

# Xiaoyuan "Eric" Fan

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## EDUCATION

### Columbia University

*M.S., Computer Science and M.S., Journalism*

New York, NY

Expected May 2022

Coursework in *Analysis of Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence, User Interface Design, Reporting and Investigative Techniques*

### Emory University

*B.S., Statistics and Political Science*

Atlanta, GA

May 2020

**Honors & Awards:** Dean's List \ Phi Beta Kappa \ Pi Sigma Alpha

Coursework included *Statistical Modeling, Regression Analysis, Econometrics, Technical Writing*, and year-long *Advanced Investigative Reporting*, a partnership between top journalism programs in Georgia, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Georgia Public Broadcasting. Highlights include:

- Investigated poll changes in 7 Georgia counties by analyzing board minutes, precinct maps and election budgets.
- Tracked campaign finances, dug personal histories and conducted interviews to profile Georgia congressional candidates.
- Cleaned and aggregated data sets obtained through FOIA requests and provided data support for 12 other reporters.

## RESEARCH & PROJECTS

**COVID-19 FOIA Database Project at History Lab ([history-lab.org](https://history-lab.org))** *Python, Tesseract*

September 2020 – Present

Designing and building a database for thousands of government COVID-19 records obtained by journalists through FOIA requests. Analyzing emails extracted from PDF files using natural language processing and machine learning.

**Play-Pal ([ericfan24.github.io/PlayPal](https://ericfan24.github.io/PlayPal))** *HTML, CSS, Figma, Balsamiq*

September 2020 – October 2020

Storyboarded, prototyped, conducted user research and performed contextual inquiries for a sport-club-finding website.

**Gay Man Project** *Python, R, Stanford CoreNLP*

September 2019 – Present

Used computational linguistics to analyze a 400-story corpus and found statistically significant differences in biographical narratives before and after coming out. Currently working on a paper with Professor Roberto Franzosi at Emory University.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Dow Jones News Fund

Atlanta, GA

*Data Journalism Intern at Georgia News Lab and Georgia Public Broadcasting*

Summer 2020

Built a database of state-wide voter turnout across 5000+ precincts and four election cycles. Reported on and wrote about the 2020 Georgia primary as well as the county-level management of CARES Act funding. Highlights include:

- Cleaned and visualized (using R and Tableau) 500+ pages of government records, including voter demographics, polling location changes and absentee ballot applications, obtained through official databases and FOIA requests.
- Interviewed 15+ elected officials and local business owners who managed CARES Act funding or participated in the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Investigated the electoral effect of poll closures and published an interactive map informing voters of last-minute changes.
- Compiled and transcribed, in real-time, photos and interviews from field reporters into a live election blog on primary day.

### Council on Foreign Relations

New York, NY

*Research Intern for Asia Studies*

Summer 2019

- Performed bilingual research and drafted policy memos on issues including the Belt and Road Initiative, China's renewable energy policies, the Shanghai Free Trade Zone and the U.S.-China trade war.
- Published an analysis of the technological potential and political risks for Huawei and ZTE, on CFR's policy blog.
- Prepared briefings on the Chinese medical industry's market access and intellectual property issues.

### Emory Academic Support

Atlanta, GA

*EPASS Captain*

September 2018 – April 2019

- Held weekly tutoring sessions for QTM100 "Introduction to Statistical Inference", QTM110 "Introduction to Scientific Methods", POLS 208 "Research Design Methods" and POLS110 "Introduction to International Politics".
- Trained 15 new tutors and helped schedule appointments, enforce policies, and trouble-shoot payment procedures.

### Wesleyan Media Project

Atlanta, GA

*Research Assistant*

September 2018 – April 2019

- Worked with Dr. Zachary Peskowitz in a study of political advertising strategies on television and digital platforms.
- Coded video, audio, and textual data from television and the Facebook Ad Archive.

## **The Carter Center**

*China Program Intern*

**Atlanta, GA**

*Summer 2018*

- Performed bi-lingual research and prepared presentations on US-China cooperation and confrontation in Africa.
- Drafted briefing materials, compiled guest biographies, and provided other program support for a high-level US-China consultation forum held in Djibouti.
- Published an analysis of Donald Trump's meeting with Kim Jong-un, receiving 7k+ views.
- Prepared fundraising materials and created news summaries for program events.

