

XIAOXIAO SHEN

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Department of Political Science, Northeastern University

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative politics; political communication; political psychology; authoritarian politics; international relations; U.S.–China relations; digital infrastructure and geopolitics; politics and technology; quantitative and experimental methods.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Northeastern University, United States Assistant Research Professor, Department of Political Science	<i>2025 - present</i>
University of Pennsylvania, United States Project Fellow, Penn Project on the Future of U.S.-China Relations	<i>2026 - 2027</i>
Yale University, United States Postdoctoral Associate, CEAS at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center Lecturer, Department of Political Science	<i>2023 - 2025</i>

EDUCATION

Princeton University, United States Ph.D. in Politics <i>Committee Members: Rory Truex (Chair), Grigore Pop-Eleches, Andrew Guess, Christopher Achen</i>	<i>2017 - 2023</i>
M.A. in Politics	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
Graduate Certificate in Statistics and Machine Learning	<i>2018 - 2023</i>
Teaching Transcript	<i>2020 - 2022</i>
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong M.Phil. in Social Science (Field: Political Science) <i>Advisor: Kellee Tsai</i>	<i>2013 - 2015</i>
Imperial College London, United Kingdom M.Sc. in Environmental Technology (Field: Environmental Economics and Policy)	<i>2012 - 2013</i>
B.Sc. in Mathematics with Statistics for Finance	<i>2009 - 2012</i>

PUBLICATIONS

9. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “When Propaganda Resonates.” *Political Psychology* (2026): 47, e70181.
8. Chen, Xing, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Silent suffering: Depression, perceived inequality, and political trust” *Research and Politics* (2025): 12(3).
7. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “The Effects of Forced Versus Selective Propaganda Exposure in China.” *Political Science Research and Methods* (2025): 1-21.
6. Baik, Jongyoon, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Retrieving True Preference under Authoritarianism.” *Survey Research Methods* (2025): 467-482.
5. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Will Schulz. “Introducing ReChat: A Tool for Studying Online Interpersonal Communication.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (2024): 1-17.

4. Chen, Xing, Xiaoxiao Shen, and Andong Zhuge. “Pollution Matters: The Political Impact of Information Disclosure.” *Governance* (2023): 1-21.
 - China Public Administration Academic Annual Conference 2023 Third Prize for Excellent Papers
 - CPSG (APPAM) Runner-up for 2024 Best Policy Research Article Award
3. Yang, Wenhui, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Can Social Welfare Buy Mass Loyalty? Evidence from China.” *Governance* (2020): 1-21.
 - CPSG (APPAM) 2021 Best Policy Journal Article Award
 - CAAPA 2022 Wang Wen Best Young Scholar Award¹
 - Featured in “Authoritarian regimes’ social programs do little to win public support” at *The Academic Times*
2. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Rory Truex. “In Search of Self-Censorship.” *British Journal of Political Science* (2020): 1-13.
1. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Kellee S. Tsai. “Institutional Adaptability in China: Local Developmental Models under Changing Economic Conditions.” *World Development* 87 (2016): 107-127.

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

4. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Eddy S. F. Yeung. “Preference Falsification.” In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*, edited by Alessandro Nai, Max Grmping, and Dominique Wirz. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025.
3. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “ReChat: A Cloud-Based Platform for Structured Real-Time Text Interaction.” *Invention Disclosure* (work in progress).
2. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “Review of *Institutional Genes: Origins of China’s Institutions and Totalitarianism*, by Chenggang Xu.” *Pacific Affairs*, 2026.
1. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “Review of *The Art of State Persuasion*, by Frances Yaping Wang.” H-Diplo/RJISSF Roundtable (work in progress).

BOOK PROJECT

1. Shen, Xiaoxiao. *When Propaganda Resonates*. Book Conference hosted at Yale University, Sep 26th 2024.

WORKING PAPERS

11. Yang, Sunny, Martha Johnson, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Virtual Soft Power: Can VR Tourism Experiences Shift Attitudes Toward China?”
10. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Kellee S. Tsai. “Mapping Digital Infrastructure: An Interactive Dashboard and AI Agent for Studying Geopolitical Competition.”
9. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Kellee S. Tsai. “Digital Infrastructure and Geopolitical Competition: Evidence from Global Submarine Cables, 5G Networks, and Data Centers.”
 - Building a global dataset of submarine cables, data centers, and telecommunications infrastructure.
8. Shen, Xiaoxiao. “The Characteristics of Chinese Psychological Needs and Their Correlations to Political Attitudes.”

