

# GENTO KATO

Senior Assistant Professor

School of Political Science and Economics, Meiji University

1-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8301, Japan

[gentok@meiji.ac.jp](mailto:gentok@meiji.ac.jp) ◇ [gento.badger@gmail.com](mailto:gento.badger@gmail.com) ◇ <https://gentok.github.io/>

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**General interests.** Political behavior, Japanese politics, American politics, political methodology

**Substantive interests.** Low-information voting logic, political knowledge, cognitive heuristics, voter competence, motivated reasoning, identity politics and gender, media priming/framing, comparative behavior

**Methodological interests.** Survey research, experiments, formal modeling, EITM, causal inference, text analysis, machine learning, agent-based simulations, Bayesian statistics, measurements/scaling

## POSITIONS

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**Meiji University**, Tokyo, Japan Sep. 2023-  
Senior Assistant Professor, School of Political Science and Economics

**Nazarbayev University**, Astana, Kazakhstan Aug. 2020-Jun. 2023  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT Sep. 2021-May 2022  
Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer, Council on East Asian Studies

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Political Science, University of California, Davis**, Davis, CA Jun. 2020  
**Dissertation:** How Uninformed Voters Respond to Electoral Environment and Why It Matters:  
The Contextual Logic and Consequences of Low-Information Voting  
**Advisers:** Robert Huckfeldt, Ph.D., Cheryl Boudreau, Ph.D., Ryan Hübert, Ph.D.

**M.A. in Political Science, Waseda University**, Tokyo, Japan Mar. 2015  
**Master's Thesis:** Participate with Uncertainty? What "Don't Know" Responses and a  
Response Time Reveal About Political Awareness and Political Participation  
**Advisers:** Aiji Tanaka, Ph.D., Airo Hino, Ph.D.

**B.A. in Politics, International Christian University**, Tokyo, Japan Mar. 2012

**Study abroad program, Middlebury College**, Middlebury, VT Aug. 2010-May 2011

## SUMMER PROGRAM

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**EITM Summer Institute**, Emory University, Atlanta, GA Jul. 2019

**Institute for Political Methodology**, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan Jul. 2015

**ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research**, Ann Arbor, MI Jun.-Jul. 2014

**The Summer Institute in Political Psychology**, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA Jul.-Aug. 2012

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Hamzawi, Jordan, **Gento Kato**, and Masahisa Endo (Forthcoming) "What Brings You to the Party? Voter Preferences on Parties Through Policy and Valence Dynamics," *Party Politics*. (Joint First Author)

**Kato, Gento**, Fan Lu, and Masahisa Endo (Forthcoming) "The Preference-expectation Gap in Support for Female Candidates: Evidence from Japan," *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

- Adhikari, Bimal and **Gento Kato** (2024) "Russian Adventurism and Central Asian Leaders' Foreign Policy Rhetoric: Evidence from the UN General Debate Corpus," *Research & Politics*, 1-8. (Published online first on May 16, 2024; Joint First Author)
- Kato, Gento** and Fan Lu (2023) "The Relationship between University Education and Pro-Immigrant Attitudes Varies by Generation: Insights from Japan," *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 35(4), 1-12. (Published online first October 28, 2023)
- Annaka, Susumu, and **Gento Kato** (2022) "Can a Constitutional Monarch Influence Democratic Preferences? Japanese Emperor and the Regulation of Public Expression," *Social Science Quarterly* 103(3), 699-708. (Joint First Author)
- Kato, Gento** (2020) "When Strategic Uninformed Abstention Improves Democratic Accountability," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 32(3), 366-388.
- Kohno, Masaru, Gabriella R. Montinola, Matthew S. Winters, and **Gento Kato** (2021) "Donor Competition and Public Support for Foreign Aid Sanctions," *Political Research Quarterly* 74(1), 212-227. (Published online first on February 17, 2020)
- Collet, Christian and **Gento Kato** (2014) "Does NHK Make You Smarter (and Super News Make You 'Softer')? An Examination of Japanese Political Knowledge and the Potential Influence of TV News," *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 15(1), 23-50.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (IN JAPANESE)

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- Annaka, Susumu, Junpei Suzuki, and **Gento Kato** (2022) "Universalist Social Benefit and Regressive Taxation as Determinants of Welfare State Support: Survey Experiment on Consumption Tax Hike in Japan," *The Annals of Japanese Political Science Association* 2022-I, 212-235. (In Japanese) (安中進・鈴木淳平・加藤言人 (2022) 「福祉国家に対する態度決定要因としての普遍的社会保障と逆進課税：消費増税に関するサーヴェイ実験」, 『年報政治学』 2022-I, 212-235.)
- Kato, Gento** and Susumu Annaka (2020) "Explaining 'Twisted' Preferences Toward Monetary Easing in Japan: Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Information Environment on the Relationship Between Ideology and Policy Preferences," *Japanese Journal of Electoral Studies* 36(2), 151-167. (In Japanese) (加藤言人・安中進 (2020) 「日本における「ねじれ」た金融緩和選好を説明する：イデオロギーと政策選好の関係に情報環境が与える影響の実験的検証」, 『選挙研究』 36(2), 151-167.)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- Endo, Masahisa and **Gento Kato** (2022) "Social Values and Mask-wearing Behaviour During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan," In Noriko Suzuki, Xavier Mellet, Susumu Annaka and Masahisa Endo eds. *Public Behavioural Responses to Policy Making during the Pandemic: Comparative Perspectives on Mask Wearing Policies*, Routledge.
- Kato, Gento** (Forthcoming) "Mutohaso to Sosharu Nettowaku Kankyo [Independents and Social Network Environments]," In Aiji Tanaka, Masahisa Endo, Norihiro Mimura, and Arata Yamazaki eds. *Mutohaso no Kenkyu [Study of Independents in Japan] (tentative title)*, Tokyo: Yuhikaku. (In Japanese) (加藤言人 (近刊予定), 「無党派層とソーシャルネットワーク環境」, 田中愛治 (監) 遠藤晶久・三村憲弘・山崎新 (編) 『無党派の研究』 有斐閣.)

