

# Rex Weiye Deng

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## Education

**Washington University in St. Louis**, St. Louis, Missouri

Ph.D., Political Science, expected in 2026

- *Dissertation: Turning Resistance into Compliance: The Art of Transforming Negative Public Opinion*
- *Committee: Margit Tavits (Chair), David Carter, Carly Wayne, Ted Enamorado, and Haifeng Huang (External)*

M.A., Political Science, 2023

**Waseda University**, Tokyo, Japan

B.A., Economics, 2020

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**, Hong Kong SAR, China

B.Sc. (First-Class Honors), Global China Studies, 2020

## Research Interests

*Comparative Politics*: Authoritarian Politics, Political Communication, Political Psychology, China

*International Relations*: Public Diplomacy, International Cooperation, U.S-China relations

*Methodology*: Computational Methods (Text-As-Data), Surveys, Experiments

## Working Papers

“Screened Realities: How Entertainment Fosters Political Compliance in Autocracies.” Under review. (Job Market Paper)

[\[Manuscript\]](#) [\[Appendix\]](#)

- Supported by the *APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG)*
- *Dean’s Award for Graduate Research Excellence* (Semifinalist), WashU 2025
- *Rebecca Morton Poster Award*, 2025 Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science
- *Timothy E. Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award*, APSA 2024

“Weaponizing Democracy’s Woes: Negative Propaganda and Regime Evaluations in Autocracies.” Revise and Resubmit, *The Journal of Politics*.

[\[Manuscript\]](#) [\[Appendix\]](#)

“Softening the Crisis: How Cultural Diplomacy Fosters Interstate Reconciliation.”

[\[Manuscript\]](#) [\[Appendix\]](#)

“Exploiting Extremism: Strategic Responses of Radical Right Parties to Right-Wing Violence in Europe” (with Taishi Muraoka and Margit Tavits). Under review.

[\[Manuscript & Appendix\]](#)

“How Do State-Led Infrastructure Projects Affect Trust in Historically Hard-to-Reach Places?” (with David Carter). Under review.

“Can Leaders Shape Public Opinion During a Foreign Policy Crisis? Evidence from U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan (with Amaan Charaniya, Dahjin Kim, Gechun Lin, William Nomikos, and İpek Ece Şener). Under review.

[Available Upon Request]

- *Best Paper Award for the Foreign Policy Section, APSA 2022*

## Work in Progress

“The Blessing and Curse of Cute Propaganda” (with Haifeng Huang).

“Turning Crisis into Opportunities: How Authoritarian Regime Appeal to Mass Emotions in Crisis Communication” (with Xiaoxiao Shen).

“Singing the Truth: Correcting Misperceptions Through Song Lyrics” (with Dahjin Kim).

“Imperial Echoes: How Historical Dramas Shape Contemporary Support for Strongman Rule.”

## Honors & Grants

### Awards

Dean’s Award for Graduate Research Excellence (Semifinalist) 2025

- A recognition of graduate students’ outstanding achievements in research, scholarship, or creative practice prior to graduation from the program at WashU

Timothy E. Cook Best Graduate Student Award 2025

- Awarded for the best graduate student paper presented at the Political Communication Section at APSA 2024

Rebecca Morton Poster Award 2025

- Awarded for the best poster at the Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (NYU)

Best Paper Award for the Foreign Policy Section 2023

- Awarded at APSA 2022

School of Political Science and Economics Award 2019

- Awarded for the first Waseda Data Science Competition
- Theme: Predict results of Japan’s Upper House Election in 2019
- With Wenhao (Brian) Jiang, Yuji Mizushima, and Siyuan Shang

