

MAI TRUONG
Curriculum Vitae
Marquette University
Department of Political Science
1250 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Dec. 2026 – Feb. 2027: **Visiting Fellow**
KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
- 2023 - **Assistant Professor, Marquette University**
Department of Political Science
- 2022 - 2023 **Assistant Professor, Mount St. Mary's University**
Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Arizona - Political Science (2017 – 2022)
- M.A. University of Sussex - International Development Studies (2013 – 2014)
- B.A. Hanoi University of Science and Technology (2005 – 2010)

RESEARCH FOCUS

Social movements, protests, collective action, civil society, state-society relations, propaganda, and public opinion/behavior in non-democratic regimes; Experimental design, mixed-methods research, and field research; Vietnam, Malaysia, and China.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2026 Runner-up, William L. Holland Prize for Best Article published in 2025, *Pacific Affairs*
- 2026 Way Klingler Early Career Award, *Marquette University*
- 2023 Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Fellowship
- 2020 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, *Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series*
- 2013 Chevening Scholarship Award, *UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office*

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

[11] **Truong, Mai**, and Zhihang Ruan. 2026. "Protecting the Center Until It Doesn't: When Blame Shifting Strategies Are Nullified in Authoritarian Regimes." *Democratization*: 1-25.

[10] **Truong, Mai**, and Bao Nguyen. 2026. "Reaching the Margins Through the Centre: Navigating State Gateways in Authoritarian Fieldwork." *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 49(1).

[9] Minh Tran, Bao Nguyen, Thuong Phan, and **Mai Truong**. Forthcoming. "State Investment, Non-State Investment, or Foreign Direct Investment: Which Drives Multidimensional Poverty Reduction in Vietnam?" *Southeast Asian Journal of Economics*.

[8] **Truong, Mai**. 2025. "Perceived Protest Efficacy: How Economic and Diplomatic Ties with China Influence Support for Anti-China Protests over South China Sea Disputes." *Pacific Affairs* 98(3): 475-526.

- *Runner-up, William L. Holland Prize for Best Article published in 2025*

[7] **Truong, Mai**. 2025. "Integrating Digital and On-Site Fieldwork: Practical Solutions for Scholars with Limited On-Site Access." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 58(4): 670-677.

[6] Trinh, Minh and **Mai Truong**. 2025. "A Warning from Above: How Authoritarian Anti-Protest Propaganda Works." *World Politics* 77(2): 338-381.

- *Awarded the Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series in 2020 (AOPSSS)*

[5] **Truong, Mai**. 2025. "Who Dominates the Coalition? Frame Salience and Public Support for Policy-Democracy Protest Coalitions under Authoritarian Rule." *Government and Opposition* 60(3): 599-621.

[4] **Truong, Mai**. 2024. "The "Ironic Impact" of Prodemocracy Activists: How Prodemocratic Frames Undermine Support for Local Policy-Based Protests in Authoritarian Regimes." *Comparative Political Studies* 57(7): 1107-1138.

[3] **Truong, Mai**. 2024. "Declining Opportunities for Speaking Out: The Impact of the New Leadership on Grassroots Collective Action in Vietnam." *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* 9(1): 50-68

[2] **Truong, Mai**, and Paul Schuler. 2021. "The Salience of the Northern and Southern Identity in Vietnam." *Asian Politics and Policy* 13(1): 18-36.

[1] Schuler, Paul. and **Mai Truong**. 2020. "Connected Countryside: The Inhibiting Effect of Social Media on Rural Social Movements." *Comparative Politics* 52(4): 647-669.

Invited to Revise and Resubmit Articles

[1] **Truong, Mai**, and Aliye Nur Kelesoglu. “What Comes After Democratic Transition? Collective Identity Renegotiation in Pro-Democracy Movements: The Case of Malaysia’s Bersih Movement.”

[2] Nguyen, Bao, Dung Dang, and **Mai Truong**. “The Politics of Well-Being: How Social Capital Operates in Different Regime Types.”

Articles Under Review

[1] **Truong, Mai**. “The Politics of Blame Attribution: How Policy-Democracy Protest Movement Coalitions Emerge in Authoritarian Regimes.”

[2] **Truong, Mai**. “Balancing Visibility and Safety: Pro-Democracy Activists’ Strategies under Closing Political Environments in Autocracies”

[3] Nguyen, Quynh, Eitan Paul, Paul Schuler, Markus Taussig and **Mai Truong**. “Pillars of the Community: Are Rank-and-File Communist Party Members Community Minded?”

