

# BULELANI JILI

LinkedIn Profile

## SUMMMARY

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Dr. Bulelani Jili is an assistant professor at Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he is part of the African Studies Program and an affiliate of the Science, Technology, and International Affairs (STIA) Program. His research interests include Africa-China relations, cybersecurity, ICT development, African political economy, internet policy, Chinese business law, law and development, and privacy law.

He is also a visiting fellow at Yale Law School, a former fellow at the Atlantic Council, and a former cybersecurity fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard University. He also conducted research for the China, Law, and Development project at Oxford University. The European Research Council funds the 5-year interdisciplinary and multi-sited research project, which seeks to comprehend the underlying order of China's new globalism. He has also advised leading think tanks, governments, firms, and watchdogs such as the **American Bar Association, Open AI, the French government, Freedom House, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the US State Department, the United Nations**, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The Mail & Guardian named him one of the most influential young South Africans as a researcher of Africa-China relations. His writing has appeared in leading think tanks and journals around the world, including *African Affairs*, *Nature*, *Theory, Culture & Society*, *Mail & Guardian*, *Africa is a Country*, *The Elephant*, *South China Morning Post*, *African Centre for Strategic Studies*, *Político*, *Lanfare*, *Tech Policy Press*, *The Economist*, and *Financial Times*. He is also a regular panelist and speaker at international conferences, including those in South Africa, South Korea, India, Switzerland, and Australia.

He has received numerous prestigious awards, honors, and fellowships. This includes the Wenner-Gren dissertation fieldwork fellowship, Berkman Klein Fellowship, Meta Research PhD Fellowship, Google Public Policy Fellowship, Yenching Scholarship, Merit & Term-Time Research Fellowship, Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholarship Award, Oppenheimer Graduate Fellowship Fund, and Orrick Fellowship.

Dr. Jili was a committee member on the IEEE Standards Association's global initiative on AI systems ethics. At Harvard, he served on the board of directors and was a policy team member on the Harvard COVID-19 Taskforce Students vs. Pandemics initiative; a faculty representative, department representative, and funding committee member on the Graduate Student Council; a Graduate Student Council Executive Board member (a large representative for interdisciplinary programs); a contributing editor at the Society for Cultural Anthropology; a resident tutor at Eliot House (Harvard College); and a mentor in the Greener Scott Scholars Program.

Bulelani Jili earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He also earned an M.Phil. from Cambridge University (UK), where he studied as a Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholar. He received a Yenching Scholarship in 2016 to study at the Yenching Academy of Peking University (China), where he earned an M.A. in Economics. Studying with Prof. He Yafei, a former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Prof. Jiang Guo Hua, he studied Chinese global governance strategies and economic approaches. He took an A.B. with *honors* in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (College of Social Studies) from Wesleyan University (CT), where he was a Pfeiffer Scholar.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

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Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service  
*Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track)*

Washington, DC  
August 2025

**Yale Law School, Information Society Project**  
*Visiting Fellow*

**New Haven, CT**  
December 2021 – *Present*

## **AFFILIATIONS**

**Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, HLS**  
*Affiliate*

**Cambridge, MA**  
October 2024–*Present*

**Planetary Politics, New America**  
*Digital Futures Fellows*

**Washington, DC**  
March 2025–*Present*

**Sydney University, Centre for AI, Trust and Governance**  
*Affiliate Member*

**Sydney, Australia**  
March 2025–*Present*

**Digital Forensic Research Lab, The Atlantic Council**  
*Fellow*

**Washington, DC**  
January 2022 –*January 2025*

**China, Law, Development Project, Oxford University**  
*Research Associate*

**Oxford, UK**  
May 2020 – 2024

**Electronic Privacy Information Center**  
*Scholar-in-residence*

**Washington, DC**  
April 2022 – *October 2022*

## **EDUCATION**

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### **Harvard University**

**Cambridge, MA**  
*May 2025*

*Ph.D., African Studies* (passed with no corrections)

*M.A., Anthropology*

*Passed Ph. D. general examinations with Excellence* (highest honor awarded)

Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (2022)

Meta Research PhD Fellowship (2022)

Oppenheimer Graduate Fellowship Fund (2020, 2021, and 2022)

### **University of Cambridge, Magdalene College**

**Cambridge, UK**  
*October 2018*

*MPhil., African Studies (Subfield Politics)*

Standard Bank Chairman's Scholarship: Full-Ride Scholarship (Magdalene College, 2017)

### **Peking University, Yenching Academy**

**Beijing, China**  
*January 2018*

*M.A., Economics* (Completed the two year master's degree within a year)

Master's Thesis: 中国的创业教育:评价和改进 (*China's entrepreneurship education : evaluations and improvements*)

Yenching Scholarship: Full-Ride Scholarship (2016)

### **Wesleyan University**

**Middletown, CT**  
*May 2016*

*B.A., College of Social Studies (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics), with honors*

*Certificates* (multidisciplinary minors): *Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory & International Relations*

Honors Thesis: *We can scuttle or sail the seas*

Pfeiffer Scholarship: Full-Ride Scholarship (2012)

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## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Africa-China relations, ICT development, Cybersecurity; African Political Economy, Post-Colonial Thought, Internet Policy, AI Governance, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

**PUBLISHED WORK (\*denotes equal authorship) (°future publication)**

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*Book Projects*

“Wired Asymmetries: Chinese Surveillance and the Technopolitics of Postcolonial African Governance” (Book manuscript in Progress)

*Peer Reviewed Articles*

**2023. Jili, Bulelani.** “A Technological Fix: The Adoption of Chinese Public Security Systems.” *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* (2022)

**2022. Skebba, Jacob, Ava Liu, Marco Germanao, and Bulelani Jili.** “Digital Surveillance Trends and Chinese Influence in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic Asia.” *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* (2022): 1-31.

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** “Africa: regulate surveillance technologies and personal data.” *Nature*. (2022): 445-448.

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** “Chinese ICT and Smart City Initiatives in Kenya.” *Asia Policy* 17.3 (2022): 40-50.

**2018. \* Guo, Li and Bulelani Jili.** “The emergence of guiding cases in China.” *Peking University Law Journal* 6.2 (2018): 273-281.

*Book Chapter*

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** “The Spread of Chinese Surveillance Tools in Africa: A Focus on Ethiopia and Kenya.” *Africa–Europe Cooperation and Digital Transformation*. Routledge 32-49.

*Book Reviews*

**2021. Jili Bulelani.** 2021. China, Africa, and the future of the internet, *African Affairs*, Oxford, UK. Retrieved from, <https://doi-org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/10.1093/afraf/adab011>

**2021. Jili, Bulelani.** 2021. Black Pain and Disentanglements, *Theory, Culture, and Society*, London UK. Retrieved from <https://www.theoryculturesociety.org/blog/review-achille-mbembe-out-of-the-dark-night?rq=mbembe>

*Research and Policy Briefs*

° **2025. Jili, Bulelani and Ester Tetrushvily.** “A Privacy Focused Regime May Not be The Right Approach for AI Regulation in the Global South.” *Carnegie Endowment for International peace*.

**2023. Jili, Bulelani.** “What is driving the adoption of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa.” *Atlantic Council Primer*, Washington, DC., May 2023. Retrieved from: <https://dfrlab.org/2023/05/15/africas-demand-for-and-adoption-of-chinese-surveillance-technology/#us-china>

- Cited in the Committee on Homeland Security, U.S. Congress
- Cited in the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, US Congress

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** “China’s surveillance ecosystem & the global spread of its tools.” *Atlantic Council Primer*, Washington, DC., October 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/chinese-surveillance-ecosystem-and-the-global-spread-of-its-tools/>

**2020. Jili, Bulelani.** “Chinese Surveillance tools in Africa.” *China, Law, and Development Project of Oxford University*, Oxford, UK. Retrieved from <https://cld.web.ox.ac.uk/file/678231>  
Featured in The Official Blog of Ambassador David H. Shinn, “Chinese surveillance tools in Africa,” August 2020.

