

**ANGEL M. VILLEGAS-CRUZ (安河)**  
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214 Pond Lab, Department of Political Science  
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Political Science and Asian Studies** Expected 2024  
Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA  
*Dissertation:* "Verbal Aggression, Information Warfare, and Career Aspirations: Exploring the Use of Social Media in Public Diplomacy"  
*Committee:* Boliang Zhu (Chair), Roseanne McManus, Kevin Munger, and Jonathan Abel  
*Major Fields:* International Relations and Asian Studies  
*Minor Field:* Comparative Politics

**M.A. in Political Science** 2019 – 2021  
Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

**M.A. in International Relations** 2016 – 2019  
Beijing Normal University Beijing, China

**B.A. in Sociology and Minor in History | Magna Cum Laude** 2009 – 2014  
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus San Juan, PR

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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**Course in College Teaching** Spring 2022  
Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

**Graduate Student Online Teaching Certificate** Fall 2020  
Pennsylvania State University World Campus

**Intensive Chinese (Mandarin) Language Program** 2014 – 2016  
Beijing Normal University Beijing, China

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Substantive:** Digital Diplomacy | Public Diplomacy | Chinese Foreign Policy | Social Media | Sino-American Relations | International Political Economy  
**Methodological:** Quantitative Political Science | Text as Data | Survey Experiments | Digital Humanities

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Kevin Munger, **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**, Jorge Gallego, and Mateo Vásquez-Cortés. 2024. "Reenviado Muchas Veces": How WhatsApp Users in Mexico and Colombia Understand Political Information." *Political Communication*, 1-24.

**Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**. 2014. "El discurso de la Iglesia Protestante en torno a la Segunda Guerra Mundial en la Revista Puerto Rico Evangélico, 1940-1945" [The representation of World War II in the inter-denominational magazine, Puerto Rico Evangelico, 1940-1945]. *Revista [IN]Genios* 1 (1): 1-11.

## EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**. 2024. "China and Its Small Neighbors: The Political Economy of Asymmetry, Vulnerability, and Hedging by Sung Chull Kim." *Pacific Affairs* 97 (3).

**Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**. 2022. "Male, U.S. Full History Professor, and China scholar: The recipe to get published in The Journal of Asian Studies, 2000-2020." *criticalasianstudies.org* Commentary Board. November 15.  
<https://doi.org/10.52698/KSEJ3511>.

**Angel M. Villegas-Cruz**. 2019. "读楼项飞《中国与拉美国家相互依赖模式研究》" [A Study of Sino-Latin American Interdependency Models by Lou Xiangfei]. *Journal of BNU Public Administration* 7.

## WORKING PAPERS

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- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. "Communicating State Repression to the International Community: A Case Study of How Chinese Diplomats Frame their Actions in Xinjiang." (*R&R Foreign Policy Analysis*)
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. "Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Self-Reported Medical Donations in Chinese Digital Diplomacy." (*R&R Journal of East Asian Studies*)
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. "The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions." (*R&R The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*)
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. "Online Infrastructure and Social Media Affordances: A Quantitative Description of African MFAs' Diplomatic Strategies on Social Media." (*R&R South African Journal of International Affairs*)
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz,** María Montemayor de Teresa, Antonio Alejo, and Astrid de la Torre Lüderitz. 2024. "Public Diplomacy *en Español*: An Analysis of Spanish-language Public Diplomacy Scholarship." (*R&R Journal of Public Diplomacy*)
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2024. "International Communications in the Digital Era: Is China's Online Diplomacy Paying Off?." (Under Review)
- Boliang Zhu, Aubrey Waddick, Yilang Feng, and **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** 2023. "Firms Caught in Crossfire: International Stakes and Domestic Politics in Corporate Positioning on De-Globalization."
- Boliang Zhu, **Angel M. Villegas-Cruz,** and Aubrey Waddick. 2023. "Liberalization for Sale: The Politics of Tariff Exclusions."

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** "An Unusual Application of Chinese Digital Diplomacy: Reflecting Diplomats' Career Aspirations."
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** "The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Age of the Internet: Introducing the Chinese Diplomatic Elite Dataset."
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** "How American Problems Fuel Foreign Propaganda Machines? Exploring the Temporal Variation in Chinese and Russian Outward-Facing Propaganda."
- Angel M. Villegas-Cruz.** "Introducing the Cuban Diplomatic Elite Dataset."

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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|---|-------------|
| <b>APSA Lee Ann Fujii Travel Grant (\$400)</b><br>American Political Science Association  | Fall 2023   |
| <b>Program in Comparative Politics Research Award (\$1,300)</b><br>Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University                     | Spring 2023 |
| <b>Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Dissertation Support Grant (\$2,000)</b><br>College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University | Spring 2023 |
| <b>Miller-LaVigne Fellowship (Tuition &amp; Stipend)</b><br>Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University                            | 2022-2023   |
| <b>Keith R. Karako Award (\$1,250)</b><br>Department of Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University  | Summer 2022 |
| <b>Summer Graduate Research Award (\$4,050)</b><br>Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University                                     | Summer 2021 |
| <b>Best Political Science Master's Essay, 2020-2021 (\$1,000)</b><br>Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University                   | Spring 2021 |
| <b>APSA Minority Fellow (\$2,000)</b><br>American Political Science Association   | Spring 2020 |

