

# Wei(Rocio) Zhong

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science Stony Brook University	wei.zhong.1@stonybrook.edu <a href="https://rociozhong.github.io">https://rociozhong.github.io</a>
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>Stony Brook University</b> , Stony Brook, NY Department of Political Science Assistant Professor, Sep 2025 – Present <b>New York University</b> , New York, NY Center for Social Media and Politics Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Sep 2023 – Aug 2025 <b>George Washington University</b> , Washington, DC Institute for Data, Democracy & Politics, School of Engineering and Applied Science Research Scientist, Feb 2021 – Aug 2023	
EDUCATION	<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b> , Urbana, IL Ph.D., Political Science, Aug 2021 Dissertation: “Candidates, the Economy and Voting Behavior” M.S., Statistics, May 2018 <b>New York University</b> , New York, NY M.A., Politics, May 2014 <b>University of International Business and Economics</b> , Beijing, China B.A., Spanish, Jun 2009	
RESEARCH INTEREST	Comparative Politics, Political Methodology Online Hate and Extremism, Polarization, Social Media, Computational Methods	
PUBLICATIONS	<b>Zhong, W.</b> , & Broniatowski, D.A. (2023). Economic risk framing increases intention to vaccinate among Republican COVID-19 vaccine refusers. <i>Social Science &amp; Medicine</i> , 317, 115594. Bailard, C., Tromble, R., <b>Zhong, W.</b> , 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. <b>Zhong, W.</b> , Bailard, C., Broniatowski, D., & Tromble, R. (2024). Proud Boys on Telegram. <i>Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media</i> , 4, 1–47. <b>Zhong, W.</b> , & 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., <b>Zhong, W.</b> , 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.*, <b>Zhong, W.*</b> , 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&amp;R at Communication Methods and Measures</i> ) [*co-first author] <b>Zhong, W.</b> , & Zhang, M.. Fragmentation Dynamics in Electoral Assessments: Evolving Voter Criteria in U.S. Presidential Elections, 1984-2020. <b>Zhong, W.</b> , 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&amp;R at Digital Journalism</i> ) Broniatowski, D., <b>Zhong, W.</b> , M., Simons, J., Dredze, M., & Abroms, L. Explaining Twitter’s Inability to Control Misinformation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. ( <i>R&amp;R at Scientific Reports</i> )	

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS	<b>Zhong, W.</b> , & Bisbee J. From Streets to Screens: The Influence of Offline Confrontations on Online White Supremacist Community Unity	
	<b>Zhong, W.</b> *, Sanderson, Z.* , & Tucker, J.A. The Effect of AI Content Labels on Perceptions of Political Images. [*co-first author]	
	<b>Zhong, W.</b> , Much, M., & Nagler, J. From Tweets to Beliefs: Examining the Role of Online Political Environments in Shaping Immigration Attitudes	
SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<b>Zhong, W.</b> , & Nagler, J. Opinion Change and Voter Learning across Political Issues in U.S. Elections.	
	<b>US 2020 Presidential Election Researcher</b>	Dec 2021 - Sep 2023
	META (formerly Facebook) Menlo Park, CA	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Data Science Research Intern</b>	May 2019 - Aug 2019
	DiDi AI LABS Beijing, China	
	<b>Instructor</b>	
	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
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	
	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	<b>Manuscript Referee</b> American Political Science Review, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Journal of Experimental Political Science, PNAS Nexus, Nature Communications	
REFERENCES	<b>Guest Editor</b> Special Issue on Multi-Platform Research for <i>Political Communication</i>	
	<b>Brian Gaines</b> Professor of Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 304A DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 Phone: 650-283-2214 <a href="mailto:bjgaines@illinois.edu">bjgaines@illinois.edu</a>	
	<b>Matthew Winters</b> Professor of Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 315 DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive Urbana, IL 61801 Phone: 217-333-3881 <a href="mailto:mwinters@illinois.edu">mwinters@illinois.edu</a>	
	<b>Jake Bowers</b> Associate Professor of Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 432 DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801 <a href="mailto:jwbowers@illinois.edu">jwbowers@illinois.edu</a>	

**Wendy Cho**

Professor of Political Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

304E DKH, 1407 W Gregory Drive Urbana, IL 61801

[wendych@illinois.edu](mailto:wendych@illinois.edu)