Featured in: *IEEE ComSoc Technology Blog, Biometric Update, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Lawfare, Voice of America, Business Insider, Institute of China Studies, The China Global South Project, Institute for Global Governance Research, The Economist, Financial Times, Oxford’s Blavatnik School of Government, Amb. David H. Shinn Official Blog*

## **PUBLIC WRITING AND MEDIA COMMENTARY** (*future publication*)

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### *Selected Public Writing*

**2025. Jili, Bulelani.** Africanising Chinese Surveillance Technology, *East Asia Forum*, June 2025

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** The Rise of Chinese Surveillance Technology in Africa Series, *Electronic Privacy Information Center*

2022. The Use of Black Faces in Facial Recognition Systems, May 2022.

2022. The Push Factors of China’s Domestic Surveillance Market, June 2022.

2022. China’s Intelligence Law and Zhong Lun declaration, July 2022.

2022. Safe City Initiative in Kenya, August 2022.

2022. Personal Data Vulnerabilities in Africa, September 2022.

2022. Regulatory Responses to the Spread of Surveillance Tools in Africa, October 2022.

**2022. Jili, Bulelani.** The Specter of Hobbes and Other White Men in African Anthropology. Member Voices, *Fieldsights*, April 2022.

**2021. Jili, Bulelani.** Africa Reacts to Biden’s First 100 Days in Office. *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, May 2021.

**2020. Jili, Bulelani.** The Spread of Surveillance Technology in Africa Stirs Security Concerns, *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, December 2020.

**2020. Jili, Bulelani.** Locating African agency in Africa-China relations, *Africa is a Country*, April 2020.

**2019. Jili, Bulelani.** Tuning surveillance software with African faces, *Mail and Guardian*, July 2019.

*Selected News Media Appearances*

**2023. Leo Mirani.** “How India is using digital technology to project power.” *The Economist*, June 2023.

**2023. Ralph Jennings and Jevans Nyabiage.** “China steps up African economic, trade ties to compete with US’ ‘game changing’ moves.” *South China Morning Post*, March 2023

**2022. John Sakellariadis.** "Is CISA stretched thin on critical infrastructure?" *Politico*, October 2022.

**2022. Kenji Kawase and James Kynge.** "Human brain cells on a chip make AI breakthrough", *Financial Times*, January 2022.

**2022. Ayang Macdonald.** "Researcher cautions African govts against biometric surveillance without proper legislation", *Update Biometric*, July 2022.

**2021. Jessie Jiang.** “中国电信网络布局非洲 政治影响力不断扩大”, *Voice of America*, August 2021.

*TV & Podcast Appearances*

**2024. NatSec Tech.** “Technology in Africa”. *Special Competitive Studies Project*, March 2024.

**2024. Global China Hub.** “Governance and rights”. *Atlantic Council*, February 2024.

**2023. The Lawfare Podcast.** “Africa's Adoption of Surveillance Technologies”. *Lawfare Institute and The Brookings Institution*, June 2023.

**2023. The China in Africa Podcast.** “African Demand for Chinese Surveillance Technology”. *China Global South Project*, June 2023.

**2022. Defense & Aerospace Report.** “China’s surveillance ecosystem and the global spread of its tools”. *Defense & Aerospace Report*, October 2022.

**2021. Into Africa Podcast.** “Making Sense of Chinese Tech”., *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, Jan. 2021

**2019. The Beijing Hour.** “African Continental Free Trade Area”, *China Radio International*, July 2019

**2017. The Point.** “How does the ‘uniqueness’ of ‘Chinese model’ work in its economy?”, *China Global Television Network, CCTV International*, October 2017

**2017. BRICS 2017.** “Can BRICS stand the test of time?” *China Global Television Network, CCTV International*, September 2017 (South African Panel Expert)

## ACADEMIC HONORS, RESEARCH AWARDS, AND GRANTS

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**2025. Patrick Kelly Scholarship:** *Selected to participate in the Socrates Summer Seminars, Aspen Institute.* (7/2025)

**2024. Chinese Fairbank Center GSA Program:** Selected based on the quality of research and my readiness for professional development in preparation for the job market. (6/2024)

**2024. Chinese Fairbank Graduate Student Associate Research Stipend:** \$1000 grant that supports graduate student research on Greater China during summer break.

