

# Yanran Valerie Li

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## Education

### **Penn State University**

Dual-title Ph.D., Political Science and Social Data Analytics, 2021-2026 (Expected)

Field: Comparative Politics

**Dissertation:** Speaking as One: The Logic of Collective Action Unity under Autocracy  
M.A., Political Science, 2021-2023

### **McGill University**

B.A. (First Class Honours), Political Science, 2020.

## Publication

### **“Thirst Traps and Quick Cuts: The Effects of TikTok ‘Edits’ on Evaluations of Politicians”**

With Kevin Munger, Forthcoming at *Social Media + Society*

## Working Papers

### **“Performing Loyalty: Does Adopting State Rhetoric Make Citizen’s Demands-making More Successful?”**

*Under Review*

### **“Rethinking Collective Action: Cohesive Networks of Public Complaints in Authoritarian China”**

### **“Learning Protest: How National Protest Contexts Influence Adolescents’ Views of Unconventional Political Participation”**

With Lee Ann Banaszak and Shan-Jan Sarah Liu, *Under Review*

### **“Words at War: Shifting Issue Frames during the Northern Ireland Civil War”**

With Cyanne Loyle, *Under Review*

## Work in Progress

“Drivers of Connective Actions: Evidence from Two Survey Experiments”

“State Repression and the Law: Domestic Lawfare, Autocratic Legalism, and the Future of the Judiciary”

## Conference Presentations

Chinese Politics Research in Progress, Fall 2025 (scheduled)

Annual American Political Science Association Conference, Fall 2025 (scheduled)

Conference-within-a-Conference: “The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes”,

Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference, 2024, 2025

Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict, 2024

Online Peace Science Colloquium, 2023

Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2023

Teaching Experience	<b>Political Science Department, Penn State University</b> Workshop Instructor, Open Scholarship Bootcamp, Summer 2025 Guest Lecturer, GLIS 102 Global Pathways, Spring 2025 Course Teaching Assistant, PLSC 498 Text-As-Data, Fall 2022 Graduate Advisor, Political Science Horizons at Penn State, Fall 2022
Work Experience	<b>Shanghai Sunshine Community Youth Affairs Centre</b> Social Worker, 2020-2021 Youth community outreach and case management
Service	<b>Profession</b> Referee, <i>Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media</i>  <b>Political Science Department, Penn State University</b> Graduate Representative, Recruitment Committee, 2022-23, 2023-24 Graduate Representative, Climate Committee, 2022-23
Awards and Honors	<b>The McCourtney Institute for Democracy, Penn State University</b> Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowship, \$30,000, 2024-2025 Research in Democracy Support Grant, \$4000, 2024  <b>Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Penn State University</b> Dissertation Support Grant, \$2000  <b>Department of Political Science, Penn State University</b> Outstanding Political Science Graduate Student Award, \$1500, 2024-2025 Department Research Support, \$3600, Spring 2025 Program in Comparative Politics Research Award, \$670, Summer 2024 Miller-LaVigne Graduate Fellowship Semester Release, Spring 2024 Program in Comparative Politics Semester Release, Fall 2023 Program in Comparative Politics Research Award, \$2710, Summer 2023 Department Research Support, \$2160, Fall 2022 Peter Schallmoser Award, \$2500, Fall 2021  <b>McGill University</b> Research Group in Constitutional Studies Student Fellowship, 2019-2020 Arts Research Internship Award, 2018-2019 Li Ka Shing Liberal Arts Initiative Award, 2017-2018
Languages and Fieldwork	<b>Language:</b> English (fluent), Chinese (native), French (elementary) <b>Skills:</b> R, Python, Stata <b>Fieldwork:</b> China (2023)

## References

### **Cyanne E. Loyle**

Professor of Political Science  
Political Science Board of Visitors Early Career Professor of Political Science  
Penn State University  
cloyle@psu.edu

### **Bruce Desmarais**

Professor of Political Science and Social Data Analytics  
Director, Center for Social Data Analytics [C-SoDA]  
Head, Program in Social Data Analytics [SoDA]  
Director of Graduate Studies, Social Data Analytics  
William and Monica DeGrandis-McCourtney Early Career Professor in Political Science  
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### **Joseph Wright**

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### **Boliang Zhu**

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