Chuyao (Julian) Wang

c.wang85@lse.ac.uk   Academic Website

I study how governance strategies and generative AI jointly shape political legitimacy, citizen engagement, and policy support, using computational and experimental methods

Education

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
    Ph.D. in Social Research Methods   2022-26
    Ph.D. Affiliate, LSE Data Science Institute (DSI)
        Supervisors: Patrick Sturgis F.B.A. and Daniel De Kadt
Yale University
    Visiting Assistant in Research, Department of Political Science, Advisor: Joshua Kalla   2025
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
    M.Phil. in Social Science   2020-22
        Committee: Han Zhang (Supervisor), David Hendry (Chair), Haohan Chen
    M.Sc. in Global China Studies, with Dean's Award   2019-20
Shandong University
    B.A. in History (Economic History)   2016-20
        Exchange Study: UCLA; University of Hong Kong

Summer Institutes
    2nd Oxford Large Language Models Workshop for Social Science (Oxford LLMs 2024)   2024
    4th Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS 2021)   2021

Research Overview

Interest: AI Policy and Governance; Public Opinion; Computational Social Science; AI and society
Research: 8 papers, including 5 as sole or first author, and 6 as corresponding author (with some overlap)
Status: All papers are published, under review, or in preparation for general science or SSCI Q1 journals

Publication

[1] **Panacea or Pandora's Box: Diverse Governance Strategies to Conspiracy Theories and Their Consequences in China**
Co-first and corresponding author, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 2025; IF = 3.6, SSCI Q1
Published on **nature.com** (Nature Portfolio); highlighted by LSE DSI on LinkedIn, X, and official newsletter
- Analyzed authoritarian governance of conspiracy theories (CTs) via propagation, tolerance, and rebuttal
- Combined qualitative case analysis, social network analysis, and topic modeling of 46,387 Weibo posts
- Found that diverse CT governance strategies mobilize public opinion but risk loss of control and backlash

Under Review

[2] **AI Labeling Reduces the Perceived Accuracy of Online Content but Has Limited Broader Effects**
First and corresponding author; under review at *Nature Communications*; IF = 15.7, SCI Q1
Job Market Paper; full text at **arXiv**
- Designed a 2 × 2 × 2 survey experiment among a nationally representative, high-quality sample of 3,861
- Revealed that AI labeling (disclosing AI authorship) reduced information credibility and interest in the described policy, while leaving policy support and misinformation concern unaffected
- Clarified the limited scope of AI labeling effects, informing the governance of AI-generated content

[3] **Bureaucrat-Expert Collaboration in Large Language Model (LLM) Adoption: An Institutional Logic Perspective on China's Public Sector**

Second author, under review at *Technology in Society*; IF = 12.5, SSCI Q1
- Revealed priority conflicts between bureaucratic mandates and expert-informed approaches
- Showed that experts shaped design while bureaucrats retained control over political boundaries

[4] **Framing Trump in Chinese and US News: A Computational Visual Analysis of Political Bias**

Sole author; under review at *International Journal of Press/Politics*; IF = 4.3, SSCI Q1; abstract at SSRN
- Applied computational emotional profiling of 257,056 images to reveal political bias in policy framing
- Found Chinese media portray Trump as more negative, less masculine, and less trustworthy than US one

[5] **Governing Online Political Discourse: A Social Simulation of Self-Censorship using LLMs**

Second and corresponding author; under review at *Policy & Internet*; IF = 3.6, SSCI Q1
- Applied LLM-based annotation on 343,764 tweets and counterfactual simulation with policy shock
- Demonstrated how state regulation triggers conditional self-censorship via collective behavioral shifts

Selected Working Papers

[6] **How LLM Sycophancy Shapes Individuals' Perceived Social Norms and Affects Policy Support**

First author; for *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS); IF = 9.1, SCI Q1
- Articulated the concept of LLM sycophancy (adaptation to user preferences) and its policy relevance
- Investigated how LLMs' sycophancy produces biased information and distorts user policy attitudes
- Designed a personalized, human-LLM conversational survey experiment on a probability sample of 3,100

[7] **How AI Labeling Affects Policy Support in Social Networks: Simulation and Survey Experiment**

Second and corresponding author; for *Political Analysis*; IF = 5.4, SSCI Q1; extended abstract at SSRN

[8] **Advancing Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Analysis with Machine Learning and Causal Inference**

Sole author; for *Political Science Research and Methods*; IF = 2.6, SSCI Q1

Teaching

Taught 3 courses across 7 terms in political sociology, East Asian development, and quantitative methods; received formal pedagogical training and achieved excellent teaching evaluation scores

