning; Using Dictionaries for Text Analysis; Regression Discontinuity Designs;	LSE
2019-2020	Undergraduate Course: Data in Society: Researching Social Life (Guest Lecturer)	LSE

Supervision

2024-	PhD in Social Statistics	U Manchester
2023-	MSc in Data Science & MSc in Social Research Methods students	U Manchester
2020- 2021	MSc in Applied Social Data Science & MSc in Social Research Methods Students	LSE
2019	GROUPS Project for Undergraduate Students	LSE
2019	LSE Change Makers Project	LSE
2018	GROUPS Project for Undergraduate Students	LSE

Selected Conferences and Invited Talks

- [1] **Wang, Yan**, (2024). ‘The Attitudinal Divisions in Cyberspace on Re-distributive Social Welfare’, Session on Public Opinion, American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, USA.
- [2] Yuxi Zhang, **Wang, Yan**, (2024). ‘Rebuild Pandemic Preparedness within Society through Public-Expert Dynamics’, Session on Health Politics & Health Policy, American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, USA.
- [3] Luo, Ting, **Wang, Yan**, (2024). ‘The art of storytelling: Pro-regime narratives on Chinese social media, 10th International Conference on Computational Social Science, Philadelphia, USA.
- [4] **Wang, Yan**, (2023). ‘*Truth or Dare: Falsification in Manufactured Compliance in China*’, Session on Public Opinion, American Sociology Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, USA.
- [5] Luo, Ting, **Wang, Yan**, (2023). ‘*The art of storytelling: Pro-regime narratives on Chinese social media and the official opinion leaders*’, Section on Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology, American Sociology Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, USA.
- [6] Luo, Ting, **Wang, Yan**, (2023). ‘*The art of storytelling: Pro-regime narratives on Chinese social media and the official opinion leaders*’, Workshop on ‘Nationalism, Populism and Social Media’, Manchester, UK
- [7] **Wang, Yan**, (2023). Session ‘*Change, stability, and governance in authoritarian regimes*’, ‘Rethinking Regimes’, Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (CEDAR), University of Birmingham & University of Exeter, UK.

- [8] **Wang, Yan**, Luo, Ting. (2022). *Politicising for Non-Politics: The Self-motivated Nationalism in China's Fandom*, Section on 'Sociology of Culture', American Sociology Association Annual Conference. LA, USA.
- [9] **Wang, Yan**. (2022). *Pragmatism or politicism: Local officials' decision making in policy experimentation*, section 'Discourse on Politics', American Sociology Association Annual Conference. LA, USA.
- [10] **Wang, Yan**. (2022). *From 'big data' to 'thick data': machine learning for social media research*, workshop 'Researching Mobile Apps in China: Technicity, Culture and the Everyday', Department of Sociology, University of Sheffield, UK.
- [11] **Wang, Yan**. (2022). *Teaching Quantitative Methodologies: Lessons from Digital Sociology*. Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, UK.
- [12] **Wang, Yan**. (2022). *Idol fans, fandom 'industry', and youth China in cyber-space*. Department of History, Politics, and Philosophy, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.
- [13] **Wang, Yan**. (2022). *Digital Sociology: a new bottle with old wine?*. University of Exeter, UK.
- [14] **Wang, Yan**, Zhang, Yuxi. (2022). *Contesting for Consensus: Social sentiment towards fellow citizens' COVID-related behaviours in China*. School of Public Policy, LSE, UK.
- [15] **Wang, Yan**. (2021). *Pension policy and governmentality in China: Manufacturing public compliance*. Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK.
- [16] **Wang, Yan**. (2020). *Who Is Entitled and Who Deserves: Governmentality in Welfare Policies*, on the panel "The Welfare State: Tracing Changes Over Time", American Political Science Association Annual Conference.
- [17] **Wang, Yan**. (2019). *Who Is Entitled and Who Deserves: Governmentality in Welfare Policies*, on the panel "Politics and Policy making in Comparative Perspective", Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference. Barcelona, Spain.
- [18] **Wang, Yan**. (2018). *Truth or dare: Falsification in manufactured consent*. Fifth Frontier Theory and Methodology in Political Science Forum, Tsinghua University. Beijing, China.
- [19] **Wang, Yan**, Zhu, Xufeng. (2018). *Procedural injustice and destabilized participation: how attitudes turn the tide*, on the panel "Judicial Politics in Post-Communism", American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Boston, US.
- [20] Wang, Xiaonan, **Wang, Yan**. (2018). *Say Goodbye to the Good Old Days: Anti-Corruption, Uncertainty and Firm Behaviour*, on the panel "Political Economy of Political Capture and Corruption", American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Boston, US.
- [21] Zhu, Xufeng, Du, Juan, **Wang, Yan**, (2018). *Production Accidents and Public Acceptance of Nuclear Power*, on the panel "Reputations and Trust in Administrative Agencies", American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Boston, US.
- [22] **Wang, Yan**. (2018). *Resistance consciousness and resistance strategies: Urban residents' actions in NIMBY resistances*, on the panel "Environment and Society", British Sociological Association Annual Conference. New Castle, UK.
- [23] Huang, Xiaoyan, Zhu, Xufeng, **Wang, Yan**. (2018). *Conditional effects of governance tools: The micro-level's evaluation of social assistance policy*, on the panel "Politics of China", Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Chicago, US.
- [24] Liu, Guoer, **Wang, Yan**. (2018). *When do the Bystanders Intersect? Online Public, Localized Carrying Capacity and the Polarized Development of Contentions*, on the panel "Civil Society in China", Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Chicago, US.
- [25] **Wang, Yan**. (2017). *Interpretation schemata and cultural implications: Hong Kong post-80s' social movement in framing analysis*, on the panel "Political Sociology", American Sociology Association Annual Conference. Montreal, Canada.