**2023. Google Public Policy Fellow:** \$7500 offered to individuals working on technology policy who will work with public interest organizations at the forefront of debates on tech policy issues. (4/2023)

**2024. International Strategy Forum Impact Grant:** \$3700 grant based on the quality of research and initiative to promote the consequences of Chinese surveillance tools. (7/2024)

**2024. Weatherhead Center Dissertation Writing Grant:** \$20415 is to release students from one semester of teaching in order to allow them to fully focus on writing their dissertation without the burden of teaching or other employment. (4/2024)

**2024. Hartley R. Rogers Graduate Student Dissertation Fellowship Fund:** was established by to support deserving graduate students affiliated with Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. (2/2024)

**2024. Samuel P. Huntington Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship:** to support graduate students in the social sciences who are in the process of writing their dissertations, or who are taking courses or conducting research that will lead to the culmination of their doctoral program. (2/2024)

**2023. Pacific Telecommunication Council Emerging Scholar Program:** the award recognizes exceptional, up-and-coming scholars in the field of information and communications technologies. (10/2023)

**2023. Graduate Student Fellowship, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society:** is a fellowship that recognizes academic achievement while offering a platform to engage further in publicly minded research. (8/2023)

**2023. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Research Grant:** is a research grants of up to \$3,000 for conference and short-term research travel or for other expenses related to dissertation research and professional development. (11/2023)

**2023. The Hague program on international cybersecurity, Leiden:** is fellowship that offers a scholar an opportunity to present several lectures on a chosen topic. (7/2023)

- 2023. International Strategy Forum Fellowship:** is an initiative of Eric Schmidt's futures program that bets early on the next generation of problem solvers with extraordinary potential in geopolitics, innovation, and public leadership. (7/2023)
- 2023. Brady-Johnson Fellowship, Yale:** \$36000 award is given to outstanding advanced doctoral candidates to Yale University for a year in residence at the International Security Studies at the Jackson School of Global Affairs. (4/2023) (*declines offer*)
- 2023. Graduate Student Associates Program, Weatherhead Center:** a highly selective award that offers \$3,000 for conference and short-term research travel or for other expenses related to dissertation research and professional development. I was also awarded office space and a critical community. (3/2023)
- 2022. Meta Research PhD Fellowship Award, Meta:** I am one of two inaugural fellows in the area of Technology Policy Research. I received an \$84000 research award designed to encourage promising young scholars who are engaged in innovative and relevant research in areas related to computer science, engineering, and technology policy. (2/2022)
- 2022. Wenner-Gren Foundation:** \$20000 award to conduct dissertation fieldwork. The award supports research that demonstrates a significant means to contribute to anthropological debates. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards for a young scholar in the field. (4/2022)
- 2022. New America National Fellowship (*finalist*):** \$15000 award that also comes with media support and opportunities to amplify the message of the work. (4/2022)
- 2022. The Law and Technology Centre of The University of Hong Kong:** *Visiting Fellow* (12/2022)
- 2022. Foresight Fellowship:** award that offers participants is a one-year program committed to giving change-makers the support to accelerate their bold ideas into the future. (11/2022)
- 2022. Africa Cyber Defense Fellowship:** The fellowship program offers an opportunity to conduct research across Africa in the areas of cyber defense and security. (10/2022)
- 2022. Electronic Privacy Information Center:** *Scholar-in-residence* \$12000 award given to a scholar in residence who will support academic research on cybersecurity risks and privacy. (6/2022)
- 2022. Harvard Law School, Institute for Global Law and Policy:** The Global Scholars Academy with the IGLP is an intensive residential experience designed to enable junior faculty and post-doctoral scholars to engage in sustained, interdisciplinary, peer-to-peer collaboration under the close mentorship of research faculty drawn from the world's top universities. (10/2022)
- 2022. Merit & Term-Time Research Fellowship, Harvard:** \$42363 award given to outstanding students of the highest caliber nominated by their academic department. (3/2022)

