

Laura R. Silver, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Dual Ph.D., Political Science and Communication, August 2016

Advisors: Diana C. Mutz, Michael X. Delli Carpini, Devra C. Moehler, Marc Meredith

Dissertation: China in the Media: Effects on American Opinion

Distinction on the Comparative Politics M.A. exam, 2012

Primary Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Communication

Secondary fields: American Politics, Methods

- *My dissertation used the case of China and the 2012 U.S. election to explore how the tone of media coverage affects opinions of foreign countries. Using a nationally representative, pre- and post-election panel and an original content analysis of mentions of China on U.S. political television, I showed that an increase in negatively-valenced coverage of China in advance of the election increased individuals' perceived threat from China. I used an original survey experiment to demonstrate the same finding casually, and to show that negatively-valenced campaign ads cause people to discriminate against Asians on an individual level.*
- *Full tuition and research stipend (6 years); grants totaling \$23,000 from the Browne Center for International Politics, COMPASS, Center for the Study of Contemporary China, and Foreign Language and Area Studies*
- *Past conference presentations at APSA, MPSA, ISA, ICA, WAPOR, Asian Political Methodology*

Wesleyan University, B.A., College of Social Studies, May 2008

Graduated with high honors and distinction on comprehensive exams

David Morgan Prize for integrity and community commitment; Briggs Prize for excellence in public speaking;

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Researcher, Pew Research Center, February 2017 - present

- *I manage large-scale, comparative public opinion projects. Responsibilities include: overseeing the budget, requests for proposal, contracting, evaluating sampling plans, writing questionnaires, overseeing translation, quality-checking the data, performing statistical analyses, and publishing the results. Most recently, I have overseen a four-country focus group project and a seven-country CATI study in Western Europe on media and politics.*
- *Author of reports and blog posts on Asian public opinion as part of the Global Attitudes Project*

U.S. Department of State, Office of Opinion Research (OPN)

Foreign affairs research analyst, GS-13 (full-time)– September 2014 – February 2017

Foreign affairs research analyst (part-time contractor for ATSG) – October 2013 – September 2014

- *Primary responsibilities included designing nationwide public opinion surveys, analyzing the data, and writing intelligence reports summarizing the findings. I managed the entire arc of approximately 10 projects per year, including: requests for proposal, contracting, evaluating sampling plans for face-to-face and dual-frame phone polls, writing questionnaires, overseeing translations and back-translations, quality-checking the data, performing statistical analyses, and publishing the results.*
- *Managed the internship program for the office and regularly represented OPN at meetings concerning big data and advanced analytics. Organized conferences for the Bureau and led “brownbags” within OPN to share skills like multilevel modeling.*

- *Managed multiple focus groups in Asia, added experimental manipulations to questionnaires, drew oversamples for more precise estimates in analytically critical locations, calculated design effects and accounted for complex survey designs in variance estimates, and created standard workflows to model the data using a variety of covariates.*
- *In 2015, I produced approximately one-sixth of the office's production in an office of 22 analysts and was Best New Analyst for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. My written products are regularly delivered to the President, Secretary of State, and other key principals across the intelligence community.*

Research and Teaching Fellow, Annenberg School for Communication, Fall 2010 – Spring 2014

Research fellow for Diana C. Mutz (5 semesters), Devra C. Moehler (1 semester)

- *Developed questionnaires and experimental protocol to evaluate American public opinion of globalization and trade. Implemented pre-tests on Amazon's Mechanical Turk and GfK's Knowledge Panel, evaluated data quality. Analyzed the pre-tests using ANOVA. Developed coding schema and qualitatively assessed views on trade from open-ended responses. Developed visual coding schema for political television to evaluate political incivility. Quantitatively assessed the gender gap in international trade preferences using multiple regression.*

Teaching fellow for Chinese Politics (Avery Goldstein), China's Domestic Politics (Yuhua Wang)

- *Led three weekly discussion sessions for undergraduates, sole grader for all papers and tests.*

Leader for Global Service Learning trip, Lakeside High School, Summer 2012

- *Co-lead group of twelve high school students for a month in rural China; served as a country expert and helped to coordinate translation and logistics for their English summer camp service program.*

Program Assistant, Association for Rural Development of Yilong, 2009-2010

- *Assisted a microfinance institution in rural China with translation, building a business plan, and technology training.*

PUBLICATIONS

Pro- and Anti-Americanism in Sub-Saharan Africa. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 2015

Pocketbook Prejudice? Exploring Economic Determinants of Prejudice toward Chinese. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 2015.

Men, Women, Trade, and Free Markets. *International Studies Quarterly*, 2015.

Normative Implications of the Spiral of Silence: Hearing the Other Side in the 21st Century. In Wolfgang Donsbach, Charles T. Salmon, and Yariv Tsfati (Eds.), *The Spiral of Silence: New Perspectives on Communication and Public Opinion*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Research methods course work: Research Methods for Communication, Field Methods, Statistical Methods for Political Science I, Statistical Methods for Political Science II, Quantitative Methods II, Repeated Measures ANOVA and Hierarchical Linear Modeling, Experimental Design, Multivariate Analysis, Observational Studies

Professional service: reviewing manuscripts for Political Communication, IJPOR, abstracts for AAPOR and ICA

Software packages: STATA, R, SPSS, SAS

Top secret clearance, U.S. Department of State

Extensive overseas experience in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong; basic working proficiency in Mandarin