

Ye Zhang

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Research Interests

Comparative Political Economy; State-Business Relations; Social Policy; Chinese Politics;
Corporate Political Activity; Non-Market Strategy; Organizational Behavior; Mixed Methods

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>PhD Candidate in Political Science. Fields: Political Economy and Political Methodology.</i> <i>Committee: Daniel Hidalgo (Chair), Ben Schneider, Lily Tsai, and Yuhua Wang (Harvard)</i>	2020 – Present
Columbia University <i>MA in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences</i>	2020
The Chinese University of Hong Kong <i>MSS in Government and Politics (Greater China)</i>	2015
The Education University of Hong Kong <i>Bachelor of Social Science Education in Greater China Studies</i>	2014

Publications & Working Papers

“Strong State, Weak Enforcement: Bureaucratic Forbearance of China’s Social Insurance Policies”
(With Hao Zhang). *Conditionally accepted at Political Science Research and Methods.*

“Political Control in the Workplace: How Autocrats Use Firms to Discipline Citizens”
(Job Market Paper)

“Patronage in Plagues: Government Intervention and Essential Business Selection in the
COVID-19 Lockdown” (With Zeren Li).

Ongoing Projects

“Measuring Political Alignment through Corporate Language”

“Feminization of State Power: Female Workers in Party Building”

Selected Grants & Awards

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship <i>Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation</i>	2025
APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant <i>American Political Science Association</i>	2023
World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship <i>The Smith Richardson Foundation</i>	2023

Political Methodology Research Grant	
<i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>	2021
Dean's List	
<i>The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>	2015
Honour Student List	
<i>The Education University of Hong Kong</i>	2014
Outstanding Performance Scholarship	
<i>Hong Kong Education Bureau</i>	2014
<i>Teaching & Pedagogical Training</i>	
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Quantitative Research Methods II – Causal Inference (Graduate), Teaching Assistant, MIT, Spring 2024 (Average Student Rating: 6.7/7.0)	
Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students, Co-Instructor, MIT, Fall 2024	
Pedagogical Training and Teaching Practices, Education University of Hong Kong, 2011-2014	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree with formal training in social science education and pedagogy • Certificate of Academic Remedial Service for Students with Special Educational Needs 	
<i>Conferences & Talks</i>	
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APSA (2024, 2025 scheduled), MPSA (2022, 2023), SPSA (2020, 2021)	
New Faces in Chinese Politics	2025 (scheduled)
Chinese Politics Research in Progress	2025 (scheduled)
Harvard Political Economy of Business and Government Conference	2025
UCSD Young Scholars Conference	2023
<i>Work Experience</i>	
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ChinaFile Research Fellow, Asia Society, New York (2020)	
Research Assistant, The Chinese University of Hong Kong & Oxfam Hong Kong (2016 – 2017)	
Research Journalist, The Initium Media, Hong Kong (2015 – 2016)	
<i>Service</i>	
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Coordinator, Harvard-MIT-BU Cambridge Chinese Politics Research Workshop (2023 – 2025)	
Co-President, MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council (2022 – 2023)	
<i>Skills</i>	
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Programming & Software: R, Python, Stata, L ^A T _E X, QGIS, Git	
Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese (fluent), English (fluent)	
<i>Last Updated: August 2025</i>	