- 2022. Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard:** \$30 000 fellowship for travel and study in Kenya and Ethiopia during academic year 2022-2023. (4/2022) (*I declined this offer.*)
- 2022. Oppenheimer Graduate Fellowship Fund, Harvard:** \$54000 fellowship is awarded to graduate students whose research focuses on the study of aspects of sub-Saharan Africa. (2/2020; 2/2021; 2/2022)
- 2022. Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard:** is an award given to instructors who have exemplified excellence in teaching. I received a rating of 5/5 for my teaching. (Fall 2022; Spring 2022)
- 2021. Harvard Law School, Orrick Fellowship:** \$ 9623 research grant was awarded to conduct research on Africa-China relations. (11/2021)
- 2021. General Anthropology Division New Directions Award (American Anthropological Association):** The award was given to *Field Insights* (myself as a Contributing Editor) to recognize work that presents anthropological perspectives to publics beyond the academy. (11/2021)
- 2021. Alan Heimert and Arline Grimes Prize, Eliot House (Harvard College):** \$1000 award is given in recognition of extraordinary commitment to service and mentorship in the Eliot community. (11/ 2021)
- 2021. Pacific Forum Young Leaders Program:** selects the best and brightest young professionals and scholars devoted to Indo-Asia-Pacific affairs. The selection is a recognition of my expertise, demonstrated interest in international affairs. (12/2021)
- 2021. Merics Fellowship:** \$4700 MERICS is a leading European institution for policy oriented and innovative research on China. The fellowship is offered to emerging leaders in China from academia and think tanks. (7/2021)
- 2021. Mail and Guardian 200 Young South Africans 2021:** It is an award given by the Mail & Guardian to recognize the most influential 200 Young South Africans for the year. (6/2021)
- 2021. Cybersecurity Fellowship:** A fellowship with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School as a Non-Resident Fellow in the Cyber Project. (3/2021)
- 2020. Julian Bond Research Travel Fund:** \$5000 travel research grant is awarded to students who are committed to intellectual rigor, moreover, conducting work on transnational reform movements. (5/ 2020)
- 2020. GSAS Summer School Tuition Fellowship:** \$6680 predissertation research fellowship for Harvard doctoral students in the social sciences to engage in language study (Chinese) at the Harvard Summer School. (5/2020)



- 2020. Laura Bassi Scholarship:** The award provides editorial assistance to graduate students whose research focuses on neglected subjects of study. I received a partial fee waiver set at twenty-five percent. (4/2020)
- 2018. Duke Corporate Education Certificate:** Certificate was awarded after completing work and exercises on strategy and leadership, which aim to develop models of change in business and politics. (9/2018)
- 2018. Harvard University (HPAIR) Conference Scholarship:** For excellent academic achievement and performance. And so, selected as a scholarship recipient for the 2018 Harvard Conference. (2/2018)
- 2017. Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholarship Award:** \$62000 scholarship awarded to academically outstanding African students pursuing an MPhil program at Cambridge, Oxford, and the LSE who wish to enhance and contribute to the future growth of Africa. (6/2017)
- 2017. Top Crowdfunding Campaign Award:** Raised 20000 RMB (\$2915) for a Beijing NGO (Plan C) dedicated to promoting civic education across China. (6/2017)
- 2016. Senior Legacy Award** (nominee): The Senior Legacy Award is presented to a graduating senior who has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout their entire tenure at Wesleyan University. (4/2016)
- 2016. Butterfield Prize** (nominee): This prize is awarded to the graduating senior who has exemplified character, leadership, intellectual commitment and concern for the Wesleyan community. (4/2016)
- 2016. Yenching Scholarship** Is an elite interdisciplinary graduate leadership program at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, China. The highly selective program provides full scholarship to study towards a master's degree. The scholarship is awarded to individuals who exemplify leadership and academic excellence. (2/2016)
- 2015. Davenport Scholarship:** \$4000 awarded to students who demonstrate intellectual and moral excellence, and a great concern for public affairs. (4/2015)
- 2015. Bridge Builder Award:** Awarded to Middletown Potluck (my organization) for excellent work done in strengthening the community. (4/2012 and 4/2015)
- 2015. Wesleyan Memorial Prize** (nominee): Awarded to a member of the Junior Class outstanding in qualities of character, leadership, and scholarship. (4/2015)
- 2015. Center for the Humanities fellow:** The fellowship is offered to students whose Honors thesis research demonstrates a high level of intellectual rigor, creativity, and meets the centers set theme. (4/2015)

