LI Jiajun (Leo)

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Education

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong, China
• PhD & MPhil in Social Science	2023 - Present
• Supervisor: Prof. HENDRY David	
Sun Yat-sen University	Guangzhou, China
• Master of Sociology	2020 - 2023
• Supervisor: Prof. LIANG Yucheng	
• Bachelor of Political Science & Statistics (Minor)	2016 - 2020

Research Interest

Political Psychology, Political Behavior, Causal Inference, Computational Social Science, Experimental Methods

Working Paper

Reticence or Theatrics? Grassroots Cadre Presence and Political Response in Surveys [Source]

- **Abstract**: Survey studies struggle to eliminate response bias, yet they frequently neglect the impact of the interview context. This article investigates the influence of grassroots cadre presence in surveys on self-censorship and social desirability bias. Using the China Family Panel Studies from 2012 to 2018 ($N \approx 100,000$), I demonstrate that the presence of grassroots cadres can induce social desirability bias rather than self-censorship in responses to political queries, regardless of whether they are framed positively or negatively. Specifically, treated individuals tend to over-report their trust in grassroots officeholders and local government while under-reporting experiences of unfairness, unreasonable treatment, and conflict with authorities. Novelly, I perform randomized controlled trial simulations ($N \approx 6,000$) utilizing Retrieval-Augmented Generation and In-Context Learning, alongside implicit association tests ($N \approx 100$), and findings indicate that social desirability bias is driven by authoritarian cognition (risk perception, fear-based anxiety, suppositional insight, and avoidant tendencies), consistent with the inference that fear of perceived or actual sanctions plays a crucial role in shaping responses.

Public Opinions Towards Poverty Policy: A Discourse Network Analysis (with PENG Chenhong and LI Sijia)

Experience

Web Scraping Project of Weibo Posts (Develop Independently)

- Python-based web scraping programming on severs: automatically collect thousands of tweets and user profiles, including nicknames, post sources, geolocations, and other metadata.
- Database: Over 20 million posts across diverse topics, such feminism, social welfare policy, artificial intelligence, and pro-violence attitudes.

Teaching Assistant

Work with Prof. WEI Jinlin	2025.02 - 2025.05
• Course: Computational Social Science	
Work with Prof. HENDRY David	2024.09 - 2024.12
• Course: Experiments and Quasi-Experiments in the Social Sciences	
Work with Prof. SHEN Yifan	2024.01 - 2024.05
• Course: Data Analysis for Quantitative Social Research	

Work with Prof. LIANG Yucheng   2022.09 - 2023.01
- Course: Computational Social Science

Part-time Research Assistant

Work with Prof. PENG Chenhong   2023.04 - Present
- Collect and process data; perform the discourse network analysis; draft paper.

Work with Dr. WANG Jie   2018.12 - Present
- Collect and process data; draft paper; translate the book about structural equation modeling.

Award

Dr. Charles Chan Scholarship for Excellent RPG (HKD 56,280), HKUST	2024
Postgraduate Scholarship (HKD 220,000 Per Year), HKUST	2023 - 2025
National Scholarship (RMB 20,000), Ministry of Education of the P. R. China	2022
Outstanding Postgraduate (RMB 8,000 Per Year), Sun Yat-sen University	2020 - 2023
Second Class Prize of Outstanding Paper (Awardee), Inst. of Edu., Tsinghua University	2020
Outstanding Undergraduate (RMB 5,000 Per Year), Sun Yat-sen University	2017 & 2019

Skill

Programming: R (6 years), Stata (8 years), Python (5 years), LaTeX (5 years).
Languages: English, Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native).

Reference

HENDRY David
Associate Professor,
Division of Social Science,
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Link

LIANG Yucheng
Professor,
Department of Sociology,
Sun Yat-sen University
Link

PENG Chenhong
Assistant Professor,
Department of Social Work,
The University of Hong Kong
Link

WANG Jie
Research Fellow,
School of Politics and Public Administration,
South China Normal University
Link

SHEN Yifan
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