

# Rex Weiye Deng

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Washington University in St. Louis  
Department of Political Science  
Seigle Hall L019  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

✉ [weiye.deng@wustl.edu](mailto:weiye.deng@wustl.edu)  
🌐 [rexweiyedeng.org](http://rexweiyedeng.org)  
in [rex-weiye-deng](https://www.instagram.com/rex-weiye-deng)  
🐦 [@rexhere1](https://twitter.com/rexhere1)

## 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*.

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

“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

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

- Co-PI: Margit Tavits and Taishi Muraoka

	Small Research Grant, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU (\$12,000)	2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-PI: Ted Enamorado</li> </ul>	
	Legislative Studies Quarterly Research Award, Washington University (\$5,000)	2020
	<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 (≈ \$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 (≈ \$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>	<b>Annual Meetings of Professional Associations</b>	
	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
	<b>Workshops and Seminars</b>	
	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
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	
	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> , 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
	<b>Guest Lecturers</b>	
	Digital Propaganda and Repression (Yingdan Lu, Northwestern)	Fall 2025
<b>Service</b>	<b>To the discipline</b>	
	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	
	<b>To Washington University in St. Louis</b>	
	Coordinator, Comparative Politics Annual Conference 2025	
	Manager, WashU Political Data Science Lab, Fall 2022 – Fall 2023	
<b>Technical Skills</b>	R, Python, Stata, ArcGIS, Qualtrics, Tableau, $\text{\LaTeX}$	

**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

**David B. Carter**

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

**Carly Wayne**

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

**Ted Enamorado**

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

**Haifeng Huang**

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