



Mr. Tony Yang

PhD Candidate

Department of Political Science

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Biography

Mr. Tony Yang is PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at the Washington University in St. Louis. In 2021, he received his AM degree in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to joining Washington University, he received an LLB degree in Law from Renmin University of China in 2018.

Mr. Yang studies comparative politics and political behavior. Specifically, he is interested in authoritarian politics, government censorship, propaganda, popular protest, and political repression. Methodologically, he uses a wide range of research methods, including formal modeling, randomized experiments, and computational methods (text-as-data and audio-as-data). He has regional expertise in East and Southeast Asia. His dissertation, *Normalization: Explaining Public Support for Government Censorship in Authoritarian Regimes*, proposes a new way of understanding censorship and authoritarian control. His study highlights the normalization of coercive policies, such as censorship, as a powerful channel through which authoritarian regimes achieve social control. Apart from censorship, he also has projects in progress concerning propaganda, emotions, and public opinion toward the use of force in China and other authoritarian regimes.