

ZHAO, WANGYIN
Durham University
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EDUCATION

Durham University, Durham, UK Sep 2022 – Mar 2026 (expected)
ESRC-Funded Ph.D. student in Politics
Thesis: “Disaster for Whom”: The Conditional Impact of Natural Disasters on Civil Conflicts
Supervisors: [Prof. Patrick M Kuhn](#) and [Dr. Anouk S. Rigterink](#)

Durham University, Durham, UK Sep 2022 – Sep 2023
Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods
Key Modules: Computational Social Science, Systematic Review

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, UK Sep 2021 – Sep 2022
MSc International Relations (Research)
Key Modules: Applied Regression Analysis, Research Design for International Relations

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 during 2019 – 2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Civil War; Natural Disasters; Authoritarian propaganda; Quantitative Methods; GIS; Southeast Asia

Publication

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1. 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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1. When Natural Disasters hit Resource Extraction Sites: the Role of Third-Party Extractive Actors in Mitigating Post-Disaster Violence During Civil War
 - Presented at NERD Workshop, and 2025 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop
 2. Anticipated Power Shifts, Commitment, and Civil War Violence (, with Mahmoud Osman)

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

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1. The Impact of Natural Disasters on Democratic Imagination of Public in Authoritarian Regime (with David Liao and Yi-Nung Tsai)
 2. The Impact of Geopolitical Tension on Disaster Aid Distribution: the Case of South China Sea (with Jou Fei Huang)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

2025 Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) Lab Meeting, Princeton University (Online)	Feb, 2025
2025 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop, London	Feb, 2025
Northeast Research Development (NERD) workshop at Durham and Newcastle	Nov, 2024
2024 Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference, Edinburgh	Sep, 2024
2024 European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Köln	Aug, 2024
2024 UCL Conflict & Change Workshop, London	Mar, 2024

Northeast Research Development (NERD) workshop at Durham and Newcastle

Nov, 2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIP

ESRC NINE Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship (October 2022 – March 2026)
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 Internal Research Funds 2022, 23, 24
Ustinov College Travel Awards (Durham University) 2024
Presidents' Scholarship, UNNC 2020
Zhejiang Province Scholarship 2020
Zhejiang Exchange Scholarship 2020
Head Scholarship, UNNC 2018, 2019

AWARDS

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

TEACHING

UG Course: Research Politics and International Relations (TA), Durham University	2023 – 2025
Student evaluation 2024: 79.1% "Satisfied" or "Definitely satisfied"	
Student evaluation 2025 (pending)	
UG Course: Introduction to Comparative Politics (TA), Durham University	2024 – 2025
Student evaluation 2025 (pending)	

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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.

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 Jun 2020 – Jun 2021

Research Intern for research projects of Cultural and Creative Industries

SKILLS

- Software: R, GIS (GeoDa, QGIS), NVivo, LaTeX, GitHub
- Language: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)