

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>Accepted at Digital Journalism</i>)	

Broniatowski, D., **Zhong, W.**, M., Simons, J., Dredze, M., & Abroms, L. Explaining Twitter's Inability to Control Misinformation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (*Accepted at Scientific Reports*)

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., Much, M., & Nagler, J. From Tweets to Beliefs: Examining the Role of Online Political Environments in Shaping Immigration Attitudes

Zhong, W., & Nagler, J. Opinion Change and Voter Learning across Political Issues in U.S. Elections.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

US 2020 Presidential Election Researcher Dec 2021 - Sep 2023
 META (formerly Facebook)
 Menlo Park, CA

Data Science Research Intern May 2019 - Aug 2019
 DiDi AI LABS
 Beijing, China

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

POL 604 Quantitative Analysis III (Graduate), Stony Brook University Fall 2025
 PS 385 Politics of the European Union (Online), UIUC Spring 2020
 PS 241 Comparative Politics in Developing Nations (Online), UIUC Fall 2019, Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant

Quantitative Analysis I, II, III (Graduate), UIUC 2018-2019
 Introduction to Political Research, UIUC Spring 2017
 Introduction to International Relations, UIUC 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 *Political Communication*

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

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