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### Education

**Ph.D., Political Science**, University of Wisconsin-Madison (expected June 2015)

Major field: International Relations

Minor field: Methodology

Dissertation title: *Buying Your Way to Periphery Influence: Patronage Politics at Great Powers' Peripheries*

Committee: Andrew Kydd (chair), Mark Copelovitch, Edward Friedman, Melanie Manion, Lisa Martin, Jon Pevehouse

Abstract: For countries coveting benefits from competing major powers, the literature provides conflicting advice. The balance of interests theory suggests that states should bandwagon; on the contrary, the strategic triangle thesis argues that staying neutral and playing one power against the other is most advantageous to third-party states. This dissertation project clarifies the contradiction by inquiring how major regional countries distribute patronage to compete with extraregional powers and maximize their regional influence. The interactions between major power patrons and lesser state clients are theorized as a parallel to political parties' promises of benefits to attract voters. The theory-building work is complemented with insights acquired through in-depth interviews of Chinese and Taiwanese foreign policy elites during fieldwork. A detailed tracing of China's aid to North Vietnam in three periods of time—1964-66, 1967-70, 1971-73—showed that Beijing's patronage distribution to Hanoi varied in accordance with the combined effect of China's power rivalries with the United States and the Soviet Union and its perception of North Vietnam's alignment predispositions. The findings highlight the importance of the context of power rivalries and further the argument that lesser states can only move to a neutral position and reap benefits when power rivalries are short of being zero-sum.

**M.A., Economics**, National Taiwan University, 2004

**M.A., Strategic Studies**, Australian National University, 2003 (*High Distinction*)

**B.A., Business Administration**, National Taiwan University, 1998

## **Publications**

["The Cross-Strait Diplomatic Truce in the Pacific Islands,"](#) *Thought Leaders*, Pacific Islands Society, October 27, 2014.

["How Should We Interpret China's Assertive Diplomacy?"](#) *Taipei Perspective* No. 115, Taipei Forum, January 8, 2014.

["Taiwan's 2012 Presidential Election, Evolving Sino-US Relations, and the Prospect of Taiwan's Security,"](#) *Ballots & Bullets*, University of Nottingham, December 2011.

"New Asia Pivot: Obama's Double Balancing Strategy," *United Daily News*, April 25, 2014, with Philip Yang.

## **Working Papers**

"Connotations of the Abandoning Taiwan Arguments: Rebalancing Taiwan's Foreign Policies to Washington" (with Nian-chong Chang Liao), article under review.

"Power Rivalries and Neighborhood Policies: Explaining China's Patronage Distribution along Its Periphery," article in progress.

"Nuclear Tiger with Paper Teeth: Putting China's Stagnant Nuclear Deterrent in International and Domestic Context" (with Dave Ohls), article in progress.

## **Conference and Academic Presentations**

"Buying Your Way to Peripheral Influence: Patronage Politics in Great Powers' Peripheries." Paper Presented at the IPSAS Lecture Series, Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. April 24, 2014.

"Buying Your Way to Periphery Influence." Paper Presented at the Workshop on Theories and Methods of International Relations, Institute of International Relations, National Cheng-chi University, Taipei, Taiwan. December 3, 2014.

"Power Relations and Neighborhood Policies: Revisiting China's Vietnam Policy, 1965-1972." Paper presented at the 8th Graduate Seminar on China, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. January 4-7, 2012.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor? Explaining Great Powers' Neighborhood Policies." Paper presented at the Wisconsin International Relations Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 3, 2011.

“Good Neighbor or Bad Neighbor? Explaining China’s Neighborhood Policies.” Paper presented at the 16th Annual Conference of North American Taiwan Studies Association, Berkeley, CA. June 18-20, 2010.

## **Teaching and Research Experience**

Teaching Assistant, “Problems in American Foreign Policy,” Professor Jon Pevehouse, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2009, and (online) Summer 2010 and 2011.

Teaching Assistant, “China in World Politics,” Professor Edward Friedman, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2007 and 2011.

Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to International Relations,” Professor Andrew Kydd (2007 and 2008), Professor Lisa Martin (2009), and Professor Jon Pevehouse (2010), Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2007, 2008, Spring 2009, and Fall 2010. Lead teaching assistant in fall 2008.

Research Assistant, Professor Aseema Sinha, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2006 and Summer 2007.

## **Professional Service**

Speech writer, Vincent Siew (former Vice President of Taiwan), “Strategic Implications for Taiwan’s Participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership,” delivered at the Brookings Institution, November 20, 2013; “The Outlook for Economic and Trade Cooperation between Taiwan and the United States,” delivered at the National Committee of American Foreign Policy, November 18, 2013.

Editor, the *Taiwan Security Research* website (<http://taiwansecurity.org>), 2004 to present.

Initiator and Coordinator, Wisconsin International Relations Colloquium (<http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/irc>), 2007-2009 (with Dave Ohls).

## **Honors and Awards**

Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica Predoctoral Fellowship, 2013-2014.  
China Times Cultural Foundation Young Scholar Award, 2013.  
Government Scholarship for Study Abroad, Ministry of Education, Taiwan, 2011-2013  
Dissertation Fellowships, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, 2011-2012.

Summer Initiative Award, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.  
Conference Travel Grant, TECO Chicago, 2010.  
Asian Studies Center Tuition Remission Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2006-2007.  
Fulbright Scholarship, 2005-2006.

## Research and Teaching Interests

International Conflicts and Cooperation, Asymmetric International Power Relations, Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy, Geopolitics, Chinese Foreign Policy, East Asian International Politics, Quantitative and Qualitative Research Design, Qualitative Research Methods, Quantitative (Statistical) Research Methods.

## Research Skills

Research languages: Mandarin Chinese, Fukienese, English  
Data Analysis Software: Stata, R, Atlas.ti

## References

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