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)
- 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]

"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.

[Manuscript] [Appendix]

"Softening the Crisis: How Cultural Diplomacy Fosters Interstate Reconciliation."

[Available Upon Request]

"Can Leaders Shape Public Opinion During a Foreign Policy Crisis? Evidcence 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

| 1111 112 113 | |
|--|------|
| 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

• Awarded at APSA 2022

School of Political Science and Economics Award 2019

2023

2024

• 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, Govern- | 2024 |
| ment, and Public Policy, WashU (\$15,000) | |
| | |

• Co-PI: Margit Tavits and Taishi Muraoka Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU (\$12,000)

• Co-PI: Ted Enamorado

| | Legislative Studies Quarterly Research Award, Washington University (\$5,000) | 2020 |
|---------------------|--|---|
| | Travel Grants PolMeth Travel Award (\$1,000) ISA Travel Grant (\$600) APSA Political Psychology Section Distinguished Junior Scholar Award (\$600) APSA Travel Grant (\$200) APSA Travel Grant (\$200); APSA Foreign Policy Section Travel Grant (\$500) | 2025 2025 2024 2023 2022 |
| | Scholarships Asian Future Leadership Scholarship, Bai Xian Asia Institute (≈ | 2018 |
| | \$28,680) Full tuition and living expenses for study at Waseda University Ho & Ho Foundation Scholarship, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (≈ \$76,000) Full tuition and living expenses for study at HKUST | 2015 |
| Additional Training | Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri Spatial Statistics (Scott Cook) Text-As-Data (Brandon Stewart) Time Series Analysis (Clayton Webb) Python camp (Benjamin Noble) Math camp (Jacob Montgomery) East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai, China Training Camp of Political Methodology and Chinese Political Institution | Summer 2024 Summer 2023 Summer 2022 Summer 2021 Summer 2020 |
| RA Experience | Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science Research assistant (Carly Wayne) Research assistant (Margit Tavits, Jacob Montgomery, and Christopher Lucas) | 2021–2023 2023 |
| | Research assistant (Michael Olson) Research assistant (Lucia Motolinia) | 2022 2022 |
| | Columbia University, Department of Political Science Research assistant (Junyan Jiang) | 2020 |
| Fieldwork | China (Interviews with officials at local procuratorates) | 2024 |
| Presentations | Annual Meetings of Professional Associations American Political Science Association (APSA) | 2022–2025 |

| International Studies Association (ISA) The Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) | 2025 2025 2022–2023, |
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| Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Peace Science Society (International) ISA-Midwest | 2025 2023, 2025 2025 2024 2022 |
| Workshops and Seminars | 2022 |
| Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research | 2025 |
| Authoritarian Political System Group Online Workshop | 2025 |
| Frontiers in Political Methodology (WashU) | 2025 |
| Virtual Workshops on Authoritarian Regimes | 2025 |
| Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (NYU) | 2025 |
| Comparative Politics Annual Confernce (WashU) | 2023-2025 |
| State Capacity Conference (Yale) | 2022 |
| The Politics of State Authority and Insecurity Workshop (Rutgers University) | 2022 |
| Teaching Assistant | |

Teaching Teaching Assistant

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science

Undergraduate Level

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Guillermo Rosas)

Psychology of War (Carly Wayne)

Introduction to International Politics (David Carter)

Quantitative Political Methodology (Ted Enamorado)

Data Science for Politics (Jacob Montgomery)

Spring 2024

Fall 2023

Spring 2024

Fall 2022, 2023

Spring 2022

Guest Lecturers

Digital Propaganda and Repression (Yingdan Lu, Northwestern) Fall 2025

Service To the discipline

Journal Reviewer: Conflict Management of Peace Science, Journal of Chinese Political Science

Chair: APSA 2025, Timothy E. Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award committee

To Washington University in St. Louis

Coordinator, Comparative Politics Annual Conference 2025 Manager, WashU Political Data Science Lab, Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

Technical Skills R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Tableau, Lange Technical Skills R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Tableau, Lange Technical Skills

Languages Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese (native)

English (fluent), Japanese (basic)

References

Margit Tavits

Dr. William Taussig Professor Washington University in St. Louis

Email: tavits@wustl.edu

Carly Wayne

Associate Professor Washington University in St. Louis Email: carlywayne@wustl.edu

Haifeng Huang

Associate Professor The Ohio State University Email: huang.5457@osu.edu

David B. Carter

Professor Washington University in St. Louis davidcarter@wustl.edu

Ted Enamorado

Associate Professor Washington University in St. Louis ted@wustl.edu