

CV

Kai Zhang (张开)
Ph.D. Candidate @ PKU
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Education:

- 2018.9-2022.7. BA, School of Government, Peking University, Politics and Public Administration
- 2022.9- Ph.D. student, School of Government, Peking University, Political Theory
 - 2025.8-2026.8 Ph.D. Student Fellow, Rajawali Institute for Asia Fellowship, Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School

Areas of interest:

Political theory; history of Western political thought (particularly French political thought of the early 19th century); history of modern Chinese political thought (particularly from the late 19th century to the May Fourth Movement); comparative political thought.

Main research interests include state building, democratic theory, race, colonialism and imperialism, and the relationship between religion and politics.

Publications:

1. Demin Duan and Kai Zhang, “Colonial Expansion, Racism, and Democracy: Tocqueville’s ‘Another America’”, *CASS Journal of Political Science*, no. 6, 2023, pp. 161-174.
2. Demin Duan and Kai Zhang, “The Problem of 'Perpetual Republic' in Machiavelli's Thought”, *The Journal of Yunnan University Social Sciences Edition*, no. 3, 2023, pp. 76-86.
3. Kai Zhang and Demin Duan, “Disaster and Fortune from the Perspective of Political Realism: on Allison McQueen's Political Realism in Apocalyptic Times”, *Peking University Political Science Review*, vol. 14, 2023, pp. 253-263.

Conference Presentation:

1. “Political Virtues in Time: Machiavelli on ‘Perpetual Republic’”, December 9-10, 2023, Beijing, *2023 Forum of Political Thoughts | The Tradition of “Mirror for Princes” in the History of Chinese and Foreign Political Thoughts*, Peking University.
2. “The Frontier of Democracy: Tocqueville on the Problem of Race in America”, April 6, 2025, Yunnan, the Fourth “State+” Forum — *Academic Workshop on “Boundary/Frontier”*, co-hosted by the Center for Chinese Political Studies at Peking University and the School of Politics and Public Administration at Yunnan Minzu University.
3. “The Value of Authority in an Anti-Authoritarian Age: Tocqueville on Transcendent Belief and Modern Liberty”, June 21, 2025, Beijing, *The 14th Beijing Youth Forum of Political Science*, University of International Business and Economics.

Languages:

Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (proficient)

Honors:

1. Excellent Graduate of Beijing, 2022.
2. Excellent Graduate of Peking University, 2022.
3. The Third Prize of Peking University Scholarship in the academic year of 2022-2023, 2023.
4. Award for Scientific Research in the academic year of 2022-2023, 2023.