

Kaiping Zhang

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RESEARCH FIELDS

Chinese politics, political communication, deliberative democracy, computational social science

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Political Science, **Tsinghua University** 2024-present
Director, Center for Data Governance
Faculty Associate, Lab of Computational Social Science and State Governance
Harvard-Yenching Visiting Scholar, **Harvard University** 2024-2025
Visiting Fellow by courtesy, Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation
Associate Professor (untenured), Department of Political Science, **Tsinghua University** 2021- 2024
Deputy Director, Center for Data Governance
Faculty Associate, Lab of Computational Social Science and State Governance
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, **Tsinghua University** 2018 – 2021
Senior Researcher, Center for Data Governance
Research Associate, Center for Deliberative Democracy, **Stanford University** 2017 - 2018

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Communication 2017
Dissertation: *Public Deliberation and Participation through a Comparative Lens: Attitudes, Behaviors, and Institutions*
Advisor: James Fishkin
Dissertation Chair: Xueguang Zhou
Dissertation Committee: Baogang He, Jon Krosnick, Jennifer Pan, Robert Luskin

Michigan State University

M.A. in Communication

2011

Tsinghua University *Magna Cum Laude*

B.A. in Journalism and Communication

2009

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Zhang, K.**, & Wang, B. (2025). When Health Meets Politics: Selective Gatekeeping of Health Experts in Chinese Media during COVID-19. *Social Science & Medicine*, 118916.
2. Zhao, Z., and **Zhang, K.**. (2025) “The Rule of Discourse: How Ideas and Institutions Influence China’s COVID policy.” *Journal of Contemporary China*, 1-21.
3. **Zhang, K.**, Zhao, J., and Meng, T. (2024). “Governing China in Digit: A Framework for Assessing the Digital Governance in 101 Chinese Municipalities.” *The China Review*, 24(3), 207-240.
4. **Zhang, K.**, He, B., & Wu, J. (2021). “Double Trouble? Effects Of Social Conflict and Foreign Investment on Consultative Authoritarianism in China.” *Contemporary Politics*, 27(4), 371-396.
5. **Zhang, K.** (2019). “Encountering Dissimilar Views in Deliberation: Political Knowledge, Attitude Strength, And Opinion Change.” *Political Psychology* 40(2), 315-333.
6. **Zhang, K.**, & Meng, T. (2018). “Political Elites in Deliberative Democracy: Beliefs and Behaviors Of Chinese Officials.” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 19(4), 643-662.
7. **Zhang, K.**, and Kizilcec R. F. (2014). “Anonymity in social media: Effects of content controversiality and social endorsement on sharing behavior.” Proceedings of the *Eighth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*.

PUBLICATIONS in Chinese

1. **Zhang, K.** and Wang, B*. (2026). “Digital Deliberative Democracy: New Forms of Representation, Participation, and Governance.” *Journal of Jiangxi Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 59(1), 63-70. 《数字协商民主：新型代表、参与和治理》，《江西师范大学学报》，第 59 卷第 1 期。
2. Zhao, Z., & **Zhang, K.**. (2026). “How Generative Artificial Intelligence is Bringing Paradigm Shifts to Communication Studies. *Southeast Academic Research*. 《生成式人工智能带来的传播学范式变革》，《东南学术》。
3. **Zhang, K.** (2025). “Experimental Methods with Generative AI in Political Communication Research”. *World Economy and Politics*. 《国际政治传播研究的人工智能实验方法》，《世界经济与政治》，2025 年第 1 期。
4. Wang, T., **Zhang, K.***, and Zhuang, M. (2025) “Can Platform-based Digital Participatory Budgeting Increase Citizen Engagement? Evidence from Big Data and Surveys.” *Public*

