

Cecilia Y. Sui

Seigle Hall 278, Department of Political Science,
1 Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130

c.sui@wustl.edu
ceciliaysui.com

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Ph.D., Political Science, expected May 2027

M.A., Political Science, 2025

Committee: Jacob Montgomery (co-chair), Christopher Lucas (co-chair), Ted Enamorado, and Taylor Carlson

Subfields: Political Methodology (Major), American Politics (Minor)

Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

B.S., in Computer Science (minor in Political Science), 2020

WORKING PAPERS

Cecilia Y. Sui. “High Accuracy with Low Costs: The Pretrain-Finetune Paradigm for Classification with Transformer-Based Language Models” (*Conditionally Accepted at PSRM*)

Cecilia Y. Sui, Soyeon Jeon, Christopher Lucas, Jacob Montgomery, and Margit Tavits. “One Language is Enough: Using Transfer Learning to Detect Populist Rhetoric Across 25 Languages Without Translation” (NSF#2215008 and Carnegie#G-23-60440) (Under Review)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Cecilia Y. Sui. “Synthesizing Closeness: A Generative AI Experiment on Parasocial Signaling in Political Communication”

Cecilia Y. Sui. “Seeing Inside the Black Box: Feature Attribution for Political Text in the Age of Language Models”

GRANTS & AWARDS

2026 WashU Weidenbaum Center Research Grant on Non-Textual Political Communication with Prof. Jacob Montgomery and Christopher Lucas (\$9,365)

WashU Political Science Department Travel Grant (\$500)

2025 WashU Dissertation Research Grant (\$1000)

WashU Political Science Department Travel Grant (\$900)

Google Cloud Research Grant (\$1000)

2023 WashU Antoinette Dames Prize for Best Graduate Level Paper (\$3000)

WashU Political Science Department LSQ Research Grant (\$5000)

WashU Political Science Department Travel Grant (\$900)

PolMeth NSF Summer Travel Grant (\$900)

MPSA Travel Grant (\$500)

INVITED TALK

2023 Peking University (PKU Analytics Lab for Global Risk Politics)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 MPSA (paper)
- 2025 PolMeth Annual Summer Meeting (paper)
APSA (paper)
- 2023 MPSA (paper)
PolMeth Annual Summer Meeting (poster)

SERVICE

- 2024 Moderator of PolMeth ListServ
- 2023 Moderator of PolMeth ListServ
Department Graduate Student Mentor

TEACHING

Independent Instructor:

- Introduction to Python (G), Summer 2023
- Introduction to R Programming (G), Winter 2022

Assistant Instructor:

- Quantitative Political Methodology (UG, Ted Enamorado), Spring 2023
- Quantitative Political Methodology II (G, Jacob Montgomery), Fall 2022
- Introduction to Python (G, Annamaria Prati), Summer 2022
- Quantitative Political Methodology I (G, Ted Enamorado), Spring 2022
- Mathematical Modeling (G, Ted Enamorado), Fall 2021

SKILLS

Language: Mandarin-Chinese, English

Programming: R, Python, HTML/CSS, Java, C, SQL, LATEX

API and Tools: Twitter, TikTok, OpenAI, Azure, Amazon Mechanical Turk, HuggingFace, Upwork, Qualtrics, Prolific

REFERENCES

Available upon request.