

Duong Thi Thuy Pham

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ABOUT ME

I am a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of California, San Diego and a 2025-2026 Dissertation Fellow at UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). My research interests revolve around the puzzle of authoritarian survival and autocratization in the 21st century. I focus primarily on the politics of "meaning-making", especially how autocratic regimes deploy propaganda and information control tactics to win the hearts and minds of people, both at home and abroad. My current research agenda tackles an understudied angle of modern authoritarianism: autocrats' redefinition of "democracy" in ways that challenge the Western liberal model. Why do autocrats redefine democracy rather than completely rejecting it or overselling their democratic quality? How do they redefine democracy? Does redefining democracy helps autocrats stabilize their rule?

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego

San Diego, CA

Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts, Political Science

Sept. 2021 – now

- Dissertation Committee:

- * Dr. Christina J. Schneider (Professor, UCSD, Department of Political Science) - Co-Chair
- * Dr. Nico Ravanilla (Associate Professor, UCSD, School of Global Policy and Strategy) - Co-Chair
- * Dr. Stephan Haggard (Lawrence and Sallye Krause Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UCSD, School of Global Policy and Strategy) - Member
- * Dr. Margaret E. Roberts (Professor, UCSD, Department of Political Science) - Member
- * Dr. Edmund Malesky (Professor, Duke University, Department of Political Science) - Member

Peking University, Yenching Academy

Beijing, China

Master of Law, Politics and International Relations

September 2019 - July 2021

- The Yenching program is a prestigious fully funded master program in China studies inspired by Rhodes and Fulbright Scholarships with an extremely competitive acceptance rate of 2.7%.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Oita, Japan

Bachelor of Social Science, International Relations and Peace Studies

September 2019 - July 2021

RESEARCH

PhD Dissertation

- In Quest of the Collective Will: Why and How the Communist Party of Vietnam Redefines Democracy to Stabilize Its Regime

Working in Progress

- "Between Scrutiny and Restraint: How Vietnamese Newspapers Frame Corruption Scandals"
- "Sources of Public Support for the Digital Citizen Scoring System in Vietnam"
- "AI and Qualitative Research", with Stephan Haggard (UC San Diego) and Lydia Tiede (University of Houston)
- "ASEAN and the Challenge of Democratic Regression", with Stephan Haggard (UC San Diego).
- "Framing the LGBTQIA Movement: Effects on Public Support in Vietnam", with Mai Truong (Marquette University).

Policy and Public Scholarship

- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong.** 2026. "The Authoritarian Rebranding of Democracy." *IGCC Blog*. February 19.

- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong**, and Mai Truong. 2025. "Vietnam's Bureaucratic 'Revolution': Rationales and Challenges." *The Diplomat*. January 29.
- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong**, and Thuy Quynh Truong. 2023. "Unveiling the Engines Behind E-Government in Vietnam." *East Asia Forum*. April 15.
- Truong, Thuy Quynh, and **Thi Thuy Duong Pham**. 2021. "Bittersweet: Vietnam's Mixed Progress on E-Government During COVID-19." *The Diplomat*. July 16.
- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong**, and Thuy Quynh Truong. 2020. "In Vietnam, Many Are Mourning the Downfall of an American Idol." *The Diplomat*. November 12.
- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong**. 2020. "In Vietnam, an Ancient Town Struggles with a New COVID-19 Outbreak." *The Diplomat*. July 31.
- **Pham, Thi Thuy Duong**, and Dickson Agbaji. 2020. "China's Class of COVID-19." *The Diplomat*. July 7.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- **Dissertation Fellowship**, University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), US\$15,000
- **International Institute Travel Award**, University of California San Diego, US\$1,700
- **Pre-Dissertation Fellowship**, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG), US\$5,000
- **SEAREG Winter Conference Travel Grant**, US\$500 (2023)
- **SEAREG Winter Conference Travel Grant**, US\$700 (2022)
- **UC San Diego Department of Political Science, Teaching Assistant Excellence Award**, US\$200 (Academic Year 2024-2025)
- **Yenching Academy Fellowship**, Peking University — full tuition, stipend, and travel support (2019–2021)
- **Asian Future Leadership Program Research Grant**, Baixian Asia Institute, RMB 12,000
- **Yenching Academy Dean's Research Grant** (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- **100% Tuition Reduction Scholarship**, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- **Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately Financed International Students**, JASSO — JPY 40,000/month (2014–2015)
- **Certificate of Recognition for Contributions**, Consulate General of Vietnam in Fukuoka, Japan

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Teaching Assistantship Experience