- [26] Zhu, Xufeng, **Wang, Yan.** (2017). *Social Policy and Legitimacy of Public Service Marketization: The Effects of Pension Pilot Scheme in Authoritarian China*, on the panel “Communist/Post-communist Countries”, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Chicago, US.
- [27] **Wang, Yan,** Zhu, Xufeng. (2017). *Procedural injustice and destabilized participation: how attitudes turn the tide*, on the panel “Politics of East Asia & China”, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Chicago, US.
- [28] **Wang, Yan.** (2016). *Interpretation schemata and cultural implications: Hong Kong post-80s’ social movement in framing analysis*. Culture, Media and Creative Industries (CMCI) Department of King’s College London PhD Conference 2016. London, UK.
- [29] **Wang, Yan.** (2014). *A Framing Analysis on The Hong Kong 2010-Anti-XRL Social Movement*. “The Craft of Qualitative Methods: Practices and Reflections”, Department of Sociology in Hong Kong University PhD conference. Hong Kong, China.

Professional Activities

- Reviewer for *British Journal of Political Science*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Asian Journal of Communication*, *The Journal of Chinese Sociology, Information, Communication, & Society*, *Scientific Data*
- Research Officer, “Public Opinion Monitoring”, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics, 2020.
- Associate Fellow of The Higher Education Academy, UK.
- Visiting scholar, Peking University, China, Sept-Dec, 2018.
- Discussant, Panel “Empirical Studies on Democracy and Governance with Chinese Characteristics”, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2017.
- Proofreader, *Fate and Fortune in Rural China: Social Organization and Population Behavior in Liaoning 1774-1873* (Vol. 31), by Lee, J. Z., and Campbell, C. D. published in 2007 by Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Translator, *The Internet and New Social Formation in China: Fandom Publics in the Making*, by Weiyu Zhang, published in 2016 by Routledge, 2016.
- Translator, *China’s Domestic Transformation in a Global Context*, edited by Ligang Song, Ross Garnaut, Cai Fang. and Lauren Johnston, published in 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 2015.
- Translator, *China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset-Shuangcheng (CMGPD-SC) User Guide*, edited by Lee, James Z., Shuang Chen, Cameron D. Campbell, and Hongbo Wang, Ann Arbor: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, 2015.
- Research Assistant, Asian Barometer Survey (ABS), Mainland China Section, 2015.
- Research Assistant, China Urban Survey (CUS), 2015.
- Research Assistant, Project “Governance Capacity of Local Cadres”, 2014.
- Organizer, Project “Discipline Inspection in Zhang Zhou City”, Fu Jian Province, China, 2014.
- Reviewer & Organizer, Yale-Tsinghua University Summer Workshop, 2014.
- Research Assistant, Project “Core Technologies of Direct Media Exploration and Public Opinion Analysis”, Tsinghua University, 2013.
- Program Manager, “Europe-Asia Cooperation on Climate Change Negotiations” Policy Conference, Tsinghua University, 2013.
- Program Manager, “International Symposium on Quantitative Historical Research”, 2013.

Skills

IT R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, NVivo, Microsoft, LaTeX, etc.

Language English (fluent in speaking, reading, and writing), Chinese (native), Japanese (beginner in speaking & reading)