

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

- Jia, Ruixue, Masa Kudamatsu and Seim, David. "Political Selection in China: Complementary Roles of Connections and Performance." *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2015, vol. 13 (4), 631-668.
- Ferraz, Claudio and Frederico Finan. "Motivating Politicians: The Impacts of Monetary Incentives on Quality and Performance." NBER Working Paper. 2011.

Week 2. Accountability and Responsiveness

- Chen, Jidong, Pan, Jennifer and Xu, Yiqing. "Sources of Authoritarian Responsiveness: A Field Experiment in China." *American Journal of Political Science* , Vol. 60, Iss. 2, April 2016, pp. 383-400.
- Broockman, David. "Black Politicians Are More Intrinsically Motivated to Advance Blacks' Interests: A Field Experiment Manipulating Political Incentives." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 57, Iss. 3 (March 2013), pp. 521-536.

Week 3 Political Connections and Firms

- Truex, Rory. "The Returns to Office in a "Rubber Stamp" Parliament." *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 108, Iss. 2 (May 2014) , pp. 235-251.
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, Amir Kermani, James Kwak & Todd Mitton. "The Value of Connections In Turbulent Times: Evidence from the United States." *Journal of Financial Economics*, 2016.

Week 4 Political Economy and Corruption

- Zhu, Boliang. "MNCs, Rents, and Corruption: Evidence from China." *American Journal of Political Science*. First online: June 2016.
- Bertrand, Marianne, Simeon Djankov, Rema Hanna & Sendhil Mullainathan. 2007. "Obtaining a Driver's License in India: An Experimental Approach to Studying Corruption." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122 (4), 1639-1676.

Week 5 Media and Politics

- Qin, Stromberg and Wu. "The Determinants of Media Bias in China."
- Gentzkow and Shapiro. "What Drives Media Slant? Evidence from U.S. Daily Newspapers."

Week 6 Political Attitudes and Ideology

- Davide Cantoni, Yuyu Chen, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, Y. Jane Zhang. "Curriculum and Ideology." *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol.125, No.2 (April 2017).

- Gentzkow, Matthew and Shapiro, Jesse M. “Ideological Segregation Online and Offline.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 126, Iss. 4 (November 2011).

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?”
- Kern and Hainmueller. “Opium for the Masses: How Foreign Media Can Stabilize Authoritarian Regimes.”

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.”