

# Linggong Kong

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Updated November, 2025

## Education

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*Auburn University*

Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy & Public Administration

2026

Fields: International Relations and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: “Protestantism vs. Confucianism: Cultural Impacts on Democratic Performance”

*Auburn University*

Master of Public Administration & Master of Community Planning

2020

*Nanjing Audit University, China*

Bachelor of International Economy & Trade

2017

## Research Interests

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International Relations

- *U.S-China Relations*
- *China's Grand Strategy*
- *Northeast Asia Security*

Comparative Politics

- *Political Culture and Democratic Governance*

## Publications

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### *Peer-reviewed Journal Articles*

1. Kong, L. 2025. “Diminishing Partisanship: US Congress Rallies Around the Flag on China Policy.” *Politics & Policy* 53, no. 5: e70082. <https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.70082>
2. Kong, L. 2025. “A Study on the Formulation of the Biden Administration’s Semiconductor Policy Towards China Through the Lens of Multiple Streams Framework (MSF).” *Politics & Policy. (Accepted & Forthcoming)*
3. Kong, L. 2025. “Divide, Win Over, Co-opt: A Brief Analysis of China’s Current Europe Policy.” *European Foreign Affairs Review. (Invited to Revise and Resubmit)*
4. Kong, L. 2025. “Collaborations in Social Movements”: Case Studies from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany During the 1989 Revolutions” *SN Social Sciences. (Invited to Revise and Resubmit)*

### *Non-peer-reviewed Journal Articles*

- Kong, L. 2025. “Friends ‘Un-United’” *The Current Digest of the Russian Press*

## **Works in Progress**

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### ***Articles***

“When to Test Missiles: How International Relations Shape North Korea’s Ballistic Missile Launch Timing”. (*Under Review*)

“Trump’s Second Term and the Liberal International Order: An Integrative Theoretical Analysis” (*Under Review*)

“How Long on the Job? Explaining Variation in the Tenure of Military Chiefs of Staff Across the Globe” with Peter B. White and Salah, B. Hammou. (*In Progress*)

“A Study on the Impact of Nonprofit Organizations on Voter Turnout Across Generations of Asian Americans” with Xiaoyu Qin. (*In Progress*)

“Assessing Strategic Competitiveness: A Systematic Comparison of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the United States and China in Their Rivalry” (*In Progress*)

### ***Chapters***

Co-authoring (with Xiaoyu Qin and Xuan Wang) the “China” section in *Encyclopedia on Local and Regional Governments: A Global Approach*, edited by J. Edwin Benton and John Kincaid (Under Review & To be Published by Edward Elgar, 2025).

Co-authoring (with Xi Chen) a chapter, “The Role of Policy Reforms and Growing Socioeconomic Divides in External Migration from China,” in *Labor Migration and Poverty in a Turbulent Era: Perspectives from Developing Countries*, edited by Udaya Wagle (In Progress & Expected to be Published by March 2027).

## **Public Commentary & Articles**

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1. “How Elon Musk’s Deep Ties to and Admiration for China Could Complicate Trump’s Beijing Policy.” [The Conversation](#), February 24, 2025. Republished by [The Diplomat](#), [China Factor](#), [Atlantico](#), and [Asia Times](#).
2. “Trump’s Desire to ‘Un-unite’ Russia and China Is Unlikely to Work – In Fact, It Could Well Backfire.” [The Conversation](#), March 25, 2025. Republished by [Asia Times](#), [Atlantico](#), [DCReport](#), [Euromaidan Press \(EP\)](#), and [Macau Daily Times](#).
3. “In Trade War with the US, China Holds a Lot More Cards than Trump May Think – In Fact, It Might Have a Winning Hand.” [The Conversation](#), April 11, 2025. Republished by [Asia Times](#), [Homeland Security News Wire](#), [The Independent Uganda](#), [The New Daily](#), [The Quint](#), [CounterPunch](#), [InDaily South Australia](#), [Daily Camera](#), [SBS News](#), and so on.
4. “North Korean Spy Drama in China May Signal Beijing’s Unease Over Growing Pyongyang-Moscow Ties.” [The Conversation](#), May 7, 2025. Republished by [The Diplomat](#), [China Factor](#), [Newsweek](#) and [Asia Times](#).

5. “As Trade Talks Stall, Trump Tightens Pressure on China.” [\*The Diplomat\*](#), June 3, 2025.
6. “Trump–Xi Call Boosts Chinese President’s Tough Man Image — and May Have Handed Him the Upper Hand in Future Talks.” [\*The Conversation\*](#), June 10, 2025. Republished by [\*Famagusta Gazette\*](#).
7. “Beijing’s ‘Plausible Deniability’ on Arms Supply is Quickly Becoming Implausible – And Could Soon Extend to Iran.” [\*The Conversation\*](#), July 22, 2025. Republished by [\*Asian Times\*](#), [\*China Factor\*](#), [\*Europe News.Net\*](#), and [\*One World Outlook\*](#).
8. “Xi Running ‘The Art of War’ Circles Around Trump.” [\*Asia Times\*](#), September 8, 2025.
9. “Xi’s Show of Unity with Putin and Kim Could Complicate China’s Delicate Diplomatic Balance.” [\*The Conversation\*](#), September 15, 2025. Republished by [\*Asia Times\*](#) and [\*Forbes\*](#).
10. “China’s Moment: When Washington and Moscow Both Bow to Beijing.” [\*Asia Times\*](#), November 12, 2025. Republished by [\*Kritik Bakış\*](#) and [\*India Strategic Studies\*](#).

