

ZHAO, WANGYIN

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## **EDUCATION**

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### **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**

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

## **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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### **Conference Presentations**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 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 <b>Machine Learning for Social Scientists</b>                    | Aug 2024 |
| PhD course on <b>GIS and the Geography of Armed Conflict</b> by NTNU and PRIO           | Jun 2023 |
| Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods ( <b>Causal Inference</b> )           | Apr 2023 |
| ECPR Virtual Summer School in <b>Panel Data Analysis</b>                                | Jul 2022 |
| Essex Summer School in <b>Introduction to Quantitative Methods in R</b>                 | Jul 2020 |
| Essex Summer School in <b>Introduction to GIS, Geospatial Data and Spatial Analysis</b> | Jul 2020 |
| Peking University Summer School in Research on <b>Quantitative History</b>              | 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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| <b>The International Social Science Review Journal (by John Wiley &amp; Sons, Ltd)</b> | May 2022 – Nov 2022 |
| Managing Editor  |                     |

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|--|----------------------|
| <b>Research Assistant</b>  | July 2022 – Nov 2022 |
| ESRC-Funded project – Nonviolent Repression and the Escalation of Conflicts over Self-Determination (NRECS) by <a href="#">Dr. Micha Germann</a> from Bath University. |                      |

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|--|-----------|
| <b>Research Assistant</b>  | July 2021 |
| Work on the research by <a href="#">Dr. Joy Spiliopoulos</a> 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

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**JOURNAL REFEREE**

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

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**SKILLS**

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

Language: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)