

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.”
Revise and Resubmit, *American Political Science 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*.

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

“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.

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

“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

Provost Award for Graduate Research Excellence 2025

- University-level recognition for outstanding scholarly achievement, creativity, and independent research as a doctoral student (WashU)

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

- School-level recognition of outstanding research and scholarly accomplishments prior to graduation (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
• Co-PI: Margit Tavits and Taishi Muraoka	
Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU (\$12,000)	2024
• Co-PI: Ted Enamorado	
Legislative Studies Quarterly Research Award, Washington University (\$5,000)	2020

Travel Grants

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

Scholarships

Asian Future Leadership Scholarship, Bai Xian Asia Institute (\approx \$28,680)	2018
• Full tuition and living expenses for study at Waseda University	
Ho & Ho Foundation Scholarship, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (\approx \$76,000)	2015
• Full tuition and living expenses for study at HKUST	

Additional Training

Washington University in St. Louis , 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
East China University of Political Science and Law , Shanghai, China	
Training Camp of Political Methodology and Chinese Political Institution	Summer 2020

RA Experience

Washington University in St. Louis , 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

	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) 2025 The Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) 2025 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) 2022–2023, 2025 Western Political Science Association (WPSA) 2023, 2025 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) 2025 Peace Science Society (International) 2024 ISA-Midwest 2022 Workshops and Seminars Political Science Speaker Series (Online) 2025 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 Conference (WashU) 2023–2025 State Capacity Conference (Yale) 2022 The Politics of State Authority and Insecurity Workshop (Rutgers University) 2022	
Teaching	Teaching Assistant Washington University in St. Louis , Department of Political Science <i>Undergraduate Level</i> Introduction to Comparative Politics (Guillermo Rosas) Spring 2024 Psychology of War (Carly Wayne) Fall 2023 Introduction to International Politics (David Carter) Fall 2022, 2023 Quantitative Political Methodology (Ted Enamorado) Spring 2022 Data Science for Politics (Jacob Montgomery) Fall 2021 Guest Lecturers Digital Propaganda and Repression (Yingdan Lu, Northwestern) Fall 2025	
Service	To the discipline Journal Reviewer: <i>Conflict Management of Peace Science</i> , <i>Journal of Chinese Political Science</i> 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, \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

Professor

Washington University in St. Louis

davidcarter@wustl.edu

Carly Wayne

Associate Professor

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Ted Enamorado

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Haifeng Huang

Professor

The Ohio State University

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