

Yifei Zhu

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Politics and Public Administration, The University of Hong Kong
frankyifei@connect.hku.hk | Hong Kong | yifeifrank.github.io | github.com/yifeifrank

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AI for social science; political methodology; computational social science; political text analysis; Chinese politics.

EDUCATION

The University of Hong Kong

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science

Hong Kong

Sep 2023 – Present

China Agricultural University

A.M., Social Policy

Beijing, China

Sep 2020 – Jun 2023

Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

LL.B., Law

Shanghai, China

Sep 2016 – Jun 2020

BOOKS

- **Coauthor.** Chinese-language book on large language models for social science. Peking University Press, forthcoming 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Yifei Zhu.** “PolitNuggets: Benchmarking Agentic Discovery of Long-Tail Political Facts.” *Proceedings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2026. arXiv. Dataset.
- Lai Wei and **Yifei Zhu.** “Using Silicon Predictions to Augment Rather Than Replace Surveys.” Conditionally accepted, *Sociological Science*, 2026.
- Leizhen Zang, **Yifei Zhu**, and Antoine Roth. “Mobilizing the State Without Crushing Local Knowledge: Evidence From China’s Poverty-Alleviation Campaign.” *Public Administration and Development*, 2026. DOI.

WORKING PAPERS

- **Yifei Zhu**, Songpo Yang, Jiangnan Zhu, and Junyan Jiang. “Agentic Framework for Political Biography Extraction.” Invited to resubmit, *American Journal of Political Science*. arXiv. Code.
- Liudan Su, Aoran Cheng, Miner Ye, Jiayi Zeng, and **Yifei Zhu.** “Recovering Social Hierarchy with Persona-Seeded LLM.” Working paper.
- **Yifei Zhu**, Jingtian Hu, Yinzhi Lin, Zhenhua Tu, and Xun Pang. “Evaluating Silicon Subjects for Foreign-Policy Experiments.” Working paper.
- **Yifei Zhu** and Jiangnan Zhu. “Power Incubator: How an Authoritarian Anticorruption Agency Facilitates Power Sharing.” Working paper, 2026.
- Junqi Feng, Sidi Huang, Jiangnan Zhu, and **Yifei Zhu.** “Party Organizer: The Selection Pattern of POD Heads from 1949–2025.” Working paper, 2026.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- July 2026. The 64th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, San Diego. “PolitNuggets: Benchmarking Agentic Discovery of Long-Tail Political Facts.”
- May 2026. Yale FDS Workshop: AI for Social Science Research Methods, Yale University. “PolitNuggets: Benchmarking Agentic Discovery of Long-Tail Political Facts.”
- January 2026. New Horizons for AI Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities Conference, University of Chicago Hong Kong Campus.
- September 2025. APSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver. “Agentic Framework for Political Biography Extraction.”
- May 2025. Fudan-UCSB Young Talented Scholars Conference, San Diego. “Agentic Framework for Political Biography Extraction.”
- September 2024. APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. “Power Incubator: How An Authoritarian Anticorruption Agency Facilitates Power Sharing?”
- April 2024. Hong Kong Quantitative Social Science Workshop, Hong Kong. “Power Incubator: How An Authoritarian Anticorruption Agency Facilitates Power Sharing?”
- November 2022. Lien Development Conference, Singapore.

TEACHING

- **Teaching Assistant, CCCH9010: Understanding China’s Governance: Challenges and Prospects**, The University of Hong Kong.
- **Teaching Assistant, SINO1003: Greater China: A Multi-disciplinary Introduction**, The University of Hong Kong.
- **Proposed course:** Language Models for Social Science.
- **Additional courses prepared to teach:** Applied Causal Inference; Data Science for Political Science.

AWARDS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS), The University of Hong Kong.
- Research grant for language modeling, Tsinghua University, 2026 (US\$3,000).

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- Reviewer, NeurIPS.

METHODS, SOFTWARE, AND LANGUAGES

Methods: causal inference; natural language processing; agent and LLM methods; survey experiments; graph and network analysis.

Software: Python, R, Stata.

Languages: Chinese (native); English (fluent).