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

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- Annaka, Susumu and **Gento Kato** (2023) "The King and Aye: When Monarchs Influence the People," *360info*, <https://360info.org/the-king-and-aye-when-monarchs-influence-the-people/>.

## SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

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### (Single Authored)

#### **Local bandwagoning and national balancing:**

***How uninformed voters respond to the partisan environment***

Sep. 2019

#### ***Explaining uninformed participation in referendum voting***

Apr. 2017

#### ***International news coverage and perception of foreign states in Japan***

Nov. 2017

### (Co-authored)

#### ***Can a Political Incorporation of Youth Cultivate Regime Support in Autocracies? Evidence from Kazakhstan***

Apr. 2025

*Under review. Joint first author. Coauthored with Jordan Hamzawi and Masahisa Endo.*

#### **Household analogy revisited:**

Apr. 2025

***How do Japanese people respond to government borrowing and assets?***

*Under review. With Junpei Suzuki, Susumu Annaka, and Takaharu Saito.*

#### **Government information and popular reactions in autocracies**

Mar. 2024

*Under review. Corresponding author. Coauthored with Susumu Annaka and Masaaki Higashijima.*

#### **A formal model of shared identity appeals**

Sep. 2022

*First author. Coauthored with Fan Lu.*

#### **Reexamining the effect of democratization on**

Aug. 2022

***respect for human rights in sub-Saharan Africa, 1978-2008***

*Joint first author with Bimal Adhikari and Jeffrey King.*

#### **Public reactions toward government-sponsored COVID-19 information in Japan**

Jan. 2022

*First author with Susumu Annaka and Masahisa Endo.*

#### **Towards a general methodology of bridging ideological spaces**

Aug. 2020

*With Tzu-Ping Liu and Samuel Fuller.*

#### **Socioeconomic inequality and COVID-19 prevalence**

May 2020

***across municipalities in Catalonia, Spain***

*With Ryohei Mogi and Susumu Annaka.*

#### **Territorial threat, motivated reasoning, and Twitter network**

Aug. 2017

*First author with Takanori Fujiwara, Christian Collet, Tetsuro Kobayashi, and Takafumi Suzuki.*

## HONORS & AWARDS

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**Social Policy Grant**, Nazarbayev University (\$10,000) 2022-23

**Merk Prospectus Award**, Department of Political Science, UC Davis (\$4,000) 2019

**Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship**, Graduate Studies, UC Davis (\$43,200) 2019-20

**Dissertation Improvement Award**, Department of Political Science, UC Davis (\$2,500) 2019

**Summer Collaborative Award**, Department of Political Science, UC Davis (\$5,000) Summer 2018  
*With Professor Adrienne Hosek.*

**Travel Award**, Department of Political Science, UC Davis (\$500) Spring and Fall 2017, 2019

**Graduate Scholarship for Degree Seeking Students**, Japan Student Services Organization 2015-20

**Ijima Award**, Graduate School of Political Science, Waseda University 2015

**The Best Master Thesis Award**, Graduate School of Political Science, Waseda University 2015

**Azusa Ono Memorial Award**, Waseda University 2015

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|---|------|
| <b>Okuma Memorial Scholarship, Waseda University</b>    | 2014 |
| <b>125th Anniversary Scholarship, Waseda University</b> | 2013 |

