

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, <i>Political Science</i> , <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	2026 -
Assistant Professor, <i>Political Science and Public Administration</i> , <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2020 - 2025
Post-doctoral Associate, <i>Social Science Division</i> , <i>NYU Abu Dhabi</i>	2019 - 2020
Pre-doctoral Associate, <i>Center for Social Data Analytics</i> , <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	2018 - 2019

Education

Dual-title Ph.D., <i>Political Science and Asian Studies</i> , <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	2019
M.A., <i>Political Science</i> , <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	2016
M.A., <i>Political Science</i> , <i>Duke University</i>	2014
B.A., <i>International Relations</i> , <i>Renmin University of China</i>	2012

Research Interests

Substantive: Political communication, populism, authoritarian politics, Chinese politics.

Methodology: Measurement, text analysis, machine learning.

Publications

Books

1. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2024. “[Wolf Warrior Diplomacy and China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs: From Policy to Podium.](#)” Lexington Books. (Media mention: [POLITICO](#).)

Book Chapters

1. **Yaoyao Dai**. 2024. “L’importanza del populismo non va esagerata”. In [Capire il Populismo \(Understanding Populism\)](#), ed. Mattia Zulianello and Petra Guasti. UTET (In Italian, other languages forthcoming).

Peer-reviewed Articles

9. **Yaoyao Dai** and Alexander Kustov. 2024. “[The \(In\)effectiveness of Populist Rhetoric: A Conjoint Experiment of Campaign Messaging.](#)” *Political Science Research Methods* 12(4), 849 - 856.
8. **Yaoyao Dai**, Jingjing Gao (student), and Benjamin Radford. 2024. “[From Fear to Hate: Anti-Asian Sentiment During COVID-19.](#)” *Social Science Quarterly*.
7. Benjamin J. Radford, **Yaoyao Dai**, Niklas Stoehr, Aaron Schein, Mya Fernandez (student), Hanif Sajid (student). 2023. “[Estimating Conflict Losses and Reporting Biases.](#)” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(34), p.e2307372120.
6. **Yaoyao Dai** and Alexander Kustov. 2022. “[When Do Politicians Use Populist Rhetoric? Populism as a Campaign Gamble.](#)” *Political Communication* 39(3), 1-22.
5. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2022. “[Wolf Warriors and Diplomacy in the New Era: An Empirical Analysis of China’s Diplomatic Language.](#)” *The China Review*, 22(2).
4. **Yaoyao Dai**, Benjamin Radford, and Andrew Halterman. 2022. “[Political Event Coding as Text to Text Sequence Generation.](#)” *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE)*. Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Association for Computational Linguistics, 117-123.
3. Hürriyetoğlu, Ali, Osman Mutlu, Fırat Duruşan, Onur Uca, Alaeddin Selçuk Gürel, Benjamin Radford, **Yaoyao Dai**, Hansi Hettiarachchi, Niklas Stoehr, Tadashi Nomoto, and others. 2022. “[Extended Multilingual Protest News Detection–Shared Task 1, CASE 2021 and 2022.](#)” *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE)*. Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Association for Computational Linguistics, 223-228.

2. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2020. “Camouflaged Propaganda: A Survey Experiment on Political Native Advertising.” *Research & Politics* 7(3).
1. **Yaoyao Dai**, Zijie Shao, and Xianglin Xu. 2016. “Agenda-Setting and International News Coverage: A Quantitative Text Analysis on China Central TV News Reports” (In Chinese). *Journal of Chinese Academy of Governance* 4: 29-34.

EDITOR-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2018. “Foreign Native Advertising.” *CP: Newsletter of the Comparative Politics Organized Section of the American Political Science Association* 28(2): 25-31.
1. **Yaoyao Dai** and Zijie Shao. 2016. “Populism and Authoritarian Survival in China: Conceptualization and Measurement” *CP: Newsletter of the Comparative Politics Organized Section of the American Political Science Association* 26(2): 31-40.

OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS

5. **Yaoyao Dai**. 2023. “Don’t Exaggerate the Importance of Populism.” *The Loop*, The European Consortium For Political Research.
4. Benjamin J. Radford, **Yaoyao Dai**, Niklas Stoehr, Aaron Schein, Mya Fernandez, Hanif Sajid. 2023. “Estimating Troop Losses on Both Sides in the Russia-Ukraine War.” *The Loop*, The European Consortium For Political Research.
3. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2021. “China’s ‘Wolf Warrior’ Diplomats Like to Talk Tough.” *The Washington Post, Monkey Cage*.
2. **Yaoyao Dai** and Luwei Luqiu. 2021. “On North Korea, China’s Wolf Warriors Speak More Like Doves.” *NK Pro*.
1. **Yaoyao Dai**. 2018. “Populism and Abuse of Populism” (In Chinese). *Tencent Dajia* (Most influential self-media in China. Article were viewed over 310,000 times in 2018).

UNDER REVIEW AND WORKING PAPERS

Alexander Kustov and **Yaoyao Dai**. “What is Populism Good for? An Experimental Test of Mobilization Effects.” (Conditionally accepted at *Research & Politics*.)

Yaoyao Dai and Xun Cao. “Do Extreme Weather Events Change Party Climate Policy Preferences?”

Yaoyao Dai. “Measuring Populism in Context: A Supervised Approach with Word Embedding Models.”

Yaoyao Dai and Benjamin Radford. “Large Language Models for Measuring Contested and Multi-dimensional Concepts.”

Dongyun Han, Abdullah-Al-Raihan Nayeem, Jason Windett, **Yaoyao Dai**, Benjamin Radford, Isaac Cho. “A Survey on Visualization Approaches in Political Science for Social and Political Factors: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities.”

Hanif Sajid (student), Benjamin Radford, **Yaoyao Dai**, and Jason Windett. “Ideal Points of Large Language Models.”

Yaoyao Dai, Robert Pinka (student), and Benjamin Radford. “Towards Better Human Annotation: Methods to Decrease Random and Systematic Measurement Errors.”

Grants and Awards

Junior Faculty Development Award, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2024
(PI) Faculty Research Grant, <i>UNC Charlotte</i> (\$16,000)	2023
(Co-PI) Seed Grant for Data Science, <i>School of Data Science, UNC Charlotte</i> (\$14,500)	2022
(PI) Faculty Research Grant, <i>UNC Charlotte</i> (\$8,000)	2022
(Co-PI) Semi-Finalist for UNC Research Opportunities Initiative, <i>UNC Charlotte</i> (\$25,000)	2020
Conference Travel Grants (Polmeth), <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2017
Conference Travel Grants (TaDa), <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2018, 2019

Conference Travel Grants (VIM), <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2018
Keith Karako Funding for Summer Research, <i>Pennsylvania State University</i> (\$2,600)	2016
Keith Karako Funding for Field Work, <i>Pennsylvania State University</i> (\$4,000)	2015

Conference Presentations

Invited talk at Center for Social Data Analytics, Pennsylvania State University (October, 2024).

Annual Meeting of the **American Political Science Association** (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016).

Annual Meeting of the Society for **Political Methodology** (2023, 2022, 2017).

The Carolinas Conflict Consortium (2020, 2023).

The 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.

Invited panel discussion on Interdisciplinarity at NYU Abu Dhabi (2020).

Annual Meeting of the **Midwest Political Science Association** (2019, 2018, 2015).

New Directions in Analyzing **Text as Data** Conference (2018).

Visions in Methodology (VIM) Conference (2018, 2019).

Annual Meeting of the **Southern Political Science Association** (2022, 2019, 2018).

The Manifesto Project User Conference (2019).

University of Pennsylvania Symposium on Contemporary China (2016).