[4] **Mai Truong** and Bao Nguyen. “Surviving Closing Civic Space: Adaptive Strategies of Civil Society Organizations in Authoritarian Regimes - Evidence from Vietnam.”

[5] **Truong, Mai**, and Ngoc Phan. “Choosing the Party or the Market? FDI and Youth Recruitment in Communist Party Regimes: Evidence from Vietnam.”

[6] Nguyen, Bao, Yoon Cheong Cho, and **Mai Truong**. “Teachers as Street-Level Bureaucrats: Navigating Discretionary Decision-Making Amid Policy Uncertainty.”

Projects in Progress

Book in Progress

Truong, Mai. *The Politics of Blame Attribution: Coalition Formation Between Policy and Pro-Democracy Movements in Authoritarian Asia*.

Articles in Progress

[1] **Truong, Mai**. “Engineered Distrust: How Single-Party Regimes Fragment Pro-Democracy Movements – Evidence from Vietnam.” *Working paper*.

[2] **Truong, Mai**, and Duong Pham. “Public Support for LGBTQ+ in Single-Party Regimes.” *Data analysis*.

[3] Nguyen, Quynh Anh, Minh Trinh, and **Mai Truong**. “The effects of personalist propaganda on support for authoritarian leaders and regimes.” *Survey design*

[4] **Truong, Mai** and Dean Dulay. “How Past Conflicts Affect Public Opinions Toward Contemporary Conflicts – Evidence from South China Sea Disputes.” Survey design

[5] **Truong, Mai** and Duy Trinh. “How air pollution affects collective action.” Survey design

[6] **Truong, Mai** and Zhihang Ruan. “Legal Entitlement to Land and Rural Resistance Strategies: Evidence from Vietnam.” Data analysis

Book chapters/Book reviews

[3] **Truong, Mai**. 2023. Review of *The Advantage of Disadvantage: Costly Protest and Political Representation for Marginalized Groups* by LaGina Gause. The Forum.

[2] Schuler, Paul, **Mai Truong**, and Chris Weber. 2023. “Ideology in Vietnam: Evidence from Asian Barometer Survey Data.” *How Asians View Democratic Legitimacy*, 384-393

[1] Schuler, Paul, and **Mai Truong**. “Vietnam in 2019: A Return to Familiar Patterns” *Southeast Asian Affairs*. 2020 (1), 392-410.

Publications in the popular press

[14] Duong Thi Thuy Pham, **Truong, Mai**. “Vietnam’s Bureaucratic ‘Revolution’: Rationales and Challenges.” *The Diplomat*. January 29, 2025.

[13] **Truong, Mai**. “Why Vietnam Mourns: Understanding the National Grief for Nguyen Phu Trong.” *The Diplomat*. August 6, 2024.

[12] **Truong, Mai**. “Locked in Paralysis: Vietnam’s Anti-Corruption Campaign and Tightened Public Sphere.” 9DASHLINE. July 30, 2024.

[11] **Truong, Mai**. “Giữ được sự trong sạch.” *BBC Vietnamese*. July 20, 2024

[10] **Truong, Mai**. “With Landmark Corruption Trial, Vietnam's Communist Party Flexes Its Muscles.” *The Diplomat*. March 6, 2024.

[9] **Truong, Mai**. “Why Vietnam’s Escalating Anti-Corruption Campaign Might Backfire.” *The Diplomat*. February 26, 2024.

[8] **Truong, Mai**. “Why LGBT Rights Trump Environmentalism in Vietnam.” *The Diplomat*. October 27, 2022.

[7] **Truong, Mai**. “How Trump and the 2020 U.S. Election Are Helping Authoritarians’ Domestic Causes.” *The Diplomat*. December 17, 2020.

[6] **Truong, Mai**. “Explaining Public Trust in Vietnam.” *Asia Times*. October 07, 2020.

[5] **Truong, Mai.** “Dong Tam Land Movement: Does Social Media Help the Government or Villagers?” *An interview with BBC*. September 11, 2020.

[4] **Truong, Mai.** “Vietnam’s Covid-19 Success Is a Double-Edged Sword for the Communist Party.” *The Diplomat*. August 06, 2020.