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</b>  | 2014, 2017, 2019-23          |
| <b>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference</b>  | 2014, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024 |
| <b>Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting</b>   | 2025*                        |
| <b>PolMeth (The Society for Political Methodology Annual Summer Meeting)</b>  | 2020                         |
| <b>Japanese Political Science Association Annual Meeting</b>  | 2019, 2023                   |
| <b>Japanese Association of Electoral Studies Annual Conference</b>  | 2015, 2021                   |
| <b>Japan Association of Political Economy Annual Conference</b>   | 2014, 2015                   |
| <b>Asian Network for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference</b>  | 2013, 2014                   |
| <b>International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Region Conference</b>   | 2023                         |
| <b>Asian Politics Online Seminar Series</b>   | Sep. 2021                    |
| <b>New Data for the New Challenges of Population and Society,</b><br><i>University of Padua, Padua, Italy</i>   | Sep. 2021                    |
| <b>Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series</b>  | Oct. 2020                    |
| <b>PSIR Faculty Lecture Series, Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan</b>   | Sep. 2020                    |
| <b>Toronto Political Behaviour Workshop</b>   | Nov. 2019                    |
| <b>Political Science Research Workshop, UC Davis, Davis, CA</b>   | Oct. 2019                    |
| <b>Conference Public Opinion and Foreign Aid, Geneva, Switzerland</b>   | Feb. 2019                    |
| <b>International Metropolis Conference, Sydney, Australia</b>   | Oct. 2018                    |
| <b>Migration Research Cluster Workshop, UC Davis, Davis, CA</b>   | Nov. 2017                    |
| <b>GSDS Symposium Konstanz: Exploring Ignorance – The Acquisition,</b><br><b>Selection and Processing of Information, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany</b> | May 2016                     |
| <b>International Workshop: New Developments in Political Communication Research,</b><br><i>Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan</i>                                      | Jun. 2015                    |

\*Proposal accepted.

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA</b><br><i>Research assistant for Professors Lauren Peritz and Adrienne Hosek</i> | 2019          |
| <b>EGAP Metaketa Initiative</b><br><i>Member of third-party experiment replication team</i>   | 2019-20       |
| <b>Institute of Applied Social Psychology + Connect, Osaka, Japan</b><br><i>Assistant researcher</i>  | 2012-13, 2016 |
| <b>Waseda Institute of Advanced Study, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan</b><br><i>Research assistant for Professor Masaru Kohno</i>                              | 2014-15       |
| <b>Social Science Research Institute, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan</b><br><i>Research assistant for Professor Christian Collet</i>          | 2012          |

## TEACHING

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|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>POL311J: 政治過程論 [Theories of Political Process]</b> (in Japanese), Meiji University                       | Fall 2023-                  |
| 政治意識論 I&II [Political Psychology] (in Japanese), Gakushuin University                                       | Spring 2024-                |
| <b>PLS434/534: Text Analysis and Political Communication in the Information Age</b> , Nazarbayev University | Spring 2023 <sup>†</sup>    |
| <b>PLS140: Introduction to Comparative Politics</b> , Nazarbayev University                                 | Fall 2022                   |
| <b>PLSC162/678: Japan and the World</b> , Yale University<br>Co-teaching with Professor Frances Rosenbluth  | Fall 2021 <sup>†</sup>      |
| <b>PLS416/516: Experimental Political Science</b> , Nazarbayev University                                   | Spring 2021 <sup>†</sup>    |
| <b>PLS211: Quantitative Methods</b> , Nazarbayev University   | Spring 2021                 |
| <b>PLS415/515: Maximum Likelihood Models</b> , Nazarbayev University  | Fall 2020/2022 <sup>†</sup> |
| <b>PLS312: Public Opinion and Elections</b> , Nazarbayev University   | Fall 2020/Spring 2023       |
| <b>POL 051: Scientific Study of Politics</b> , UC Davis   | Spring 2018                 |

<sup>†</sup>Courses that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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|  |       |
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| <b>Member, American Political Science Association</b>    | 2014- |
| <b>Member, Midwest Political Science Association</b>     | 2014- |
| <b>Member, Japanese Political Science Association</b>    | 2019- |
| <b>Member, Japanese Association of Electoral Studies</b> | 2014- |

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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|---|-------|
| <b>Master Thesis Committee Member for:</b><br>Kamila Matzhanova (Nazarbayev University, 2021), Ali Mukhambet (Nazarbayev University, 2021),<br>Aigerim Aibassova (Nazarbayev University, 2022), Aisulu Makhtayeva (Nazarbayev University, 2023),<br>Temirlan Zhumadilov (Nazarbayev University, 2023), and Diana Maratova (Nazarbayev University, 2024) | 2021- |
| <b>Doctoral Thesis Advisory Committee Member for:</b><br>Aigerim Aibassova (Nazarbayev University, 2023-)   | 2023- |
| <b>Journal Reviewer</b><br>American Journal of Political Science, The Journal of Politics, Political Analysis,<br>International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Comparative Political Studies,<br>Journal of Asian and African Studies, Communist and Post-Communist Studies,<br>Journal of Regional Research, Ajia Keizai (アジア経済)                  | 2020- |
| <b>Discussant</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference,<br>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting,<br>Japanese Political Science Association Annual Meeting  | 2019- |

## OTHER SERVICES

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|  |         |
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| <b>Associate Researcher</b> , Waseda Institute of Political Economy, Waseda University | 2021-   |
| <b>Mentor</b> , Japanese Club, Nazarbayev University                                   | 2022-23 |
| <b>Assistant Coordinator</b> , Political Science Research Workshop, UC Davis           | 2019-20 |
| <b>Mentor</b> , First Friends Program, UC Davis  | 2016-17 |

## SKILLS

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**Computing:** *R, Stata, SPSS, Python (including oTree) and  $\LaTeX$*

**Languages:** *Japanese (native) and English (highly proficient)*