## **Conference Presentations**

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“Assessing Strategic Competitiveness: A Systematic Comparison of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the United States and China in Their Rivalry”. To be Presented at the *2026 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference*, Columbus, OH, March 2026.

“A Study on the Impact of Nonprofit Organizations on Voter Turnout Across Generations of Asian Americans” With Xiaoyu Qin. To be Presented at the *2026 97<sup>th</sup> South Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA, January, 2026.

“The Self-Sabotaged Liberal Order: American Retrenchment and the Rise of Global Disorder — An Integrative Theoretical Analysis”. Presented at the *2025 ISSS-IS Annual Conference*, Washington D.C., October 2025.

“Examining the Logic behind the Timing Decision in North Korea’s Missile Tests”. Presented at the *2025 6<sup>th</sup> Carolinas Conflict Consortium (CCC)*, Charleston, SC, April 2025.

“Divide, Win Over, Co-opt: A Brief Analysis of China’s Current Europe Policy”. Presented at the *2025 82<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL, April, 2025.

“Protestantism vs. Confucianism: Cultural Impacts on Democratic Performance”. Presented at the *2025 96<sup>th</sup> South Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2025.

“Divide, Win Over, Co-opt: A Brief Analysis of China’s Current Europe Policy”. Presented at *2024 ISSS-IS Annual Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2024.

“Examining the Logic behind the Timing Decision in North Korea’s Missile Tests” With

Julius A. Adinoyi and Jude C. Ugwuoke. Presented at the *2024 120<sup>th</sup> American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition*, Philadelphia, PA, September 2024.

“How Long on the Job? Explaining Variation in the Tenure of Military Chiefs of Staff Across the Globe” With Dr. Peter B. White. Presented at *2023 Biennial International Conference of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUS)*, Reston, VA, October 2023.

## **Media Interview**

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1. “[Elon Musk Could Serve as a Bargaining Chip in U.S.-China Relations](#)” *gdh digital (Turkey-based Media)*, March 1, 2025.
2. “[Going a Courting: China Woos Neighbors to Beat US Trade War](#)” *Global Post*, April 16, 2025
3. “[和2018年贸易战相比，中国掌握了更多主动权](#)” (*Compared to the trade war in 2018, China now holds greater leverage and strategic initiative*) *SBS News Chinese Channel (Australia-based Media)*, April 21, 2025.
4. Interviewed by *WNHN Radio Host Arnie Arnesen* on Her Podcast “[Attitude with Arnie Arnesen](#)”, April 22, 2025
5. “[India and Israel Lose Their US-backed Dominance in Asia](#)”, *The Cradle (Lebanon-based Media)*, August 4, 2025.

## **Teaching Experience**

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<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<b>Auburn University</b>
POLI 3450: International Security <i>Independently Lectured on U.S-China Rivalry</i>	Spring 2025
POLI 3120: Introduction to Comparative Politics	Spring 2025
POLI 1050: Global Politics & Issues <i>Independently Lectured on Democratic Peace Theory</i>	Spring 2025
POLI 3090: Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2024
POLI 3000: Political Science Research Methods	Fall 2024
POLI 8970: Comparative State & Local Policy <i>Guest Lecturer for POLI 1050: Global Politics &amp; Issues on U.S-China Relations</i>	Spring 2022
<i>Guest Lecturer for POLI 3120: Introduction to Comparative Politics on China</i>	Spring 2024
	Spring 2023

## **Peer-reviewed Journal Referee**

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*Asian Security; International Affairs*

## **Awards & Grants**

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2025 Fall Graduate Student Council Travel Fellowships \$400	<i>Auburn University</i>
2025 Fall Student Travel Fund \$750	<i>-Department of Political Science, Auburn University</i>
2025 Pi Sigma Alpha Epsilon Nu Chapter Most Outstanding Graduate Student	<i>Auburn University</i>
2025 Spring Graduate Student Council Travel Fellowships \$400	<i>Auburn University</i>
2024 Endowment Fund for Excellence in Public Administration \$750	<i>Auburn University</i>
2024 Fall Student Travel Fund \$750	<i>-Department of Political Science, Auburn University</i>
2023 Fall Student Travel Fund \$750	<i>-Department of Political Science, Auburn University</i>

#### **Academic & Professional Membership**

*The International Studies Association  
American Political Science Association  
Middle West Political Science Association  
South Political Science Association  
Pi Sigma Alpha (National Political Science Honor Society)*

## Skills

- Mandarin (Native)
  - Microsoft Office Software
  - SPSS
  - Stata
  - GIS
  - R

## **Certificate & Training**

- China's Certificate of Foreign Trade Accounting 2017- Present
  - CITI Human Subjects, Social & Behavioral Emphasis. International Research Certified 2022-2025
  - Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (ICPSR) June 2024

## References

Pëllumb Kelmendi, Associate Professor of Political Science, Auburn University

Peter White, Associate Professor of Political Science, Auburn University

[Paul Harris](#), Professor of Political Science, Auburn University

Kal Munis, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Auburn University