Dean’s List, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology 2016–2018

### Research Grants

APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$10,009) 2025

Juniors Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (\$6,000) 2025

Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies (\$16,700) 2024

Dissertation Grant, WashU (\$1,000) 2024

Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU (\$15,000) 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-PI: Margit Tavits and Taishi Muraoka</li> </ul>	2024
	Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU (\$12,000)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-PI: Ted Enamorado</li> </ul>	2020
	Legislative Studies Quarterly Research Award, Washington University (\$5,000)	
	<b>Travel Grants</b>	
	APSA DDRIG Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2025
	PolMeth Travel Award (\$1,000)	2025
	ISA Travel Grant (\$600)	2025
	APSA Political Psychology Section Distinguished Junior Scholar Award (\$600)	2024
	APSA Travel Grant (\$200)	2023
	APSA Travel Grant (\$200); APSA Foreign Policy Section Travel Grant (\$500)	2022
	<b>Scholarships</b>	
	Asian Future Leadership Scholarship, Bai Xian Asia Institute ( $\approx$ \$28,680)	2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full tuition and living expenses for study at Waseda University</li> </ul>	
	Ho & Ho Foundation Scholarship, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ( $\approx$ \$76,000)	2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full tuition and living expenses for study at HKUST</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional Training</b>	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> , St. Louis, Missouri	
	Spatial Statistics (Scott Cook)	Summer 2024
	Text-As-Data (Brandon Stewart)	Summer 2023
	Time Series Analysis (Clayton Webb)	Summer 2022
	Python camp (Benjamin Noble)	Summer 2021
	Math camp (Jacob Montgomery)	Summer 2020
	<b>East China University of Political Science and Law</b> , Shanghai, China	
	Training Camp of Political Methodology and Chinese Political Institution	Summer 2020
<b>RA Experience</b>	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> , Department of Political Science	
	Research assistant (Carly Wayne)	2021–2023
	Research assistant (Margit Tavits, Jacob Montgomery, and Christopher Lucas)	2023
	Research assistant (Michael Olson)	2022
	Research assistant (Lucia Motolinia)	2022
	<b>Columbia University</b> , Department of Political Science	
	Research assistant (Junyan Jiang)	2020

<b>Fieldwork</b>	<b>China</b> (Interviews with officials at local procuratorates)	2024
<b>Presentations</b>	<p><b>Annual Meetings of Professional Associations</b></p> <p>American Political Science Association (APSA) 2022–2025</p> <p>International Studies Association (ISA) 2025</p> <p>The Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) 2025</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) 2022–2023, 2025</p> <p>Western Political Science Association (WPSA) 2023, 2025</p> <p>Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) 2025</p> <p>Peace Science Society (International) 2024</p> <p>ISA-Midwest 2022</p> <p><b>Workshops and Seminars</b></p> <p>Political Science Speaker Series (Online) 2025</p> <p>Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research 2025</p> <p>Authoritarian Political System Group Online Workshop 2025</p> <p>Frontiers in Political Methodology (WashU) 2025</p> <p>Virtual Workshops on Authoritarian Regimes 2025</p> <p>Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (NYU) 2025</p> <p>Comparative Politics Annual Conference (WashU) 2023–2025</p> <p>State Capacity Conference (Yale) 2022</p> <p>The Politics of State Authority and Insecurity Workshop (Rutgers University) 2022</p>	
<b>Teaching</b>	<p><b>Teaching Assistant</b></p> <p><b>Washington University in St. Louis</b>, Department of Political Science <i>Undergraduate Level</i></p> <p>Introduction to Comparative Politics (Guillermo Rosas) Spring 2024</p> <p>Psychology of War (Carly Wayne) Fall 2023</p> <p>Introduction to International Politics (David Carter) Fall 2022, 2023</p> <p>Quantitative Political Methodology (Ted Enamorado) Spring 2022</p> <p>Data Science for Politics (Jacob Montgomery) Fall 2021</p> <p><b>Guest Lecturers</b></p> <p>Digital Propaganda and Repression (Yingdan Lu, Northwestern) Fall 2025</p>	
<b>Service</b>	<p><b>To the discipline</b></p> <p>Journal Reviewer: <i>Conflict Management of Peace Science</i>, <i>Journal of Chinese Political Science</i></p> <p>Chair: APSA 2025, Timothy E. Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award committee</p> <p><b>To Washington University in St. Louis</b></p> <p>Coordinator, Comparative Politics Annual Conference 2025</p> <p>Manager, WashU Political Data Science Lab, Fall 2022 – Fall 2023</p>	

**Technical Skills**

R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Tableau,  $\LaTeX$

**Languages**

Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese (native)  
English (fluent), Japanese (basic)

**References****Margit Tavits**

Dr. William Taussig Professor  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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**David B. Carter**

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