Wei(Rocio) Zhong

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science wei.zhong.1@stonybrook.edu Stony Brook University 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. *Social Science & Medicine*, 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. *American Political Science Review*, 1–18.

Zhong, W., Bailard, C., Broniatowski, D., & Tromble, R. (2024). Proud Boys on Telegram. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 4, 1–47.

Zhong, W., & Zhang, M. (2025). Subdued but Unbroken: The Cohesion of Far-Right Extremist Followers after Deplatforming. *Perspectives on Politics*, 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. *Social Media+ Society*, 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. *(R&R at Communication Methods and Measures)* [*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. *(R&R at Digital Journalism)*

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

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