

Tingli Qu

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Education:

- Ph.D. Public Administration and Public Policy, American University, 2022 to May 2026 (expected)
 - Three Essays on Public Finance and Interlocal Collaboration
 - Chapter 1: Financial Reserves and Credit Ratings (done and published)
 - Chapter 2: Interlocal Collaboration and Government Budget (done and published)
 - Chapter 3: Natural Disasters and Collaboration (drafted and presented as JMP)
- M.A. School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University, 2019-2022
- B.A. School of Government, Sun Yat-Sen University, 2016-2019

Publications:

- **Qu, Tingli.** (2025). “Does Fiscal Slack Buffer Against Budgetary Shocks? Exploring the Heterogeneous Impacts of Unabsorbed and Absorbed Slack on Credit Ratings of Municipal Governments in the United States.” *Public Performance & Management Review*, 48(1), 198-228.
- **Qu, Tingli.** (2025). Interlocal service collaboration network and fiscal outcomes: Empirical evidence from Nebraska counties. *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 45(2), 84-107.
- Wang, Qiushi, Ruiying Li, and **Tingli Qu.** (forthcoming). “Transparency and Citizen Satisfaction: A Meta-Analysis and Future Research Agenda.” *Public Management Review*.

Under Review:

- “Partisan Service Motivation? Effects of Partisan Political Preferences on Reactions to Job Attributes in the Public Sector.” with Nathan Favero and Mogens Jin Pedersen. Under Revise & Resubmit at *International Public Management Journal*.
- “US Federal Budgets and Federal Employee Satisfaction.” with Carla Flink and Nathan Favero. Under Revise & Resubmit at *Public Budgeting & Finance*.
- “Fiscal Transparency, Corruption and Fiscal Performance — Empirical Evidence from Municipalities in China.” with Qiushi Wang and Ruiying Li. Under Revise & Resubmit at *Public Performance & Management Review*.

Working Papers:

- “Unpacking Interlocal Collaboration Through Spatial Interdependence: New Insights from U.S. Emergency Management.”
- “Does Interlocal Collaboration Help Governments Cope with the Financial Impact of Natural Disasters? Empirical Evidence from Iowa Counties.” with David Schwegman.
- “Property Tax Overrides and Municipal Credit Ratings: Evidence from Massachusetts.” with Gang Chen and Yuzhu Li.
- “US Federal Agency Spending Type and Federal Employee Satisfaction.” with Carla Flink.

Teaching Experience:

- Teaching assistant, 2022 Spring, PUAD 671-001& PUAD 671-002 Cost Benefit Analysis, for Professor Marquise McGraw, American University.
—*Assist students with questions related to course content; evaluate and grade homework assignments and exams.*
- Independent instructor, 2025 Fall, PUAD 260 Administrative Politics, American University.
—*Prepare and compile all course materials in support of class instruction; independently design, deliver, and assess this course, including setting up office hours to address student questions and grading all assignments and exams.*

Research Experience:

- Research Assistant, 2022 Fall: Kenneth Meier, American University.

—*Work on the literature review on Blame Avoidance.*

- Research Assistant, 2022 Fall and 2023 Spring: Carla Flink, American University.
—*Collect data on budget authority and employee satisfaction across U.S. federal agencies; assist with regression analyses and draft paper titled “US Federal Budgets and Federal Employee Satisfaction.”*
- Research Assistant, 2023 summer, 2024 summer, 2025 summer: David Schwegman, American University.
—*collect data on property tax treatment from Michigan Report; collect data on California wildfires, air quality indicators (e.g., PM2.5 concentration), and sale tax revenues of local governments, and then conduct preliminary analysis on these key variables of interest; collect data on interlocal collaboration on emergency management (18E Iowa ILAs) and draft paper titled “Does Interlocal Collaboration help governments cope with the financial impact of natural disasters? Empirical Evidence from Iowa Counties.”*
- Research Assistant, 2023 Fall, 2024 Spring, 2024 Fall, 2024 Spring: Nathan Favero, American University.
—*draft paper titled “Partisan Service Motivation? Effects of Partisan Political Preferences on Reactions to Job Attributes in the Public Sector.”; draft paper titled “US Federal Budgets and Federal Employee Satisfaction.”*

Areas of Research Interest:

Public finance

Fiscal performance

Fiscal transparency

Fiscal slack

Intergovernmental relationships

Interlocal collaboration

Teaching Interests:

Public budgeting and management

Intro to public administration

Cost-benefit analysis

Statistics

Selected Conference Presentations:

- “US Federal Budgets and Federal Employee Satisfaction.” with Carla Flink, Spring Public Finance conference, 2023, Maryland.
- “US Federal Budgets and Federal Employee Satisfaction.” with Nathan Favero, Public Management Research Conference (PMRC), 2023, Utrecht, Netherlands.
- “Fiscal Transparency, Corruption and Fiscal Performance — Empirical Evidence from Municipalities in China.”, with Qiushi Wang and Ruiying Li, Public Management Research Conference (PMRC), 2023, Utrecht, Netherlands.

- “A Meta-Analysis of the Effect of Transparency on Citizens’ Satisfaction with Government.” with Qiusi Wang and Ruiying Li, Public Management Research Conference (PMRC), 2023, Utrecht, Netherlands.
- “Buffering Government Performance against Budgetary Shocks: Fiscal Slack in municipal governments of United States.” Association for Budgeting & Financial Management (ABFM), 2023, Denver, US.
- “Interlocal Service Collaboration Network and Fiscal Outcomes: Empirical Evidence from Nebraska Counties.” Public Management Research Conference (PMRC), 2024, Seattle, US.
- “Interlocal Service Collaboration Network and Fiscal Outcomes: Empirical Evidence from Nebraska Counties.” Association for Budgeting & Financial Management (ABFM), 2024, Cleveland, US.

Awards and Honors:

- Levine Ph.D. Research Endowment Scholarship, \$7,500, American University, 2025.
- CAAPA Dissertation Fellowship, \$1,000, the China-American Association for Public Affairs, 2025.
- SPA Civic Dialogue Faculty Fellowship (*for teaching an SPA course*), \$4,000, American University, 2025.

Completed Graduate-Level Courses

Proseminar in Public Administration, Proseminar in Public Policy, Seminar in Public Management, Seminar in Organizational Theory, Seminar in Policy Implementation, Conduct of Inquiry I & II & III & IV, Economics for Policy Analysis, Doctoral Independent Study in Public Administration: Financial Management, Budgeting & Financial Management

Professional Memberships:

- Public Management Research Association.
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management.

Other Skills and Languages:

Skills: STATA, SPSS

Languages: Mandarin (Native), Cantonese (Native), English (Fluent)

Last Updated on September 4th, 2025

References:

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Jocelyn Johnston

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Carla Flink

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