<b>Bunton-Waller Graduate Award (Tuition &amp; Stipend)</b> College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University	2019 – 2022
中国政府奖学金 [ <b>Chinese Government Scholarship</b> ] (Tuition & Stipend) China Scholarship Council, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China	2015 – 2019
优秀学生 [ <b>Excellent Student Award</b> ] (¥300) College of Chinese Language and Culture, Beijing Normal University	Fall 2015
<b>Wrestling Athletic Scholarship (Tuition &amp; Stipend)</b> University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus	2012 – 2014
<b>Judo Athletic Scholarship (Tuition &amp; Stipend)</b> University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus and University of Puerto Rico, Bayamon Campus	2010 – 2014

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Pennsylvania State University**

#### *Instructor of Record*

PLSC 309: Quantitative Political Analysis	Spring 2024
PLSC 14: Introduction to International Relations	Summer 2023

#### *Teaching Assistant*

Professor Jeremy Ladd's PLSC 309: Quantitative Political Analysis	Fall 2021
Professor Kevin Munger's PLSC 497: Text as Data	Spring 2021
Professor Boliang Zhu's PLSC 497: Analytical Political Economy	Spring 2020 – Fall 2020
Professor Matthew Golder's PLSC 003: Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2019

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Pennsylvania State University**

Research Assistant to Professor Boliang Zhu	2020, Spring 2022 & Summer 2024
Research Assistant to Boliang Zhu & Rachel Wellhausen (UT - Austin)	Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Professor Jonathan Abel	Summer 2022
Research Assistant to Professor Kevin Munger	2021

### **University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus**

Undergraduate Research Assistant to Professor Yarimar Rosa-Rodríguez	2011 – 2012
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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Research Fellow</b> U.S. Army's Foreign Military Studies Office	Fall 2023 Remote
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- Description: Open-source researching and analyzing the Chinese and Russian military influence in Latin America

<b>English &amp; Spanish Language Teacher</b> 思睿英语 [Seory English Center]	2015 – 2019 Beijing, China
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- Description: Teaching English and Spanish language classes for children and adults whose first language is Chinese

<b>Social Researcher</b> Community Participation Office, San Juan Municipal Government	Spring 2014 – Summer 2014 San Juan, PR
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- Description: Digitally mapping San Juan's communities with their socio-demographic details and improving quality of public services

## SKILLS

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**Languages:** Spanish (Native), English (Advanced), Chinese-Mandarin (Advanced-HSK 5), Italian (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate)

**Software:** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, Stata, Python, QGIS, SPSS

## CONFERENCES

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“Public Diplomacy *en Español*: An Analysis of Spanish-language Public Diplomacy Scholarship,” Korean Association for Public Diplomacy Conference, South Korea (Nov. 16 – 18, 2023)

“Public Diplomacy and Social Media: Testing the Effectiveness of China’s Wolf Warrior Diplomacy,” APSA Conference, Los Angeles (Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 2023)

“Social Media and Foreign Elites: Testing the Effectiveness of Digital Diplomacy,” ISA Conference, Montreal (Mar. 15 – 18, 2023)

“Communicating State Repression to the International Community: A Case Study of How Chinese Diplomats Frame their Actions in Xinjiang,” ISA Northeast Conference, Baltimore (Nov. 4 – 5, 2022)

“The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions,” MPSA Conference, Chicago (Apr. 7 – 10, 2022)

“Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Chinese Digital Diplomacy and Mask Diplomacy,” MPSA Conference, Chicago (Apr. 7 – 10, 2022)

“Nation Branding and COVID-19: An Empirical Investigation of Chinese Digital Diplomacy and Mask Diplomacy,” Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, Villanova University (Oct. 23 – 24, 2021)

“Firms Caught in Crossfire: International Stakes and Domestic Politics in Corporate Positioning on De-Globalization,” International Political Economy Society Conference, Ohio State University (Nov. 13 – 14, 2020)

“The ‘Other’ and the Second World War in the big screen: Europe and Nationalism in Golden Age Mexican Cinema, 1942-1943,” Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, San Juan (May 3 – 4, 2014)

“El discurso de la Iglesia Protestante en torno a la Segunda Guerra Mundial en la revista Puerto Rico Evangélico, 1940-1945” [The representation of World War II in the inter-denominational magazine, Puerto Rico Evangelico, 1940-1945], History Week, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus (Mar. 17 – 20, 2014)

## TALKS

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“The Effect of Economic Ties on Digital Diplomacy: A Sentiment Analysis of the Twitter Accounts of Chinese Diplomatic Missions,” Ewha Woman’s University Public Diplomacy Center, South Korea (June 6, 2022)

## SERVICE

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### **Department of Political Science, Penn State**

- Graduate Studies Committee (2023 – 24)
- Advisory Committee (2022 – 23)

### **Department of Asian Studies, Penn State**

- Graduate Studies Committee (2022 – 23)

### **Disciplinary**

- Reviewer: *Communication & Society*, *Journal of Public Diplomacy* (2), *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *CONfines Revista de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales*
- Panel Organizer: APSA Conference 2023
- Volunteer Staff: ISA Conference 2023

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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International Studies Association (2021 – Present)  
Midwest Political Science Association (2021 – 2022)  
Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (2021 – 2022)  
American Political Science Association (2019 – Present)

## REFERENCES

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References available upon request

Last updated on May 14, 2024