

YANG YANG

421 Susan Welch Liberal Arts Building
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 (SoDA)*

University Park, PA

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

2019 – 2021

Nanyang Technological University

M.Sc. | *International Political Economy*

Singapore

2014 – 2015

Harbin Engineering University

B.A. | *English and Economics*

Harbin, China

2009 – 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Substantive:** International relations, international security, foreign policy, signaling, diplomacy, comparative politics, international political economy.
- **Methodological:** Design-based causal inference, experiments, machine learning, natural language processing, geo-spatial data analysis.

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- “DeepLearningCausal: R Package for Estimating Treatment Effects Using Deep Neural Networks and Ensemble Learning” (with Bumba Mukherjee and Nguyen Khoi Huynh) *The R Journal*, 18(2), 2026. DOI: 10.32614/RJ-2026-035.

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Foreign Lobbying as an Electoral Strategy: Electoral Cycles and Major-Power Engagement” *Under review*
2. “The Limitations of Using Forced Choice in Electoral Conjoint Experiments” (with Giancarlo Visconti) *Under review*
3. “Beyond Signaling: Inadvertences and Belief Updating in International Crises” (with Roseanne McManus)

4. “The Signaling Dilemma of Coercion: Credibly Threatening and Reassuring at the Same Time”

SOFTWARE

DeepLearningCausal: Causal Inference with Super Learner and Deep Neural Networks

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

C-SoDA Accelerator Award Center for Social Data Analytics (C-SoDA) at Penn State (\$1,500; applied with Yi-Min Huang)	2026
The Milton B. Dolinger Graduate Fellowship The College of the Liberal Arts (CLA) at Penn State	2025-26
RGSO College Dissertation Awards 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
Program for Empirical International Relations (PEIR) Fellowship Department of Political Science at Penn State	2024-25
Summer Graduate Research Awards Department of Political Science at Penn State	2023, 2024, 2025
C-SoDA Accelerator Award Center for Social Data Analytics at Penn State (\$13,000; applied with Giancarlo Visconti)	2024
Outstanding Graduate Awards Department of Education, Government of Heilongjiang Province (3% of the cohort) Harbin Engineering University (5% of the cohort)	2013
Academic Excellence Scholarships Harbin Engineering University (1st and 2nd classes)	2009-2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

- Research Assistant for Roseanne McManus (Penn State) Fall 2022, Summer 2026
- Research Assistant for Giancarlo Visconti (Penn State) Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- Research Assistant for Marko Klasnja (Georgetown) and Lucia Motolinia (WashU) 2021-2022
- Research Assistant for Zhenhuan Lei (UW-Madison) Spring 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PLSC 309: Quantitative Political Analysis (undergraduate) Instructor, Penn State University	Fall 2026
PLSC 437: War in World Politics (undergraduate) Special Topic Lecture on Extended Deterrence Guest Lecturer for Roseanne McManus, Penn State University	Spring 2026
Math for Political Scientists Workshop (graduate) Instructor, Penn State University	Fall 2024
PLSC 014: Introduction to International Relations (undergraduate) TA for Douglas Lemke, Penn State University	Spring 2023
POL-UA 842: Doing Political Economy (undergraduate) TA for Sukwon Lee, New York University	Spring 2021

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Policy Analyst Fudan Development Institute, Fudan University	2016-2019 Shanghai, China
Journalist (intern), <i>Asia Focus</i> <i>Bangkok Post</i> , The Post Publishing Public Co., Ltd	2015 Bangkok, Thailand

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

External

Peace Science Society: 2026 (scheduled)

APSA: 2024, 2025 (declined), 2026 (scheduled)

Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science: 2024

ISA: 2022, 2026

MPSA: 2021, 2022

Internal

Center for Social Data Analytics (C-SoDA) Research Round-Up: 2025, 2026

Penn State-Pittsburgh IR Workshop: 2024, 2025, 2026

C-SoDA Brownbag: 2024

Program for Empirical International Relations (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

REFERENCES

Roseanne McManus

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Giancarlo Visconti

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