**2012. Pfeiffer Scholarship (Wesleyan):** \$250 000 scholarship granted to one student based on academic excellence and leadership achievement. (4/ 2012)

**2011. United States Achiever Program Scholar:** Awarded to the nation's best students based on academic, service, and leadership excellence. (8/ 2011)

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** (°denotes anticipated)

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° **2025. Jili, Bulelani.** *Future Pasts in Digitalization and Datafication Processes.* **Panel Presentation** at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2025

**2025. Jili, Bulelani.** *Reframing Digital Trade in Africa: Agency, Dependency, and the China Question.* **Presentation** at European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy, April 2025.

**2025. Jili, Bulelani.** *Between Dependency and Independence: African Agency Amid China's Expanding Digital Footprint in Africa.* **Presentation** at Georgetown University, Georgetown, DC, April 2025.

**2025. Jili, Bulelani.** *Face to Face with Justice: AI, Facial Recognition Technology, Law Enforcement, and Privacy.* **Panel Presentation** at University of Connecticut School of Law, Storrs, CT, April 2025

**2024. Jili, Bulelani.** *Kenya's Technological Fix.* **Presentation** at the STS Circle meeting at Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, November 2024.

**2024. Jili, Bulelani.** *Planetary Politics Initiative.* **Participant** at New America Symposium, Washington, DC, November 2024.

**2024. Jili, Bulelani.** *Emerging Technology Adoption in Africa.* **Panel Presentation** at Amplifying the Africa Voices for Strategic Action, Strathmore University and the International Relations of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, October 2024.

**2024. Jili, Bulelani.** *Digital Identity as DPI: Fostering trust, inclusion & adoption.* **Panel** at ID4Africa, Cape Town, SA, May 2024.

**2024. Jili, Bulelani.** *Leasing Out to Chinese Companies.* **Presentation** at Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas, Austin, May 2024.

**2023. Jili, Bulelani.** *Geopolitics of Technology.* **Presentation** at Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Carnegie Endowment for international Peace, New Delhi, December 2023.

**2023. Jili, Bulelani.** *The Strategic Implications of China's Digital Influence in Africa.* **Presentation** at Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Washington D.C., November 2023.

**2023. Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Belt and Road Initiative and its challenges to cybersecurity.* **Presentation** at Florida International University (FIU) and the Social Science Research Council, Miami, October 2023.

