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](https://sites.google.com/site/pmkuhndr/home) and [Dr. Anouk S. Rigterink](https://www.anoukrigterink.com/)

**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**

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**

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**

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 University2024 – 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](https://researchportal.bath.ac.uk/en/persons/micha-germann) from Bath University.

**Research Assistant** July 2021

Work on the research by [Dr. Joy Spiliopoulos](https://www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/Humanities-and-Social-Sciences/People/Profile.aspx?id=30847577-a47b-487a-bd99-fed9c7d6d42e&language=en-GB) 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)