Stanford



Yiqing Xu

Associate Professor of Political Science

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Dr. Xu's primary research areas are causal inference and comparative politics. His recent work focuses on developing methods for more credible causal inference, improving the reproducibility and robustness of empirical research, and AI's soceity impacts. He received his PhD in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MA in Economics from Peking University, and a BA in Economics from Fudan University.

Dr. Xu has published widely in leading journals across the social sciences and applied statistics. He has received numerous professional awards. In 2024, he received the Emerging Scholar Award from the Society for Political Methodology in recognition of his significant contributions to the field within ten years of earning his PhD.

Dr. Xu is affiliated with the Stanford Causal Science Center and the Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions, as well as other research institutions.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Political Science

HONORS AND AWARDS

- The Editors' Choice Award from Political Analysis, The Society for Political Methodology (2025)
- The Best Statistical Software Award, The Society for Political Methodology (2025)
- The Gosnell Prize, Honorable Mention, The Society for Political Methodology (2025)
- W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow, Hoover Institution (2024)
- The Emerging Scholar Award, The Society for Political Methodology (2024)
- The Best Statistical Software Award, The Society for Political Methodology (2024)
- The Becky Morton and Tom Carsey Excellence in Mentoring Award, Honorable Mention, The Society for Political Methodology (2024)
- The Miller Prize, The Society for Political Methodology (2020)
- The Editors' Choice Award from Political Analysis, The Society for Political Methodology (2018)
- The Miller Prize, The Society for Political Methodology (2018)
- The Best Article Award from American Journal of Political Science, Midwest Political Science Association (2016)
- The Malcolm Jewell Award, Southern Political Science Association (2016)
- The John T. Williams Dissertation Prize, The Society for Political Methodology (2014)

LINKS

- Homepage: http://yiqingxu.org/

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- AI & Politics: POLISCI 158, POLISCI 358G, PUBLPOL 158 (Aut)
- Political Methodology I: Regression: POLISCI 450A (Aut)
- Political Methodology II: Causal Inference: POLISCI 450B (Win)

2025-26

- AI Technologies for Social Applications: POLISCI 158 (Aut)
- Political Methodology I: Regression: POLISCI 450A (Aut)
- Political Methodology IV: Advanced Topics: POLISCI 450D (Win)

2023-24

- Chinese Politics and Society: An Expert-Led Seminar: POLISCI 117, POLISCI 317 (Win)
- Data Science for Politics: POLISCI 150A, POLISCI 355A (Aut)
- Political Methodology I: Regression: POLISCI 450A (Aut)
- Workshop in Political Methodology: POLISCI 353A (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Matt DeButts, Yiqin Fu

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Samuel Asher

Doctoral (Program)

Victoria Liu, Yongkang Tai

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Causal Panel Analysis under Parallel Trends: Lessons from a Large Reanalysis Study (vol 120, pg 245, 2026)** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Chiu, A., Lan, X., Liu, Z., Xu, Y.
  2026
- **Factorial Difference-in-Differences** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION*
  Xu, Y., Zhao, A., Ding, P.
  2026
- **How deceptive online networks reached millions in the US 2020 elections.** *Nature human behaviour*
  Appel, R. E., Kim, Y. M., Pan, J., Xu, Y., Nimmo, B., Thomas, D. R., Allcott, H., Barberá, P., Brown, T., Crespo-Tenorio, A., Dimmery, D., Freelon, D., Gentzkow, et al
  2026
- **Disguised Repression: Targeting Opponents with Nonpolitical Crimes to Undermine Dissent** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*

Pan, J., Xu, X., Xu, Y.
2026

- **Gauging preference stability under authoritarianism** *RESEARCH & POLITICS*
  Pan, J., Xu, Y.
  2025; 12 (4)
- **Comparing Experimental and Nonexperimental Methods: What Lessons Have We Learned Four Decades after LaLonde (1986)?** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES*
  Imbens, G. W., Xu, Y.
  2025; 39 (4): 173-202
- **Causal Panel Analysis under Parallel Trends: Lessons from a Large Reanalysis Study** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Chiu, A., Lan, X., Liu, Z., Xu, Y.
  2025
- **Does Legality Produce Political Legitimacy? An Experimental Approach** *JOURNAL OF LEGAL STUDIES*
  Fu, Y., Xu, Y., Zhang, T.
  2025; 54 (2): 257-285
- **Decentralized propaganda in the era of digital media: The massive presence of the Chinese state on Douyin** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Lu, Y., Pan, J., Xu, X., Xu, Y.
  2025
- **How Much Should We Trust Instrumental Variable Estimates in Political Science? Practical Advice Based on 67 Replicated Studies** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Lal, A., Lockhart, M., Xu, Y., Zu, Z.
  2024
- **Panel Data Visualization in R (panelView) and Stata (panelview)** *JOURNAL OF STATISTICAL SOFTWARE*
  Mou, H., Liu, L., Xu, Y.
  2023; 107 (7)
- **The power of history: How a victimization narrative shapes national identity and public opinion in China** *RESEARCH & POLITICS*
  Xu, Y., Zhao, J.
  2023; 10 (2)
- **Bayesian Rule Set: A Quantitative Alternative to Qualitative Comparative Analysis** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Chiu, A., Xu, Y.
  2023
- **A Practical Guide to Counterfactual Estimators for Causal Inference with Time-Series Cross-Sectional Data** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Liu, L., Wang, Y., Xu, Y.
  2022
- **Hierarchically Regularized Entropy Balancing** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Xu, Y., Yang, E.
  2022
- **Clans and calamity: How social capital saved lives during China's Great Famine** *JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS*
  Cao, J., Xu, Y., Zhang, C.
  2022; 157
- **How government-controlled media shifts policy attitudes through framing** *POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND METHODS*
  Pan, J., Shao, Z., Xu, Y.
  2022; 10 (2): 317-332
- **A Bayesian Alternative to Synthetic Control for Comparative Case Studies** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Pang, X., Liu, L., Xu, Y.

2022; 30 (2): 269-288

- **How Much Should We Trust Estimates from Multiplicative Interaction Models? Simple Tools to Improve Empirical Practice** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Hainmueller, J., Mummolo, J., Xu, Y.
  2019; 27 (2): 163–92
- **Outspoken Insiders: Political Connections and Citizen Participation in Authoritarian China** *POLITICAL BEHAVIOR*
  Tsai, L. L., Xu, Y.
  2018; 40 (3): 629–57
- **China's Ideological Spectrum** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Pan, J., Xu, Y.
  2018; 80 (1): 254–73
- **Incremental Democracy: The Policy Effects of Partisan Control of State Government** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Caughey, D., Warshaw, C., Xu, Y.
  2017; 79 (4): 1342–58
- **Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Allow Citizens to Voice Opinions Publicly?** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Chen, J., Xu, Y.
  2017; 79 (3): 792–803
- **Information Manipulation and Reform in Authoritarian Regimes** *POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND METHODS*
  Chen, J., Xu, Y.
  2017; 5 (1): 163–78
- **Generalized Synthetic Control Method: Causal Inference with Interactive Fixed Effects Models** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Xu, Y.
  2017; 25 (1): 57–76
- **Sources of Authoritarian Responsiveness: A Field Experiment in China** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Chen, J., Pan, J., Xu, Y.
  2016; 60 (2): 383-400
- **Informal Institutions, Collective Action, and Public Investment in Rural China** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Xu, Y., Yao, Y.
  2015; 109 (2): 371–91