- Management Review*. 《数字平台中介的全过程公众参与：基于平台数据与调查数据的实证分析》，《公共管理评论》，2025年第1期。
5. Wang, B. and **Zhang, K.***. "Make Consultative Governance Work: Evidence from a National Survey in China." *Peking University Political Science Review*, 17, 157-176. (in Chinese) 《地方治理中的协商民主实证研究》，《北大政治学评论》，2024年第17辑。
 6. **Zhang, K.**, Wang, T., & Zhuang, M. "Embedded Empowerment of Digital Technologies in Urban Deliberative Governance: A Case Study of Participatory Budgeting in Chengdu." *Journal of Jiangxi Normal University*, 57(04), 54-65. (in Chinese) 《数字技术与城市协商治理的内嵌式互动——基于C市参与式预算的案例研究》，《江西师范大学评论》，2024年第4期。
 7. **Zhang, K.** (2023). Political Communication Research in The Digital Age: Paradigm Shift, Research Agenda, and New Methods. *CASS Journal of Political Science*. (in Chinese) 《数字时代政治传播研究：理论重构、议题革新与范式转向》，《政治学研究》，2023年第5期。
 8. **Zhang, K.**, Meng, T., & Huang Z. (2023) "The Rise of Soft Propaganda in China: Evidence from Big Data in 2009-2023." (2023). (in Chinese) 《软宣传的兴起、特征与效果：基于2009-2023年主流媒体与政务新媒体的大数据分析》，《新闻与传播研究》，2023年第12期。
 9. **Zhang, K.** & Meng, T. (2021). "Social Donations during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Social Capital, Political Trust and Media Choice." (in Chinese) 《公共卫生危机中的捐助行为：社会资本、政治信任与媒介选择》，《社会发展研究》，2021年第5期。
 10. **Zhang, K.**, & Tang, F. (2020). "Experimental Methods for the Study of American Politics." *The Chinese Journal of American Studies*. (in Chinese) 《实验方法及其在美国政治研究的应用》，《美国研究》，2020年第3期。
 11. Han, F., & **Zhang, K.** (2015). "Deliberative democracy in Chinese governance: Institutions, practices, and theoretical critiques." *Zhejiang Social Sciences* 10(2015): 48-61. (in Chinese) “社会治理的‘协商’领域与‘民主’机制——当下中国基层协商民主的制度特征、实践结构和理论批判”，《浙江社会科学》，2015年第10期。

Work in Progress

1. **Zhang, K.**, Liu, S. and Huang, Z. "Winning Hearts and Minds: Does Social Media Propaganda Increase the Affective Legitimacy?"
Best Paper Award, Political Communication Division, International Communication Association, 2023
2. **Zhang, K.**, Zheng, S., and Meng, T. "A Tale of Two Pandemics: Propaganda-induced Polarization in Elite Discourse of COVID-19 on Chinese Social Media."
3. **Zhang, K.**, Zhao, Z., Cao, J., & Meng, T. "The Geopolitics of Information Flow: A Cross-national, Cross-media, and Cross-platform Analysis."
4. Gao, S. and **Zhang, K.***. "Does Government Refutation of Misinformation Stop Online Collective Action? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in China."

5. Liu, Y., **Zhang, K.**, Zhu, M., & Wu, W. “The power of ‘big brothers’: Political Leaders and Regime Changes in Authoritarian States.”
6. Wang, T., Zhuang, M., **Zhang, K.**. “Does Digital Platform Increase Civic Participation in Budgeting: A Natural Experiment from Chengdu.” (in Chinese) 《数字平台能否增加公众参与：一项基于超大城市的自然实验》。
7. Zhong, W., Tan, H., Wang, B., & **Zhang, K.**. “Navigating the Tides: Understanding the Impact of Media Negativity in U.S.-China.”

GRANTS

National Social Science Fund, National Social science Foundation of China (NSSFC)	2025
Independent Research Grant for Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University	2023
The Spring Breeze Fund for the COVID-19 Research, Tsinghua University	2020
National Social Science Fund, National Social science Foundation of China (NSSFC)	2019
Dale G. Leathers Memorial Research Fund for Promotion of Communication in Emerging Democracies, National Communication Association	2016
Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) Global Policy Fellows Research Grant, Stanford University	2016
Center for East Asia Studies Summer Research Grant, Stanford University	2015

SELECTED HONORS

Top Paper Award, The Division of Political Communication, 73 rd Annual Conference of the International Communication Association	2023
Teaching Excellence Award for Junior Faculty Nomination, Tsinghua University	2023
Best Paper Award, The 40 th Annual Meeting of the Chinese Communication Association	2022
Excellence in Online Teaching Award, Tsinghua University	2021
Tang Zhongying Outstanding Junior Scholar, Tsinghua University	2019
Excellent Young Scholar (Overseas) Award, the Ministry of Education, China	2016
Stanford Center at Peking University Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Stanford University	2016
Larry Yung Dissertation Fellowship, Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI), Stanford University	2015–2017
Humanities & Social Sciences Graduate Student Fellowship, Stanford University	2011
Distinguished Graduate Award (top 10%), Tsinghua University	2009

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA)

2014, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)