¹<http://www.china-uspublicaffairs.org/index.php>

7. Zhihang Ruan, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Pay It Forward: Upstream Reciprocity and Support for Foreign Aid Among Chinese Nationals.”
6. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Rex Weiye Deng. “Turning Crisis into Opportunity: How Propaganda Appeals to Mass Emotion in Crisis Communication.”
5. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Dongshu Liu. “When Does Self-Interest Trump Ideology in Authoritarian Regimes?”
4. Liu, Jiehan and Xiaoxiao, Shen. “Measuring Populism: Evidence from China.”
3. Liu, Jiehan, and Xiaoxiao Shen. “Political Knowledge as a Moderator of Partisan Motivated Reasoning: A Meta-Analysis.”
2. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Jiehan Liu. “Chinese Propaganda System and Strategies.”
1. Shen, Xiaoxiao, and Qingyan Wang. “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Singapore Government’s Anti-Misinformation Strategies.”

SOFTWARE PATENT

- Xiaoxiao Shen. “ReChat - An Integrated and Interactive Chat Suite for Online Survey Experiments.” *Permanent U.S. Patent US11843470B2*. Link.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Northeastern University, United States *Spring 2026*
Course Instructor
 Undergraduate course: China: Governance and Foreign Policy
- Yale University, United States *Fall 2023*
Course Instructor
 Undergraduate course: Political Psychology in Comparative Politics
- Princeton University, United States *Summer 2023*
Teaching Assistant
 Junior Summer Institute: Introduction to Microeconomics
- Princeton University, United States *Spring 2021*
Head Preceptor, Teaching Assistant
 Undergraduate course: Chinese Politics
- Princeton University, United States *Fall 2020, Spring 2020*
Head Preceptor, Teaching Assistant
 Undergraduate course: Introduction to Quantitative Social Science
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong *Spring 2014, Spring 2015*
Teaching Assistant
 Undergraduate course: Understanding Comparative Politics

TRANSLATIONS

- Zhengzhi Jingjixue Gailun (*A Treatise on Political Economy*, by Jean Baptiste Say), 2016, Zhejiang Renmin Press
- Diguo Zhuyi Yu Fazhanzhong Guojia: Yingguo he Meiguo Ruhe Suzao Quanqiu Waiwei (*Imperialism and the Developing World: How Britain and the United States Shaped the Global Periphery*, by Atul Kohli), *Forthcoming*, Tsinghua University Press

GRANTS

- Anonymous External Grant for Public-Facing Dashboard and AI Agent Development, \$100,000, 2026
- CSSH Research Development Initiative (RDI), Northeastern University, \$5,000, 2026
- NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks Seedling Grant, Northeastern University, \$1,900, 2026
- Faculty New Ventures Assistance Fund, Princeton University, \$35,000, 2023, 2024
- Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University, \$800, 2023
- Bobst Graduate Travel Grants, Princeton University, \$350, 2023
- Stafford Fund for Conference Travel, Princeton University, \$700, 2022
- National Science Foundation I-CORPs Northeast Region, \$3,000, 2022
- Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, \$20,000, 2021
- Bobst Center for Peace and Justice Dissertation Grant, Princeton University, \$10,000, 2020,2021
- Social Science Data Initiative Dissertation Grant, Princeton University, \$9,940, 2020,2021

INVITED TALKS

- Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia, New York University, 2026
- Panel Speaker, “U.S.-China Relations: Balance and Conflict”, (SURGE’s 18th Annual China-U.S. Symposium, Tufts University, 2026.
- Panel Speaker, “State of the World” Series, Center for International Affairs and World Cultures, Northeastern University, 2025.
- 2025 Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Toronto, Northeastern University
- 2024 Boston College, Case Western Reserve University
- 2023 Northwestern University, University of Texas at Austin, University of California, Berkeley, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, United States Military Academy
- 2022 Princeton University, University of California, San Diego

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- MIT Polarization Workshop, 2025
- Women of Color in Political Science, 2024
- Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, NYU, Mar 2023
- Authoritarian Political Systems Group, Virtual, Mar 2023
- Chinese Politics Research in Progress, Virtual, Feb 2023
- Fudan-UC Young Scholars Conference, UCSD, July 2022
- ISPP Academy, 2018
- APSA, 2022, 2023, 2024
- MPSA, 2021, 2022, 2025
- SPSA, 2021

SERVICE

- **Conference Organizing:** Organizer, 2026 APSA Mini-Conference on Chinese Politics
- **Advising:** Devon Rall-Taguchi (Senior Thesis, Yale University)
- **Refereeing:** *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *British Journal of Political Science* (3); *World Development*; *Political Behavior* (3); *Governance* (2); *Social Problems*; *Comparative Political Studies* (2); *Palgrave Macmillan*; *International Journal of Communication* (2); *Research & Politics* (2); *Asian Journal of Political Science*; *Perspectives on Politics* (2); *International Journal of Public Administration*; *Political Science Research and Methods* (2); *Political Studies*; *The Journal of Asian Studies*; *Political Communication*; *BMC Psychology*; *Political Psychology* (2); *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2)

SKILLS

- Language: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), German (beginner)
- Software: Stata, Maple, Matlab, R, Python, L^AT_EX

REFERENCES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellee S. Tsai
Dean, College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Northeastern University
k.tsai@northeastern.edu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory Truex (Chair)
Associate Professor of Politics and International Affairs
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