

Linggong Kong

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Education

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

International Relations

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

Comparative Politics

- *Political Culture and Democratic Governance*

Publications

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

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

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

- "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 97th 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 6th 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 82nd Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL, April, 2025.
- "Protestantism vs. Confucianism: Cultural Impacts on Democratic Performance". Presented at the *2025 96th 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 the *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 120th 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

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

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

Peer-reviewed Journal Referee

Asian Security; International Affairs

Awards & Grants

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