	2012, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
Annual Conference of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)	
	2015, 2019, 2020, 2021
Annual Convention of the National Communication Association (NCA)	
	2014, 2015
Deliberative Democracy Conference: Authoritarian Deliberation Revisit, Melbourne	2017
Annual Conference of Frontiers in Political Science Research, Tsinghua University	
	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

- University of Canberra, Center for Deliberative Democracy, 2026
- Chinese Communication University, School of Government and Public Affairs, 2025
- The 18th China-South Korea Forum, 2025
- Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Innovation and Governance, 2025
- Harvard-Yenching Institute, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University, 2024
- Boston University, Center for the Study of Asia, Pardee School of Global Studies, 2024
- Australian National University, Center on China in the World, 2024
- National University of Singapore, Department of Communication and New Media, 2024
- Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information
Asian Communication Research Center Workshop, 2024
- Peking University, National School of Development Political Economy Workshop, 2023
- Tsinghua University, Computational Social Science Workshop, 2023
- Tsinghua University, Junior Faculty Workshop, 2023
- Shenzhen University, School of Government, 2023
- Shenzhen University, School of Communication, 2023
- Beijing Foreign Language University, School of International Relations, 2023
- University of International Business and Economics, Department of Political Science, 2023
- Tsinghua University, School of Journalism and Communication, 2023
- Beijing Normal University, School of New Media, 2022
- China Agricultural University, School of Public Administration, 2022 (online)

UCSD China Workshop, 2022 (online)
Tsinghua University, School of Journalism and Communication, 2021
Renmin University of China, School of International Relations, 2021
Political Science Speaker Series, 2021 (online)
Tsinghua University, School of Public Administration, 2019
Shandong University, School of Government, 2018
Tsinghua University, School of Journalism and Communication, 2018

TEACHING

Lecturer , Department of Political Science, Tsinghua University	2019 to present
<i>Political Communication</i> (undergraduate level)	
<i>Movie and Politics</i> (undergraduate level)	
<i>Experimental Methods in Political Science</i> (graduate level)	
Teaching Assistant , Department of Communication, Stanford University	
Media Processes and Effects (COMM 108/208)	2015
Mass Media, Society, and Democracy (COMM 1A/211)	2015
Computers and Interfaces (COMM 169/269)	2014
Digital Media in Society (COMM 120W/220)	2014
The Dialogue of Democracy (COMM 137W/237)	2013
Media Technologies, People, and Society (COMM 1A/211)	2012, 2013

STUDENT ADVISORY

Ph.D. Students

Advisor: Yumi Lijima (completed, research fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs), Bingyan Wang (2020-), Tong Wang (2021- 2025, associate professor, Ningxia University), Zijing Zhao (2022-), Jing Zheng (2023-), Haoyi Tan (2024-)

Dissertation Committee Member: Zhongbin Huang (completed, assistant research fellow, Chinese Social Science Academy), Feng Tang (completed, lecturer, University of International Business and Economics), Yi Li (completed, assistant research fellow, Chinese Social Science Academy), Hui Yang (completed, Best Dissertation Award, Beijing, 2023), Jiangrui Liu (completed, lecturer, Chongqing University), Minxuan Huang (Renmin University, completed, postdoc fellow)

M.A. Students

Siyu Zhang (completed, Hulun Buir Government, Inner Mongolia), Billy Chia (completed, Singapore Navy)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

University Administrative Services

Vice Dean, School of Social Science, Tsinghua University	2026-
Deputy Department Chair, Political Science, Tsinghua University	2023-
Committee Member, Institutional Review Board, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University	2023-
Undergraduate Mentor, Xinya College, Tsinghua University	2023-
Faculty advisor of undergraduate students, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University	2019-2021
Freshmen Mentor, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University	2022-2023
Committee Member, Undergraduate Scholarship Review Board	2020 -

Academic and Professional Service

Reviewer

Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Politics, Environment Politics, Contemporary Politics, Journal of Social Computing, Social Media and Society, Political Psychology, New Media & Society, Mass Communication & Society, Asian Journal of Communication, Journalism, Urban Studies, Chinese Journal of Political Science, Journal of Chinese Governance, Chinese Journal of Communication

Conference Organization

Co-chair, “Digital Democracy: Exploring New Forms of Representation, Participation, and Governance” Summer School, Tsinghua University-Japan International University, Beijing & Nigata, Japan	2025
Co-chair, Division of Political Communication and Public Opinion, the 44 th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology	2021
Conference on “Frontiers in Political Research and Methods”, China	2021
Beijing Political Science Forum for Early-career Scholars	2018