

YANG YANG

421 SWLAB

Department of Political Science
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University

Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) | *Political Science and Social Data Analytics*

University Park, PA
Aug. 2022 – Expected 2027

Major Fields: International Relations, Political Methodology

Minor Field: Comparative Politics

Committee: Roseanne McManus (chair), Bumba Mukherjee (SoDA chair), Joseph Wright, Giancarlo Visconti (UMD), Cory McCartan (Statistics)

New York University

M.A. | *Politics*

New York, NY
Aug. 2019 – May 2021

Nanyang Technological University

M.Sc. | *International Political Economy*

Singapore
July 2014 – Aug. 2015

Harbin Engineering University

B.A. & B.E. | *English (Literature & Linguistics) and Economics*

Harbin, China
Aug. 2009 – June. 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Substantive:** International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Crisis Bargaining, Diplomacy, Foreign Policy Statecraft, Electoral Politics
- **Methodological:** Causal Inference for Observational and Experimental Data, Machine Learning, Text as Data

PUBLISHED WORK

Media Pieces

- “After The Great Fall,” *Asia Focus*, Bangkok Post Press, 31 August, 2015.
- “The Devalued Yuan and China’s Faltering Economic Transition,” *Asia Focus*, Bangkok Post Press, 24 August, 2015. (with Ji Xianbai)
- “Out of the Shadow,” *Asia Focus*, Bangkok Post Press, 3 August, 2015.
- “Talk of ‘Lehman Moment’ May be Overdone,” *Asia Focus*, Bangkok Post Press, 3 August, 2015.

WORKING PAPERS & WORK IN PROGRESS

1. “DeepLearningCausal: R Package for Estimating Treatment Effects Using Deep Neural Networks and Ensemble Learning” (with Bumba Mukherjee and Nguyen Khoi Huynh)
R&R, The R Journal
2. “The Limitations of Using Forced Choice in Electoral Conjoint Experiments” (with Giancarlo Visconti)
3. “Strategic Lobbying: How Foreign Governments’ Electoral Cycles Affect Their Lobbying in the US”
4. “Inadvertences: A Newly-Identified Information Transmission Mechanism in Crisis Bargaining” (with Roseanne McManus)
5. “Signaling Across the Resolve Spectrum: Why States Use Multiple Costly Signals in a Single Crisis”

SOFTWARE

DeepLearningCausal: Causal Inference with Super Learner and Deep Neural Networks

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

- Research Assistant for Prof. Giancarlo Visconti (Penn State) Fall 2023 and Spring 2024
- Research Assistant for Prof. Roseanne McManus (Penn State) Fall 2022
- Research Assistant for Prof. Marko Klasnja (Georgetown) and Lucia Motolinia (WashU) 2021-2022
- Research Assistant for Prof. Zhenhuan Lei (UW-Madison) Dec. 2019-Feb. 2020

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The Milton B. Dolinger Graduate Fellowship The College of Liberal Arts at Penn State	2025
RGSO College Dissertation Award Office of Research and Graduate Studies, CLA at Penn State (\$2,000 × 2)	2025, 2026
C-SoDA Accelerator Award Center for Social Data Analytics at Penn State (\$3,000; applied with Yang Song)	2025
Research Support Grant Department of Political Science at Penn State (\$2,000)	2024
PEIR Fellowship Department of Political Science at Penn State	2024
Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant Department of Political Science at Penn State	2024
Summer Graduate Research Award Department of Political Science at Penn State	2023-25

C-SoDA Accelerator Award Center for Social Data Analytics at Penn State (\$13,000; applied with Giancarlo Visconti)	2024
Conference Travel Grant The Wilf Family Department of Politics at NYU	Spring 2021
Outstanding Graduate Awards Department of Education, Government of Heilongjiang Province (3% of the cohort) Harbin Engineering University (5% of the cohort)	May 2013
Academic Excellence Scholarships Harbin Engineering University (1st and 2nd classes)	2009-2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Math for Political Scientists Workshop (graduate) Instructor, Penn State University	Fall 2024
Introduction to International Relations (undergraduate) TA for Prof. Douglas Lemke, Penn State University	Spring 2023
Doing Political Economy (undergraduate) TA for Prof. Sukwon Lee, New York University	Spring 2021

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Policy Analyst Fudan Development Institute, Fudan University	Dec. 2015-June 2019 Shanghai, China
Journalist <i>Bangkok Post</i> , The Post Publishing Public Co., Ltd	June-Sep. 2015 Bangkok, Thailand

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

External

APSA: 2024, 2025 (declined)

Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science: 2024

ISA: 2022, 2026 (scheduled)

MPSA: 2021, 2022

Internal

C-SoDA Research Round-Up: 2025

Penn State-Pittsburgh IR Workshop: 2024, 2025

C-SoDA Brownbag: 2024

PEIR Workshop: 2023, 2024, 2025

SERVICE

Reviewer for *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Political Psychology*

SKILLS

Languages: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Programming: R, STATA, L^AT_EX, Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS

Last updated: Nov. 10th, 2025