Yuehong Cassandra Tai

The Center for Social Data Analytics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Pennsylvania State University

Assistant Research Professor, Center for Social Data Analytics.	2025-
Assistant Director, Center for Social Data Analytics	
Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Social Data Analytics.	2022-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Iowa, U.S.A.	2017-2022
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, American Politics	
MSc International Political Economy, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	2008
LL.B. Diplomacy, Renmin University of China, China	2007

RESEARCH AREAS

Political Science
Digital Politics and Communication, Public Opinion, Chinese Politics.

Computational Social Science
GenAI/LLM, NLP/Text-as-data, Bayesian Measurement Models, Statistical Models.

PUBLICATIONS

Computational Social Science and Digital Politics

Biswas, Ahana, Yu-ru Lin, Yuehong Cassandra Tai and Bruce A. Desmarais. "Political Elites in the Attention Economy: Visibility Over Civility and Credibility?" *Accepted in ICWSM 2025.*

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Roan Buma and Bruce A. Desmarais. 2023. "Official Yet Questionable: Examining Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Tweets" *Journal of Information Technology & Politics.*

Public Opinion and Measurement

Woo, Byung-Deuk, Hyein Ko, Yuehong Cassandra Tai, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. "Measuring Tolerance of Homosexuality in the Mass Public Across Countries and Over Time" *Accepted in Social Science Quarterly*

Hu, Yue, Yuehong Cassandra Tai*, and Frederick Solt. 2024. "Revisiting the Evidence on Thermostatic Response to Democratic Change: Degrees of Democratic Support or Researcher Degrees of Freedom?" *Political Science Research and Methods.* [*co-first author]

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. 2022. "Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty" *American Political Science Review.*

Chinese Politics

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi. 2022. "Policy Adoption and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis" *Journal of Asian Public Policy.*

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra. 2022. "Determinants of Chinese Provinces' Responses to the 2018 Vaccine Scandal: Policy Orientation and Neighboring Effect" *Asian Survey.*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under Review

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Yu-ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais. "Public Officials' Online Sharing of Misinformation: Institutional and Ideological Checks"

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra, Khushi Navin Patni, Nicholas Daniel Hemauer, Bruce A. Desmarais, and Yu-ru Lin. "GenAI vs. Human Fact-Checkers: Accurate Ratings, Flawed Rationales"

Tai, Yuehong Cassandra. "The Upsides and Downsides of Generalized Trust: The Mediating Effect of Democratic Institutions"

Nakka, Nitheesha, Issac Pollert, Lingyu Fuca, and Yuehong Cassandra Tai. "Navigating Hate and Anti-Hate Speech: Bridging Large Language Model and Human Expertise in Public Officials' Online Communication" (*with graduate students*)

Hu, Yue, Yuehong Cassandra Tai, Hyein Ko, Byung-Deuk Woo, and Frederick Solt. "Support for Democracy Is Multidimensional: Why Unidimensional Latent Variable Measures of Democratic Support Are Invalid" (*Revised & Resubmitted*)

Ma, Haofeng, Jeongho Choi, Yuehong Cassandra Tai, Yue Hu, and Frederick Solt. "Macrodiscontent Across Countries"

Yu, Dong Erico, and Yuehong Cassandra Tai. "Speak 'As Good As Men'? An Empirical Study of Gender Variation in Chinese Courtroom Audio"

Working Paper

Computational Social Science and Digital Politics

"The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials" (with Nitheesha Nakka, Khushi Navin Patni, Sarah Michele Rajtmajer, Kevin Munger, Yu-ru Lin, and Bruce A. Desmarais) [**Lead Author**]
"Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection" (with Issac Michael Pollert, Nitheesha Nakka, and Lingyu Jack Fuca) [**Lead Author**]
"Climate Clash: Fossil Fuel Influence, Public Opinion, and State Legislators' Online Discourse" (with Xun Cao, Yu-ru Lin and Bruce A. Desmarais) [**Lead Author**]
"Large Language Models in Social Science: A Literature Review of LLMs and GenAI in Political Science and Communication" (with Pooja Iyer)