[3] **Truong, Mai.** “Revisiting the Role of Social Media in the Dong Tam Land Dispute in Vietnam.” *ISEAS Perspective*. June 10, 2020. No.60.

[2] **Truong, Mai.** “Vietnam’s Communist Party Finds a Silver Lining in COVID-19.” *The Diplomat*. March 28, 2020.

[1] Schuler, Paul, and Mai Truong. “Leadership Reshuffle and the Future of Vietnam’s Collective Leadership?” *ISEAS Perspective*. February 22, 2019. No. 9.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Marquette’s Faculty Development Award (\$600)

Marquette’s Center for Peacemaking Faculty Research Mini-Grant, 2026 (\$700)

Marquette University Regular Research Grant, 2026 (\$6000)

Marquette University Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2026 (\$5500)

Marquette University Nguyen Excellence Fund, 2025 (\$3700)

Marquette University Nguyen Excellence Fund, 2024 (\$2600)

Marquette University Nguyen Excellence Fund, 2024 (\$6000)

Marquette University Regular Research Grant, 2024 (\$6000)

Marquette University Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2024 (\$5500)

Mount St. Mary’s University Faculty Development Grant, 2023 (\$2600)

WiSEASS Collaborative Grants – Organizing an Online Writing Workshop for Southeast Asian Early Career Social Science Researchers Studying Southeast Asia, 2022 (\$1000, with Sin Yee Koh)

Metaketa V: Women’s Action Committees and Local services, 2019 (\$296,889, with Paul Schuler, Markus Taussig, Eitan Paul and Quynh Nguyen)

International Society of Political Psychology, 2020 (\$3000)

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 2019 (\$5000)

SEAREG travel funding, 2019 (\$500)

SBSRI Dissertation Research Grant, 2021-2022 (\$2000)

University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council Grant, 2020-2021 (\$1500)

School of Government and Public Policy Starns Fellowship, 2021 (\$2500)

Social and Behavioral Science Research Institute (SBSRI) Pre-Doctoral Grant 2019 (\$500)

University of Arizona Summer Fellowships, 2018-2019 (\$2700)

University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council Grant, 2018-2019 (\$1000)

University of Arizona Summer Fellowships, 2017-2018 (\$1900)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Truong, Mai (2025, December). *Choosing the Party or the Market? FDI and Youth Recruitment in Communist Party Regimes: Evidence from Vietnam*. Southeast Asian Research Group Winter Conference. San Diego, CA.

Truong, Mai (2025, September). *What Comes After Democratic Transition? Collective Identity Renegotiation in Pro-Democracy Movements: The Case of Malaysia's Bersih Movement*. The Association of Southeast Asian Studies. Cambridge, England.

Truong, Mai (2025, September). *Balancing Visibility and Safety: Pro-Democracy Activists' Strategies under Closing Political Environments in Autocracies*. American Political Science Association (APSA) (virtually).

Truong, Mai (2024, December). *Balancing International Visibility and Personal Safety: Pro-Democracy Adaptation Strategies in Closing Political Environments in Single-Party Regimes*. Southeast Asian Research Group. Duke, North Carolina.

Truong, Mai (2024, October). *Balancing International Visibility and Personal Safety: Pro-Democracy Adaptation Strategies in Closing Political Environments in Single-Party Regimes*. Workshop on Protest under Duress: Human Rights Activism and Democratic Backsliding in Asia. Quebec, Montreal.

Truong, Mai and Zhihang Ruan (2024, September). *How Autocrats' Blame Avoidance Strategies Backfire: The Cases of Vietnam and China*. American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Truong, Mai (2024, April). *What Affects Public Support for Anti-China Protests in Southeast Asia*. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois

Truong, Mai (2023, December). *Who Wants to Work with Pro-democracy Advocates? The Effects of Blame Attribution and Social Mass Base on Protest Coalition Formation in Authoritarian Regimes*. SEAREG Winter Conference, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

Truong, Mai (2023, November). *Who Wants to Work with Pro-democracy Advocates? The Effects of Blame Attribution and Social Mass Base on Protest Coalition Formation in Authoritarian Regimes*. The Milwaukee Area Political Science Seminar (MAPSS), Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Truong, Mai. (2023, September). *Who Wants to Work with Pro-democracy Advocates? The Effects of Blame Attribution and Social Mass Base on Protest Coalition Formation in Authoritarian Regimes*. American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, California.