- POLI11D Introduction to Comparative Politics, **leading discussion section**, with Dr. Karen Ferree (Department of Political Science, UCSD) - Fall 2022, Fall 2024, Winter 2026
- POLI11D Introduction to Comparative Politics, **leading discussion section**, with Dr. Scott Desposato (Department of Political Science, UCSD) - Winter 2025, Fall 2025
- POLI11D Introduction to Comparative Politics, **leading discussion section**, with Dr. Kaare Strom (Department of Political Science, UCSD) - Winter 2024
- POLI12D Introduction to International Relations, **leading discussion section**, with PhD Candidate Eric Thai (Department of Political Science, UCSD) - Spring 2026
- POLI12D Introduction to International Relations, **leading discussion section**, with Dr. Erik Gartzke (Department of Political Science, UCSD) - Spring 2024
- POLI176 Text as Data, with Dr. Margaret E. Roberts (Department of Political Science, UCSD)
- POLI121D Digital Politics, with Dr. Margaret E. Roberts (Department of Political Science, UCSD)
- POLI103A California Government and Politics, with Dr. Thad Kousser (Department of Political Science, UCSD)
- POLI160AA Introduction to Policy Analysis, with Dr. Matthew Bergman (Department of Political Science, UCSD)

- POLI142P Crisis Areas in World Politics, *with Dr. Graham Timmins (Department of Political Science, UCSD)*
- POLI122D Abuse of Power, *with Dr. Kaare Strom (Department of Political Science, UCSD)*
- POLI143 International Conflict: Cyber, Space, UAVs, *with Dr. Erik Gartzke (Department of Political Science, UCSD)*
- GPPS400 International Relations in Asia Pacific, *with Dr. Stephan Haggard (School of Global Policy and Strategy - UCSD)*
- The Rise of China and Change in World Politics, *with Dr. Xu Xin (Peking University)*
- China in Transition 4.0, *with Dr. Xu Xin (Peking University)*
- Women in Contemporary China, *with Dr. Li Yingtao (Peking University)*
- Critical Perspectives on Modern Sino-Foreign Relations, *with Dr. Chen Li (Peking University)*
- Introduction to International Relations (*Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University*)
- Study Skills and Academic Writing (*Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University*)
- Multicultural Cooperative Workshop (*Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University*)
- International Peace Studies and Global Enhancement Competency Program (*Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University*)
- Student evaluations available at duongtpham.com/teaching

Mentoring Experience

- Mentor, Research Apprenticeship Program (Department of Political Science, UCSD)
- Writing Center Tutor Leader (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)

Pedagogical Training

- Introduction to College Teaching, *Certificate of Completion (March 2022)*
- Advanced College Teaching, *Certificate of Completion (May 2025)*

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Authoritarian International Organizations

since 2023

Graduate Research Assistant

Department of Political Science, UC San Diego

- with Professor Christina J. Schneider, Professor Stephan Haggard, and Professor Christina Cottiero

South China Sea Data Initiative

June – July 2022

Graduate Research Assistant

School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

- with Professor Nico Ravanilla
- Collected and cleaned datasets on elite profiles in Southeast Asian countries using Apollo.io.

South China Sea Data Initiative

January – July 2020; January – March 2021

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Emory University and UC San Diego

- with Professor Renard Sexton (Emory University) and Professor Nico Ravanilla (UC San Diego)
- Geocoded conflict events in the South China Sea.
- Project website: scsdi.org

Youth and Interstate Reconciliation in East Asia

2017

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

- with Professor Heo Emilie Seunghoon
- Designed survey questions and conducted interviews.
- Conducted data analysis.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Pham, Thi Thuy Duong (September 2024). *Framing Corruption News under the Authoritarian Shadow: The Case of Vietnam*. **American Political Science Association**, Philadelphia, PA.
 - Haggard, Stephan, and Thi Thuy Duong Pham (September 2024). *ASEAN and the Challenge of Authoritarian Regression*. **American Political Science Association**, Philadelphia, PA.
 - Pham, Thi Thuy Duong (March 2026). *Redefining Democracy: How Rhetoric of Collective Will Legitimizes Authoritarian Rule in Vietnam*. **WPSA Conference**, San Diego, CA.
 - Pham, Thi Thuy Duong (December 2025). *Democracy, According to the Autocrat: How Collective Will Legitimizes Autocratic Rule in Vietnam*. **SEAREG Winter Conference**, La Jolla, CA. (poster presentation)
 - Pham, Thi Thuy Duong (December 2023). *Framing Corruption News under the Authoritarian Shadow: The Case of Vietnam*. **SEAREG Winter Conference**, Durham, NC. (poster presentation)
 - Pham, Thi Thuy Duong, and Thuy Quynh Truong (April 2021). *The Making of the “China Virus”: Liberal Sentimentalism in Public Opinion during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Outcomes for Global Governance*. **International Studies Association Annual Convention**. Online poster presentation.
 - Pham, Thi Thuy Duong (November 2017). *Southeast Asian States’ Hedging Strategy against China against the Backdrop of the South China Sea Dispute*. **15th Asia Pacific Conference**, Oita, Japan.

SKILLS

- **Computational:** R, Python, LaTeX, QGIS
- **Languages:** Vietnamese (Native), English (Fluent; IELTS 8.5), Japanese (Basic), Chinese (Basic)

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