Public Opinion

"How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies?" (with Xun Cao and Fred Solt) [**Lead Author**]
"Dynamic Trust and States' Failure in Public Health: Evidence from a Global Time Series Data"
"Trust in Bureaucracy" (with Frederick Solt) [**Lead Author**]
"The Skeptical Public: Trust in the United Nations" (with Yooneui Kim)

Chinese Politics

"Policy Burden, Issue Salience, and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China" (with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Digitally Accountable Public Representation Database: Measuring Online Communication by Federal, State, and Local Officials"
(Large) Language Models in Social Science 2024, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Sep 2024
PolMeth 2024, University of California, Riverside   July 2024
"Climate Clash: Fossil Fuel Influence, Public Opinion, and State Legislators' Online Discourse"
APSA 2024, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia   Sep 2024

Visions in Methodology 2024, Washington University in St.Louis   May 2024
"Understanding Asian Hate in State Legislatures: An Electoral Connection"
    State Politics and Policy Conference 2024, University of Virginia   June 2024
"The Prevalence of Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Facebook Posts"
    American Political Science Association Conference 2023, LA   Sep 2023
"Dynamic Trust and States' Failure in Public Health: Evidence from Global Time Series Data"
    American Political Science Association Conference 2023, LA   Aug 2023
"The Prevalence of Misinformation in U.S. State Legislators' Facebook Posts"
    State Politics and Policy Conference 2023, University of Pittsburgh   May 2023
"How Does Public Opinion Affect Climate Change Policies? Constructing Measures of Climate Change Public Concern and Testing Their Effects on Policy Outputs"
    Political Economy and International Relation Workshop, PSU   Mar 2023
"The Skeptical Public: Trust in the United Nations" with with Yooneui Kim
    International Studies Association Conference (non-presenting co-author)   Mar 2023
"The Upsides and Downsides of Generalized Trust: The Mediating Effect of Democratic Institutions and Trust in Implementing Institutions"
    Southern Political Science Association Conference   Jan 2023
"Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty"
    C-SoDA Brownbag Series   Oct 2022
"Examining States' Public Health Failures by Measuring Trust Cross Countries and Over Time"
    C-SoDA Kickoff Poster Presentation   Sep 2022
"Dynamic Trust and States' Failure in Public Health: Evidence from a Global Time Series Data"
    Midwest Political Science Association Conference   Apr 2022
    Iowa Women Studying Politics (IWSP) Conference   Feb 2022
"Policy Burden, Issue Salience, and COVID-19 Policy Adoption in China" with Jielu Yao and Elise Pizzi
    APSA Chinese Politics Mini-Conference   Oct 2021
"Judge's Gender and Oral Language Skills: An Empirical Analysis of Chinese Courtroom Audio" with Dong Erico Yu
    Race, Gender, and the Judiciary Panel, APSA Conference (non-presenting co-author)   Oct 2021
"Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty" with Yue Hu and Frederick Solt
    Joint Quantitative Political Science Conference for Asia and Australasia   Jan 2021
"Policy Orientation and Diffusion in Responsive Governance: Responses to the Chinese 2018 Vaccine Scandal."
    Association of Chinese Political Studies Annual Meeting   Nov 2020
"Who is Influencing Public Opinion during a Public Health Crisis on Social Media in China?"
    Southern Political Science Association Conference   Jan 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Methods Courses
Instructor, Penn State University
PLSC 10: Scientific Study of Politics (Undergraduate Level),   Fall 2024
Instructor, Penn State University
PLSC 308: Introduction to Political Research (Undergraduate Level),   Spring 2024
Instructor, Penn State University
SoDA 308: Research Design for Social Data Analytics (Undergraduate Level),   Fall 2023
Independent Instructor, University of Iowa
    Hawkeye Poll (Undergraduate Level),   Spring 2022
        Guided students to design survey questions on both national and local politics, carry out telephone interviews, analyze and interpret data, and write release press and analytical papers. Results from March/April 2022 Hawkeye Poll.
Teaching Assistant, University of Michigan
    Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences II:Advanced Topics, ICPSR Program,   Summer 2021
        Graded students' assignments with detailed comments and offered one-on-one consultations on students' individual projects.