Truong, Mai. (2022, September). *Who Do You Blame? Public Support for Movement Coalitions Under Authoritarian Rule*. American Political Science Association, Quebec, Montreal.

Truong, Mai. (2022, April). *Do They Support Our Cooperation? Frame Salience and Public Support for Policy-Prodemocracy Movement Coalitions Under Authoritarian Rule*. Western Political Science Association, Portland, Oregon.

Truong, Mai. (2022, March). *Declining Opportunities for Speaking Out: The Effects of The New Leadership on Grassroots Collective Actions in Vietnam*. V-Dem East Asia Regional Centre Online Workshop.

Truong, Mai. (2021, September). *Building Cross-Movement Coalitions in Authoritarian Regimes*. American Political Science Association. Declined due to personal reasons.

Truong, Mai. (2021, May). *Should We Work Together? Building Cross-Movements in Authoritarian Regimes*. Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series

Trinh, Minh, and **Mai Truong.** (2020, September). *A Warning from Above: How Authoritarian Anti-Protest Propaganda Works*. American Political Science Association. Presented online due to Covid-19.

Trinh, Minh, and **Mai Truong.** (2020, August). *A Warning from Above: How Authoritarian Anti-Protest Propaganda Works*. Junior Authoritarian Working Paper Series. Presented online.

Trinh, Minh, and **Mai Truong.** (2020, July). *A Warning from Above: How Authoritarian Anti-Protest Propaganda Works*. Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series.

Truong, Mai, and Paul Schuler. (2019, May). *Guilt by Association: How “Unrightful” Frames Undermine Public Support for Land Protests in Authoritarian Regimes*. Southeast Asian Research Group. Poster Presentation.

Truong, Mai, and Paul Schuler. (2019, April). *Guilt by Association: How “Unrightful” Frames Undermine Public Support for Land Protests in Authoritarian Regimes*. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Truong, Mai, and Paul Schuler. (2019, April). *Guilt by Association: How “Unrightful” Frames Undermine Public Support for Land Protests in Authoritarian Regimes*. Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA.

INVITED TALKS

“Atomized Targeting: How Single-Party Regimes Divide Opposition Groups.” McGill University, Montreal, 2025. (Cancelled for personal reasons)

“Vietnamese Politics: Economic Development, the Communist Party, and Civil Society,” Universiti Sains Malaysia, May 2024.

“ASEAN nations and the Sino-American Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific Region,” University School of Milwaukee, January 2024.

“Competitive Authoritarianism/Hybrid Regimes,” University of Arizona, 2019

“The Story of Poverty,” Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS INSTRUCTOR

The Politics of Dictatorship (Undergraduate)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate)
Political Analysis (Undergraduate)
China and East Asia (Undergraduate)
The Politics of Protest under Authoritarian Rule (Graduate)
Contemporary Political Research (Graduate)

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Consultant

The South China Sea Data Initiative Project (SCSDI) Project
Emory University
November 2020 – June 2021
December 2022 – January 2024

Research Assistant, 2014-2015

ITAD (Monitoring & Evaluation for International Development), in England
Project: Macro-Evaluations for DFID's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women and DFID's Policy Frame
for Empowerment and Accountability

Research trips

Vietnam: 2019, 2023, 2024, 2025
Malaysia: 2024

SERVICES

Profession

Southeast Asian Research Group (SEAREG)
Member of the Executive Council (leadership board): July 2026-
Travel Grant Committee: 2025

Conference panel organization

Organized a Vietnam-China politics panel, APSA, September 2024.

Manuscript Reviewer

American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics,
Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Asian Journal of Political Economy,
Democratization, New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies, Asian Politics & Policy, Humanities and
Social Sciences Communications.

University

Representative of the Carnegie Junior Fellows Program
Mentor for MU4Gold/Lovell Scholars

Department

Committees

Department Chair Advising Committee

Graduate Studies Committee

MAPSS Coordinator

Member of Search Committee for (Tenure-track) Public Policy Position 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oxfam Hongkong in Vietnam: Pro-poor Program Intern, 2010 – 2011

PATH US in Vietnam: Program Assistant, 2011

VietSurvey Research and Analysis: Project Officer, 2011 – 2013

GIZ (German Development Organization): Energy Support Program Officer, 2015 – 2017

SKILLS

Languages: Vietnamese (Native), English (Fluent), Bahasa Malay (Intermediate)

Computing: R, STATA, Qualtrics