

ZHAO, WANGYIN

Al-Qasimi Building, Elvet Hill Rd, Durham DH1 3TU, United Kingdom

Email: Wangyin.zhao@durham.ac.uk Homepage: <https://wangyin18.github.io>

EDUCATION

Durham University, Durham, UK

Sep 2022 – Mar 2026

ESRC-Funded Ph.D. student in Politics

Thesis: Environmental Shocks and the Strategic Dynamics of Armed Conflict

Supervisors: [Dr. Anouk S. Rigterink](#) and [Prof. Patrick M Kuhn](#)

- Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (Sep 2022 – Sep 2023)
- Doctoral fellow at Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC), Princeton University (Sep – Dec 2025)

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, UK

Sep 2021 – Sep 2022

MSc International Relations (Research)

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC), Ningbo, China

Sep 2017 – Jun 2021

BA (Hons) International Studies

- With one year abroad at Brunel University London (2019 – 2020)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conflict Research; Politics of Natural Disasters; Causal Inference; Quantitative Methods; GIS;

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION

Zhao, W. (2025), "The Impact of Natural Disasters on the Ongoing Civil War: the Role of Spatial Configuration of Territorial Control", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Online first, available:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027251346912>.

WORKING PAPER

Buying Stability After Sudden and Negative Shocks: How Extractive Companies Dampen Post-Disaster Conflict

- Presented at NERD Workshop, 2025 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop, and 2025 EPSA Conference
- Under Review (*World Politics*)

Anticipation, Commitment Problems and Civil War Violence: Evidence from Normal vs. Flash Droughts (with Mahmoud Osman)

- Presented at Political Economy Graduate Workshop and ESOC lab meeting, Princeton University.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Logging Policy, Forest Cover, and Insurgent Violence in Afghanistan (with Christopher Blair)

- A district-panel level panel is prepared

Ephedra and Conflict in Afghanistan (with Christopher Blair)

- At the data collection stage

Rain, Terrain, and Insurgent Activity: Evidence from Operation Popeye and the Vietnam War

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UG Course: **Research Politics and International Relations** (TA), Durham University Oct 2023 – March 2025

Student evaluation 2024: 79.1% "Satisfied" or "Definitely satisfied"

Student evaluation 2025: 77.7% "Satisfied" or "Definitely satisfied"

UG Course: **Introduction to Comparative Politics** (TA), Durham University Oct 2024 – March 2025

Student evaluation 2025: 64.7% "Satisfied" or "Definitely satisfied"

Computer Lab: **Research Politics and International Relations** (TA), Durham

Jan 2026 – March 2026

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

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| European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Madrid | Jul, 2025 |
| Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference, Edinburgh | Sep, 2024 |
| European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Köln | Aug, 2024 |

Workshops and Internal Presentations

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| 2025 Political Economy Graduate Workshop, Princeton | Oct, 2025 |
| Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) Lab Meeting, Princeton (Online) | Feb, 2025 |
| 2025 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop, London | Feb, 2025 |
| Northeast Research Development (NERD) workshop at Durham and Newcastle | Nov, 2024 |
| 2024 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop, London | Mar, 2024 |
| Northeast Research Development (NERD) workshop at Durham and Newcastle | Nov, 2023 |

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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| Essex Summer School in Machine Learning for Social Scientists | Aug 2024 |
| PhD course on GIS and the Geography of Armed Conflict by NTNU and PRIO | Jun 2023 |
| Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods (Causal Inference) | Apr 2023 |
| ECPR Virtual Summer School in Panel Data Analysis | Jul 2022 |
| Essex Summer School in Introduction to Quantitative Methods in R | Jul 2020 |
| Essex Summer School in Introduction to GIS, Geospatial Data and Spatial Analysis | Jul 2020 |
| Peking University Summer School in Research on Quantitative History | Jul 2019 |

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIP

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| ESRC NINE Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship | 2022 – 2026 |
| ESRC NINE DTP Funding for Overseas Institutional Visits | Sep 2025 – Dec 2025 |
| ESRC NINE DTP Research Training Support Grant | 2023, 2024 |
| Durham University School of Government and International Affairs PGR funding | 2023, 24, 25 |
| Durham University Centre of Institution and Political Behaviour Research Funds | 2022, 23, 24 |
| Ustinov College Travel Awards (Durham University) | 2024, 25 |
| Presidents' Scholarship, UNNC | 2020 |
| Zhejiang Province Scholarship | 2020 |
| Zhejiang Exchange Scholarship | 2020 |
| Head Scholarship, UNNC 2018 | 2019 |

AWARDS

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| Top Student Award for BA (Hons) in International Studies, UNNC | 2021 |
| Zhejiang Provincial Excellent Graduates | 2021 |
| The Best Student of Year, UNNC | 2020 |
| Outstanding Student Leader, UNNC | 2020 |
| Silver Award (Brunel Volunteers Award) | 2020 |

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| The International Social Science Review Journal (by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd) | May 2022 – Nov 2022 |
| Managing Editor | |

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| Research Assistant | July 2022 – Nov 2022 |
| ESRC-Funded project – Nonviolent Repression and the Escalation of Conflicts over Self-Determination (NRECS) by Dr. Micha Germann from Bath University. | |

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| Research Assistant | July 2021 |
| Work on the research by Dr. Joy Spiliopoulos about the Filipino nurse migration and return migration; and immigration policies in destination countries namely UK and Southeast Asia | |

The Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies, UNNC
Research Intern for research projects of Cultural and Creative Industries

Jun 2020 – Jun 2021

JOURNAL REFEREE

Journal of Conflict Resolution (2025) and *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (2025)

SKILLS

Software: R, GIS (GeoDa, QGIS, ArcGIS), NVivo, LaTeX

Language: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)