## **Dentons**

*Criminal Defense Department Intern*

**Nanjing, China**

*July 2017 – August 2017*

- Performed legal research and prepared briefings on China's industrial regulations and judicial review policies.
- Organized case materials and archived 10+ litigations both online and in paper files.
- Filed expense reimbursement paperwork for 500+ items on behalf of the attorney.

## **LEADERSHIP & SERVICE**

### **Emory Journal of Asian Studies (ejasonline.org)**

*Co-Founder & Chief Editor*

**Atlanta, GA**

*June 2018 – June 2020*

- Founded the *Emory Journal of Asian Studies*, officially charted by the Emory Media Council in November 2018.
- Recruited a team of 30 editors, connected with 6 other universities, and successfully published two print issues.
- Coordinated venues & facilities, ran a weekly communication, and organized event logs and records.
- Managed the online presence of the Journal including the EJAS Facebook page, OrgSync, and ejasonline.org.

### **Emory University Political Science Student Advisory Council**

*Co-chair*

**Atlanta, GA**

*December 2018 – May 2020*

- Led a student-faculty initiative to reform the curriculum, connect with alumni, and publish a department newsletter.
- Coordinated sub-committees and organized bi-monthly council meetings for 25 members.

### **Emory East Asia Collective**

*Editor & Contributor*

**Atlanta, GA**

*September 2017 – September 2018*

- Co-founded an EAC writing team and contributed to interactive news updates on the organization's Facebook page.
- Published news articles about East Asian politics including President Trump's trip to Asia and US-China relations.

### **Alpha Squad Subtitle Group**

*English-Chinese Translator & Subtitle Producer*

**Nanjing, China**

*February 2016 – August 2017*

- Worked with a team of 30 to produce bilingual subtitles for 5 seasons of Last Week Tonight with John Oliver and other American TV shows, with the goal of making English-language discourse accessible to Chinese audience.
- Co-founded a sub-team to translate BBC documentaries such as "Inside Obama's White House."

## **PUBLISHED WORK**

Sadek, Nicole and **Eric Fan**. "Fulton County's Distribution of COVID-19 Relief Funds 'Unconscionable,' Local Mayor Says." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, August 3, 2020.

Fowler, Stephen, Nicole Sadek, **Eric Fan**, and David Armstrong. "Georgia Businesses Received \$14.5 Billion In Paycheck Protection Program Loans." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, July 10, 2020.

Fowler, Stephen, Ada Wood, Nicole Sadek, and **Eric Fan**. "At Least 8,000 Absentee Ballots In Georgia Rejected For Coming In Late." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, July 10, 2020.

Corley, Laura, David Armstrong, Nicole Sadek, and Ada Wood. Visualization by **Eric Fan**. "Metro Atlanta Mayors Slam 'Inequitable' Distribution Of COVID-19 Relief Money." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, July 1, 2020.

Fowler, Stephen, Grant Blankenship, Emily Jones, Laura Corley, Ada Wood, Nicole Sadek, **Eric Fan**, and Sofi Gratas. "Georgia Primary Live Updates: Some Polls Stay Open Later; Finger-Pointing Over Problems Begins." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, June 10, 2020.

Sadek, Nicole, Ada Wood, and Stephen Fowler. Visualization by **Eric Fan**. "More voters, fewer polls and virus risk to challenge primary voting in Georgia." *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, June 4, 2020.

Fowler, Stephen and **Eric Fan**. "Georgia's Mail-In Ballot Requests On Track To Surpass Total 2018 Primary Turnout." *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, May 6, 2020.

**Fan, Eric**. "Contentious Immigration Bill Divides Student Communities." *US-China Perception Monitor*, September 25, 2019.

**Fan, Eric**. "Huawei: Not Just Another ZTE." *Council on Foreign Relations*, July 30, 2019.

**Fan, Xiaoyuan**. "特金会：政治真人秀创造历史 [Trump-Kim Summit: Political Reality Show Makes History]." *US-China Perception Monitor*, June 16, 2018.

## SKILLS & ACTIVITIES

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**Technical:** Python \ R \ Java \ HTML \ CSS \ JavaScript \ SQL \ Tesseract \ Git \ LaTeX \ Tableau

**Language:** Native in Chinese (Mandarin)

**Membership:** Investigative Reporters and Editors \ Online News Association