POLI229 Quantitative Studies of Chinese Politics

Spring 2018
Monday: 3:00-5:50 PM

Instructors
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Introduction
This is a course on quantitative approach to Chinese politics. We will be reading recently published research paper in the China field, as well as papers on other countries that we can potentially draw inspirations from. There is no required textbook. Students are required to read two papers very closely prior to each session.

Prerequisite
POLI 272 (MLE), POLI 273 (Causal Inference), or an empirical methods class offered by the Economics department. If you are not sure about the criteria, please consult with the instructors. Auditors are allowed but need to commit to coming regularly and joining discussions.

Grading
Your final grade will comprise of three parts:
(1) You will be assigned as the discussion leader for one session. 30% of your grades will be based on your performance as the discussion leader. You are expected to prepare 3-5 written questions (distributed among class members) prior to the class.
(2) 30% of your grades will be based on a presentation on your own ongoing project.
(3) 40% of your grades will be based on your participation in discussions in class. Each week you will be asked to write a paragraph for each paper about your thoughts on the work and submit them to a Dropbox. This will count toward your participation grade.
Course Schedule

Week 1. Elite Politics


Week 2. Accountability and Responsiveness


Week 3 Political Connections and Firms


Week 4 Political Economy and Corruption


Week 5 Media and Politics

- Qin, Stromberg and Wu. “The Determinants of Media Bias in China.”

Week 6 Political Attitudes and Ideology


**Week 7 Censorship Information Control**

• Hobbs and Roberts. “How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information.”
• Chen, Yuyu and David Yang. “The Impact of Media Censorship: 1984 or Brave New World?”

**Week 8 Misinformation**

• Huang, Haifeng. “A war of (mis)information: the political effects of rumors and rumor rebuttals in an authoritarian country.”
• Nyhan et al. “Classified or Cover-up? The Effect of Redactions on Conspiracy Theory Beliefs”

**Week 9 Memorial Day, No Class**

**Week 10 Contentious Politics**

**Ruixue’s paper on revolution paired with a Acemoglu paper on revolution**

• Qin, Stromberg and Wu. “Why Does China Allow Freer Social Media? Protests versus Surveillance and Propaganda?”
• Kuran, Timur. “Sparks and prairie fires: A theory of unanticipated political revolution.”