

Wei(Rocio) Zhong

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science Stony Brook University	wei.zhong.1@stonybrook.edu https://rociozhong.github.io
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Stony Brook University , Stony Brook, NY Department of Political Science Assistant Professor, Sep 2025 – Present New York University , New York, NY Center for Social Media and Politics Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Sep 2023 – Aug 2025 George Washington University , Washington, DC Institute for Data, Democracy & Politics, School of Engineering and Applied Science Research Scientist, Feb 2021 – Aug 2023	
EDUCATION	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Urbana, IL Ph.D., Political Science, Aug 2021 Dissertation: “Candidates, the Economy and Voting Behavior” M.S., Statistics, May 2018 New York University , New York, NY M.A., Politics, May 2014 University of International Business and Economics , Beijing, China B.A., Spanish, Jun 2009	
RESEARCH INTEREST	Comparative Politics, Political Methodology Online Hate and Extremism, Polarization, Social Media, Computational Methods	
PUBLICATIONS	Zhong, W. , & Broniatowski, D.A. (2023). Economic risk framing increases intention to vaccinate among Republican COVID-19 vaccine refusers. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> , 317, 115594. Bailard, C., Tromble, R., Zhong, W. , Bianchi, F., Hosseini, P., & Broniatowski, D.A. (2024). “Keep Your Heads Held High Boys!”: Examining the Relationship between the Proud Boys’ Online Discourse and Offline Activities. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 1–18. Zhong, W. , Bailard, C., Broniatowski, D., & Tromble, R. (2024). Proud Boys on Telegram. <i>Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media</i> , 4, 1–47. Zhong, W. , & Zhang, M. (2025). Subdued but Unbroken: The Cohesion of Far-Right Extremist Followers after Deplatforming. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , 1–26. Lukito, J., Macdonald, M., Chen, B., Prochaska, S., Yang, Y., Brown, M., Greenfield, J., Suk, J., Zhong, W. , Dahlke, R., & Borah, P. (2025). Candidates Be Posting: Multi-Platform Strategies and Partisan Preferences in the 2022 US Midterm Elections. <i>Social Media+ Society</i> , 11(2).	
UNDER REVIEW REVISE AND RESUBMIT	Suk, J.*, Zhong, W.* , Zhang, Y., Pruden M., Yang, Y., Mao, C., & DiFranzo D. Unveiling Engagement and Platform Algorithmic Biases in Social Media Data Collection and Analysis: An Experimental Study. (<i>R&R at Communication Methods and Measures</i>) [*co-first author] Zhong, W. , & Zhang, M.. Fragmentation Dynamics in Electoral Assessments: Evolving Voter Criteria in U.S. Presidential Elections, 1984-2020. Zhong, W. , Chen, B., Liang, F. & Zhang, M. Picturing Protest: A Deep Dive into the Visual Representation of Protests in Authoritarian Countries’ Media on Twitter. (<i>R&R at Digital Journalism</i>) Broniatowski, D., Zhong, W. , M., Simons, J., Dredze, M., & Abrams, L. Explaining Twitter’s Inability to Control Misinformation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (<i>R&R at Scientific Reports</i>)	

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS	Zhong, W. , & Bisbee J. From Streets to Screens: The Influence of Offline Confrontations on Online White Supremacist Community Unity	
	Zhong, W.* , Sanderson, Z.*, & Tucker, J.A. The Effect of AI Content Labels on Perceptions of Political Images. [*co-first author]	
	Zhong, W. , & Nagler, J. Immigration Attitudes and Social Media Exposure in the United States. Zhong, W. , & Nagler, J. Opinion Change and Voter Learning across Political Issues in U.S. Elections.	
SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	US 2020 Presidential Election Researcher META (formerly Facebook) Menlo Park, CA	Dec 2021 - Sep 2023
	Data Science Research Intern DiDi AI LABS Beijing, China	May 2019 - Aug 2019
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor POL 604 Quantitative Analysis III (Graduate), Stony Brook University PS 385 Politics of the European Union (Online), UIUC PS 241 Comparative Politics in Developing Nations (Online), UIUC	Fall 2025 Spring 2020 Fall 2019, Spring 2018
	Teaching Assistant Quantitative Analysis I, II, III (Graduate), UIUC Introduction to Political Research, UIUC Introduction to International Relations, UIUC	2018–2019 Spring 2017 Spring 2016
LANGUAGES	English(fluent), Chinese(native), Spanish(proficient)	
SOFTWARE	Python, R, SQL, LATEX, Git, ArcGIS	
SERVICES	Manuscript Referee American Political Science Review, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Journal of Experimental Political Science, PNAS Nexus, Nature Communications	
	Guest Editor Special Issue on Multi-Platform Research for <i>Political Communication</i>	
REFERENCES	Brian Gaines Professor of Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 304A DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 Phone: 650-283-2214 bjgaines@illinois.edu	
	Matthew Winters Professor of Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 315 DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive Urbana, IL 61801 Phone: 217-333-3881 mwinters@illinois.edu	
	David Broniatowski Professor of Engineering Management & Systems Engineering George Washington University SEH 2700, Science & Engineering Hall 800 22nd Street, NW Washington, DC 20052	

Phone: 202-994-3751
broniowski@gwu.edu

Catie Bailard

Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs
George Washington University
Media and Public Affairs Building
805 21st Street, NW, Washington DC 20052
cbailard@gwu.edu

Jake Bowers

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
432 DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801
jwbowers@illinois.edu

Wendy Cho

Professor of Political Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
304E DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive Urbana, IL 61801
wendycho@illinois.edu