Brian Leung

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Education

University of Washington   Seattle, WA

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science   2023–present

- Dissertation: *Business Lobbying, Bipartisan Convenience, and the Broken Engagement in U.S.–China Trade Relations from 2000 to 2024*
    - Winner of the APSA/NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
    - Winner of the Smith Richardson Foundation's World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship
- Fields: Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

University of Hong Kong   Hong Kong

B.Soc.Sc. (Politics & Public Admin.) & LL.B.   2017

Publications

Brian Leung, Yuan Hsiao & Kiran Garimella. 2022. "Decentralized yet Unifying: Digital Media and Solidarity in Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Movement." *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 2. ↗

Working papers

Emily Gade, Shahryar Minhas, Bree Bang Jensen, **Brian Leung** et al. "Re-imaging Data Collection: the Promise and Pitfalls of Using Non-state Actor Media for Large-scale Event Datasets." *Under review at the Journal of Peace Research.*

Brian Leung. "Firm Lobbying, Trade Rhetoric, and the Unraveling of the U.S.-China Free Trade Consensus."

- Winner of UW Political Science Department's Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- Conference presentation: IPES 2025; ISA 2025

Brian Leung. "Firm Response to U.S.-China Technological Competition: the Case of U.S. Semiconductor Industry."

Work in progress

Brian Leung. "Business Not as Usual: The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and the Politics of Rights-Based Trade Restrictions."

Brian Leung and Nicolas Wittstock. "Footloose Business, Anchored Politics: The Return of Geography in the Age of Geoeconomics." *In preparation for Oxford Intersections: Borders*

Brian Leung and Nicolas Wittstock. "How Campaign Finance Shapes the Legislative Rhetoric on Green Energy Transition in the U.S."

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research Grants

Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship ($10,000)	2025
APSA/NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ($12,940)	2024
UW Jackson School of Intl. Studies–China Program Graduate Research Grant ($3,000)	2023
UW Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant ($3,000)	2020

Fellowships

UW Richard B. Wesley Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy ($2,000)	2025
UW eScience Institute–Data Science for Social Good Fellowship (Summer stipend)	2023
UW Richard B. Wesley Graduate Fellowship in Comparative Politics ($2,000)	2020
UW Severyns Ravenholt Fellowship in Comparative Politics (1-quarter stipend)	2019, 24
UW Political Science Department Recruitment Fellowship (1-year stipend)	2017

Awards

Graduate Student Paper Award for Best Paper Presented at a Conference, UW Political Science	2025

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks & Workshops

Review of International Political Economy (RIPE) Editorial Team Workshop, ISA	2025
Consortium on American Political Economy (CAPE) Summer Academy, UC Berkeley	2024

Conferences

International Political Economy Society (IPES) Annual Meeting	2025
International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention	2025
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (Pre-conference)	2023, 24
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference	2021
Asian Political Methodology (Asian PolMeth) Meeting	2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

POLS 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics	SU 24

Teaching Assistant (Graduate-level Courses)

ICPSR Summer Program: Multivariate Statistical Methods: Advanced Topics	SU 21
ICPSR Summer Program: Causal Inference for the Social Sciences	SU 21
CSSS 569: Visualizing Data and Models	WI 20, 21, 23, 24
CSSS 510: Maximum Likelihood Methods for the Social Sciences	FA 19

Teaching Assistant (Undergraduate-level Courses)

CSSS 321: Data Science and Statistics for Social Sciences I	SP 21
POLS 270: Introduction to Political Economy	WI 19, FA 23
POLS 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics	FA 18, 22
POLS 335: Political Economy of Capitalism, Authoritarianism & Democracy	FA 20

Professional Positions

Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology (DSET)   Taiwan
Global Fellow   2025–present
  – Conduct research on Taiwan's semiconductor industry and U.S. foreign policy in a national-level think tank funded by National Science and Technology Council, Executive Yuan of Taiwan

Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)   Washington, DC
Board Chair (formerly Executive Director & Advisor)   2019–present
  – Testified before the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee; provided policy research and public advocacy to inform debates on U.S. laws (Pub. L. 116–76; 116–149)

Center for Social Science Computation and Research, UW   Seattle, WA
Statistical and Programming Consultant   2024–present
  – Offer statistical and computing consultancy and regular workshops to 10 social sciences departments

Other writings & engagement

Congressional Hearing
Hearing on "The End of One Country, Two Systems?: Implications of Beijing's National Security Law in Hong Kong." U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee. Jul. 1, 2020. ↗

Op-ed
"Hong Kong can be a gateway to liberal values for China." *The Economist.* Sep. 10, 2019. ↗

Think Tank Podcasts
"Hong Kong's Voices of Democracy." *Hong Kong on the Brink.* Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Sep. 23, 2019. ↗
"Joshua Wong and Brian Leung on Hong Kong's Pro-democracy Movement." *Asia Unbound.* Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Sep. 18, 2019. ↗

Selected Invited Talks
"One Country, New System? Reflections on Hong Kong's National Security Law." Princeton US-China Coalition, Princeton University. Jul. 16, 2020
"The Anti-Extradition Protests in Hong Kong: Voices from a Faceless Movement." Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University. Sep. 13, 2019
"The Sunflower and Umbrella Movements in Comparative Perspective." Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Mar. 17, 2018

Data & Visual display

Visual Display Tools
Hong Kong Democracy Council (2022): Hong Kong Political Prisoners Database, a public dataset accompanied by an interactive visualization app. ↗
  – Featured by *The Economist* ↗ and *FiveThirtyEight* ↗

Data Science for Social Good (2023) Project: An Interactive Visualization Tool to Explore Heat Pump Adoption in Alaska. ↗

CSSS 569 Visualizing Data, Section Materials: 9-week original slides and codes on Github, covering topics on visualizing model results, time series, spatial data, network data, and `Shiny` app. ↗

Skills & languages

Programming Languages: `R` (advanced), `Python` (intermediate)
Languages: Cantonese (native), Mandarin Chinese (proficient), English (proficient)