Teaching Interests

   AI Policy; Digital Governance; AI in Public Administration; Chinese Political Economy; AI and Society
   Computational Social Science; Public Policy Evaluation; Research Design and Methods

Teaching Experiences

   LSE Graduate MY464 - Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for Media and Communications
   HKUST Undergraduate SOSC1190 - China and the World (3 Terms)
   HKUST Undergraduate SOSC1470 - Political and Economic Development of Modern Japan (3 Terms)
      Teaching Evaluation Scores: **5.00, 4.91, and 5.00 (out of 5)**

Formal Pedagogical Training

   HKUST PDEV6800I - Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (3 Terms)
   HKUST PDEV6770D - Professional Development for Research Postgraduate Students (3 Terms)

Selected Grants and Awards

Total amount of grants and awards secured: **US$ 248,000**

Research Grants: 5 grants (4 external and 1 university level), all as the Principal Investigator (PI)

   Research and Impact Support Fund (Artificial Intelligence Spotlight Call), £ 4,817, LSE   2024-25
      Top 16 student awardees in the inaugural cohort, highlighted by LSE: World-leading AI research
   Researcher Access Program, US$ 5,000, OpenAI   2024-25
      Tailored ChatGPT API for social science research (e.g., LLM sycophancy in policy persuasion)

Google Cloud Research Credits, US$ 1,000, Google	2024-25
ACM WebSci24 Student Grant, € 500, Association for Computing Machinery	2024
SICSS Research Grant, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), USA	2021

Top 25 awardees among 21 sites worldwide, highlighted by SSRC: SICSS Research Grantees

Selected Academic Awards

LSE Ph.D. Studentship, £ 170,000, LSE (80 Places across All Departments)	2022-26
Information Technology and Politics Section Travel Grant, US$ 250, APSA	2024
Postgraduate Travel Fund, £ 1,000, LSE	2024
Ph.D. Academy Micro-Internship Award, £ 1,000, LSE	2023
Postgraduate Studentship, HK$ 430,000, HKUST	2020-22
Dean's Award, HKUST (3 Places, Top 5%)	2020
Scholarship for UCLA Study, SDU	2017

Declined Offers

Hong Kong Ph.D. Fellowship, HK$ 1,010,000, Research Grant Council

Computational Social Science Ph.D. Fellowship, HK$ 210,000, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong (CUHK)

Vice-Chancellor's Ph.D. Scholarship, HK$ 80,000, CUHK

Research and Dissertation Grant, HK$ 90,000, CUHK

Peer-Reviewed Conference Acceptances

Political Science

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA 2025)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA 2024)

Annual Conference of European Political Science Association (EPSA 2025)

Annual Meeting of Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth 2025)

Annual Meeting of Society for Political Methodology, Europe (PolMeth Europe 2025)

Computational Social Science

Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Program (SDP 2025)

International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2 2024)

Association for Computing Machinery Web Science Conference (ACM WebSci 2024)

Communication

Annual Conference of International Communication Association (ICA 2025)

National Communication Association Annual Convention (NCA 2024)

Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC 2022)

Sociology

Annual Conference of American Sociological Association (ASA 2025)

Services

Founding Member, Inaugural Organizing Committee, Ph.D. Affiliate Network, LSE DSI   2025-26

• Initiated interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities connecting PhD students and faculty

• Contributed to the strategic development of initiatives integrating social science with generative AI

Convenor and Presenter, Ph.D. Affiliate Lightning Talk, LSE DSI   2025-26

• Organized a talk series on knowledge exchange, community building, and external engagement

Journal Reviewer: *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*

Conference Reviewer: IC2S2 2025, IC2S2 2024; ICA 2025, ICA 2024; NCA 2024

Research Training, Skills and Languages

Methods: Survey Experiment, Causal Inference, Social Network Analysis, Case Studies,

Human-AI Interaction, Computational Visual and Textual Analysis, Applied Machine Learning

Programming and Software: R, Python, Cloud Computing, Stata, Qualtrics, Gephi, LaTeX

Languages: English (IELTS 8.0, advanced proficiency for research and teaching), Chinese (Native)

References

Prof. Patrick Sturgis, F.B.A.
Professor and Head of Department, LSE
Email: p.sturgis@lse.ac.uk

Prof. Daniel de Kadt
Assistant Professor, LSE
Email: d.de-kadt@lse.ac.uk

Prof. Han Zhang
Assistant Professor, Brown University
Email: han_zhang4@brown.edu