

## **Seminar Report: Joint Seminar with Prof. Deyong Ma**

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Research Areas: Political Sociology, Comparative Politics, Public Opinion

### Basic Information

On 28 April 2025, Prof. Liang Tang from the Faculty of Political Science and Economics held an in-person joint seminar with a guest Prof. Deyong Ma from the School of Government, Shenzhen University in Room 809 of Building No. 3, Waseda Campus. Prof. Ma specializes in political psychology and political communication, and he has published papers on topics such as political ideologies, political attitudes, grassroots democratization, social capital, and authoritarian values, with a focus on China. Around 15 graduate students and researchers attended the joint seminar and participated in the discussion.

### Seminar Content

In the joint seminar, Prof. Ma delivered a talk titled “Political Theories and Political Psychology.” First, he introduced some important concepts and theories in psychology as well as some common research topics in social and political psychology, shedding light on their connections. Second, he discussed some definitions about authoritarian values and some models about their origin and development, including the evolutionary models. He also explained his own research which investigates the relationships between authoritarian values and some demographic variables in China. Third, he explained his own research which investigates public sentiments in China based on survey data. He showed how false consensus exists for netizens’ attitudes toward various issues, such as attitudes toward U.S.-China relations and Russia-Ukraine War. Lastly, he explained another research which compares public sentiments across five nations based on survey data. He showed how perception gaps exist for topics such as public image, state power, and diplomatic policies of China and the U.S. as well as realist and the liberal international values.

### Seminar Photos



### Q&A Session

Prof. Ma's talk was followed by a Q&A session, and Prof. Ma shared some general points about survey design and analysis he thinks researchers working with survey data should pay attention, based on his research experience, such as implementing online surveys in China. Similar to Prof. Deyong Ma, I am also researching in the field of political psychology and sociology, and I am also employing survey method and investigating public opinion toward topics such as family structures and gender roles. I benefitted from his talk in two ways. First, he reminded me of the importance of providing sufficient theoretical background in psychology for making empirical discussions in political psychology research, such as in the case of authoritarian personality. Understanding the psychological foundations of some Western theories themselves probably is an essential task before testing them to East Asian contexts. Second, he used his own works to demonstrate how to use survey data to analyze perception biases and gaps on diplomatic issues and measure ideological tendencies within and across societies, which is also important for research in other areas such as comparative politics and international relations.