Guest Lecturer, Penn State University
Approaches and Issues in Big Social Data (Graduate Level),   Spring 2023
    Measurement
Guest Lecturer, University of Iowa
Advanced Methods Seminar (Graduate Level),   Fall 2021
    Machine Learning
Analyzing Political Data (Undergraduate Level),   Spring 2021
    P-Value & Multiple Regression
Invited Workshop, East China Normal University, Shanghai
Introduction to Python (Graduate Level),   Dec 2020
    Web scraping, social media data wrangling and analysis
Comparative Politics and American Politics
Guest Lecturer, University of Iowa
Public Opinion   Fall 2021
    Public Opinion and Democracy
National Security Policy   Spring 2020
    Cyber Security
Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa
Introduction to Political Behavior   Fall 2019
Introduction to Comparative Politics   Fall 2018, Spring 2019
The Presidency   Fall 2017
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Online Course)   Summer 2018,2019

EXTERNAL AND CAMPUS SERVICE

Member: American Political Science Association (sections on Political Methodology), the Midwestern Political Science Association and Association of Chinese Political Science

Reviewer: American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Research and Politics, The International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM),International World Wide Web Conference 2025 (WWW2025), Public Opinion Quarterly, Asian Survey, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Journal of Comparative Sociology.

POLMETH Mailing List Editor: The Society for Political Methodology.   2024 -

Seed Grant Reviewer: Center for Social Data Analytics. Pennsylvania State University   2022, 2023

Planning Committee Member: 16th Postdoctoral Research Symposium. Pennsylvania State University   2023

Committee Member: Post-doctoral Scholar Committee. College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University   2022

iPeer Mentor: iPeer Mentorship Program. International Student and Scholar Services, University of Iowa   2021

Discussant: Government Transparency in China. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting Apr 2021

Session Chair and Discussant:Time and Space. Political Science Methodology Conference for Asia and Australasia   Jan 2021

Co-Host: 2020 Iowa Caucus Conference. University of Iowa   Feb 2020

Session Chair: Understanding Polarization, COVID & Computation and Social Media & Politics. Politics and Computational Social Science and Political Networks   Aug 2020

Discussant: Chinese Politics. Southern Political Science Association Conference   Jan 2020

AWARDS AND HONORS

Nominated for Global Student Award, University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Finalist for annual "Thesis Challenge," University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Graduate Post-Comp Research Fellowship ($10,500), University of Iowa	Fall 2021
Graduate College Summer Fellowship ($5,000), University of Iowa	Summer 2021
Department Research Grant ($1,000), University of Iowa	Spring 2020
GSS Travel Funds ($1,000), University of Iowa	Spring 2020
Department Research Grant ($300), University of Iowa	Spring 2019
Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Graduate Travel Grant ($500), University of Iowa	Fall 2019
Department Summer Training Grant ($2400), University of Iowa	Summer 2018

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

Certificates

Certificate in Informatics, The University of Iowa, U.S.A.	2021

  Programming in Python, Java, and SQL.

ICPSR, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	2018

  Causal Inference for the Social Sciences & Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics.

Skills

Analysis & Programming: R, Stata, Python, Stan, JAGS, SQL, Mplus, Java, LaTeX, Markdown, Git (GitHub).

Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin)

REFERENCES

Frederick Solt, **Ph.D**
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Professor, Penn State University

Elizabeth J. Menninga, **Ph.D**
elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu; (319) 335-3835
Associate Professor,University of Iowa

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