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR

Data Science and Text Analysis, <i>ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan</i>	2024, 2025
Political Science Research Methods, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2020 - 2024
Introduction to Comparative Politics, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021 - 2024
Authoritarian Politics, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021, 2022
Data Science for Politics, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2023

INVITED WORKSHOP

Data Science and Text Analysis, <i>CAAPA and Zhejiang University Summer Methods Workshop.</i>	2023 - 2025
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DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Bakhytzhana Oskeyeva, <i>Public Policy Program, UNC Charlotte</i>	Expected 2026
Hanif Sajid, <i>Public Policy Program, UNC Charlotte</i>	2025

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS ADVISOR

Mark Lee, "The Trump Effect: Presidential Twitter Rhetoric and Public Opinion Towards Asians." (Department Outstanding Paper Award 1st Place)	2022
Ana Acela Perez Ochoa, "The United States in Cuban Media." (Department Outstanding Paper Award 3rd Place)	2022
Acadia Dubiel, "Exposure to Political Violence Information and Trust in Electoral Institutions: A Survey Experiment in the United States."	2023

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Breze Ervin, "Public Attitudes Towards Predictive Policing: The Roles of Race, Ethnicity, and Racial Resentment."	2022-2023
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Serena Bemmo Kamdem, "Balancing the Scales: The Role of Judicial Diversity in U.S. District Court Sentencing."	2022-2023
Aanya Lilly, "Investigating the Influence of Racial Politics on Confidence in Government and Institutions."	2023-2024
Amna Noyal, "Subalterns Speak: Analyzing Counter-oriental Narrative Through American Muslim and Arab Organization's Campaign Initiatives."	2024-2025
Haley Fichter, "Conspiracy Theory, Online Movements, and Political Violence"	2024-2025

Professional Activities and Services

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Political Analysis, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Politics, Political Communication, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Government and Opposition, The China Review, The Pacific Review, Journal of East Asian Studies, Chinese Journal of Communication, Poetics, Social Science Research, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Quality & Quantity, International Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Party Politics, International Journal of Press/Politics, International Studies Quarterly.*

Grant Reviewer, <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2023
Grant Reviewer, <i>Russell Sage Foundation</i>	2025
Panel Chair and Discussant, "What Can We Learn from Large Language Models?," <i>APSA</i>	2023
Discussant: <i>Carolinas Conflict Consortium</i>	2021, 2023
Panel Discussant: "Measurement and Visualization," <i>PolMeth</i>	2022
Panel Discussant, "China Conference-within-Conference," <i>SPSA</i>	2018, 2019, 2022
Discussant: <i>Virtual Workshop on Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series (AOPSSS)</i>	2021
Discussant: <i>Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR)</i>	2019, 2020
Panel Chair and Discussant, "Advances in Coding and Labelling," <i>APSA</i>	2020
Judge, "Northern Virginia Regional Science Fair"	2019
Panel Organizer and Discussant, "Global Populism," <i>MPSA</i>	2018
Judge, "The 2018 Undergraduate Exhibition," <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>	2018
Editorial Board, <i>APSA's Comparative Politics Newsletter</i>	2015-2019
Editorial Assistant, <i>APSA's Comparative Politics Newsletter</i>	2015-2017

University and Departmental Service

Pi Sigma Alpha Advisor, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2022 -
Faculty advisor of Harvard World Model UN, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2024
The China Townhall Charlotte Facilitator/Discussant, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2022
Department Review Committee (non-voting observer), <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2022 - 2023
Department Library Representative, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021 - 2022
Department Awards Ceremony, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021 & 2024
Political Science Methods and Capstone Task Force, <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021
Department Executive Committee (non-voting observer), <i>UNC Charlotte</i>	2021

Skills

Programming	Python, LaTeX
Statistics	R, Stata
Languages	Chinese (native), English
Other	Highest level certificate for Guzheng Performance (traditional Chinese musical instrument)