RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
299Y/399Y PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2019-2020
SUMMER

Name and Title: Lynette Ong
Department: Political Science

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Collective Action Data Analysis

Number of 299Y Spots: 3
Number of 399Y Spots: 3

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:
The objectives of this project are two-fold: 1) to provide training to students in the collection of protest-event data from the media, cleaning of data as well as data analysis; 2) to prepare descriptive statistics in presentable formats and clean data that could be used in regression analysis in social movement studies. Media-sourced protest data is known for many inherent selection bias problems. Working under my supervision as well as that of a senior PhD student, students will be given hands-on opportunities to code, clean up and analyze data—all steps involved in quantitative data collection and analysis—that are helpful to their training in research methodology.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION:
Working under my supervision and that of a senior PhD student who has extensive experience dealing with quantitative data, the six students will be assigned the following duties, respectively:

1) Code the protest data by various variables: time, location, protest repertoire, state responses. This involves going back to the original articles that report the cases, double check when and where conflicts occur, read the reports and code them according to definition given by us for the dataset;
2) Retrieve exact locations of cases (by village for rural locations, and by city for urban locations) to map out the Geographical Information System (GIS) information for presentational purpose;
3) As the number of cases increase over time, we are automating the collection and coding processes using machine learning and computer programming;
4) Prepare descriptive statistics for the purpose of producing publishable journal articles.

*Ability to read and write Chinese-language is essential.

MARKING SCHEME (assignments with weight and due date):
a) Weekly reading and discussion sessions (assessed weekly in the 1st month): 25%. Students will be assigned relevant articles about coding and analyzing quantitative data. They will be assessed based on whether they have read the assigned readings and ability to engage in the discussions.
b) Weekly progress reports (2nd month—last month): 50%. Students have to submit a brief weekly report summarizing the tasks they have completed each week.

c) Final products (as assigned by supervisor; assessed in the final month): 25%