2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Digital Authoritarianism and Transnational Repression: Mapping Threats, Policy and Advocacy Responses.* **Presentation** at RightsCon, Costa Rica, June 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Mapping Our Global Digital Future: A Symposium on Examining Digital Harms & Pathways to Tech Governance.* **Presentation** at New America and Princeton University, Washington D.C., May 2023.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Path Forward for Digital Regulation Across Africa.* **Presentation** at US Statement Department, U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit (Science Track), Washington D.C., December 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Acting responsibly in cyberspace.* **Presentation** at UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Wilton Park, West Sussex UK, November 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *AI Surveillance tools in Kenya.* **Presentation** at AI Policy Summit, ETH Zurich Center for Law and Economics, Zurich, Switzerland, October 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *African Pull Factors of Chinese Surveillance tools.* **Presentation** at Offensive Cyber Proliferation – Asymmetric Security Working Group at Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Washington D.C., October 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Surveillance ecosystem and the global spread of its tools.* **Presentation** at Information Society Project, Yale Law School, New Haven, September 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Push and Pull factors of Chinese surveillance technologies.* **Presentation** at Embassy of the United States of America to Kenya, US State Department, Nairobi, June 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Freedom of Expression Scholars.* **Discussant** at the Information Society, Yale Law School, New Haven, May 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Push and Pull factors of Chinese surveillance tools in the Global South.* **Presentation** at Hack the Capitol conference, Crowell & Moring LLP, DC, May 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Understanding and countering China's tech-enhanced surveillance state: actionable insights for policymakers.* **Presentation** at MERICS and UK Government's Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, Berlin, April 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *New Methods in Political Theory: Beyond & Between Analytic and Critical Approaches.* **Discussant** at Association for Global Political Thought, Harvard University, Cambridge, April 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Digital Surveillance Products in Africa.* **Presentation** at the Information Society Project, Yale Law School, New Haven, March 2022.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Harvard African Studies Workshop.* **Co-Host** at Centre for African studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, US September 2021.

2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Human Rights Risks of Racial Recognition Technology.* **Panelist** at Center for strategic and International Studies, The Human Rights Initiative and Strategic Technologies Program, May 2021.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The proliferation of Chinese Surveillance technologies.* **Paper Presentation** at 2021 Law and Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 2021
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese surveillance tools in Africa.* **Presentation** at AI Now Institute, New York University, NY, US April 2021
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Policy strategies to combat surveillance technology in Africa.* **Paper Presentation** at Freedom House: Tanzania Waters Group, D.C., US March 2021
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Spread of Surveillance Technology in Africa.* **Paper Presentation** at Human Rights Watch Workshop, D.C., U.S., February 2021
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Our African Futures.* **Paper Presentation** at 2020 Standard Bank Chairman's Alumni Conference, South Africa, Johannesburg, December 2020
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Surveillance tools in Africa.* **Paper Presentation** at the 2020 Young China Watchers Conference, London, UK, November 2020
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Locating African Agency in Africa-China Relations.* **Paper presentation** at the 2020 China Africa Research Initiative Annual Conference at John Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA, October 2020
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Taking Stock of China's Security Strategy in Africa.* **Seminar presentation** at The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (a U.S. Department of Defense institution), August 2020
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Law, Education, and Justice Research Working Group.* **Research Presentation** at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S., January 2020
2019. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Social Credit initiatives and African Surveillance States?* **Paper presentation** at the "Anthropology of Science and Technology Group" at Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, November 2019
2019. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Social Scoring and African Surveillance States.* **Paper Presentation** at the "Coming Out of Crisis Conference" at Wits University with the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg, South Africa, May 2019
2019. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Chinese social Credit System.* **Paper Presentation** at the "Between Cyberutopia and Cyberphobia: The Humanities on the African continent in the Era of Machine Learning", Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg, South Africa, March 2019

2019. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese social scoring and the exporting of authoritarianism?* **Paper Presentation** at the “FUTUREID3: Automated Decision-making” at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, March 2019
2016. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Bridging China's Education Gap.* **Oral presentation** at the “Yenching Social Innovation Program”, Peking University, Beijing, China, December 2016.
2016. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Economic development and its global impact.* Oral presentation at the “Beijing Forum”, Beijing, China, November 2016.

#### **INVITED TALKS, LECTURES, WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS** (°denotes anticipated)

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- ° 2025. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Track II dialogues with China on AI policy/regulations/standards.* **Participant** at [OpenAI](#) workshop, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2025.
2025. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Great Marketplace: African Development in a Neoliberal World.* **Commentator** at the Harvard International & Global History Seminar, Cambridge, April 2025.
2025. **Jili, Bulelani.** *What Africa Wants: Conversation with Researchers.* Panelist at [AI Action Summit](#), The Paris Peace Forum, Paris, February 2025.
2025. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Legal Consequences of the Exportation of Chinese Surveillance and Governance Technologies in Africa.* **Presentation at** The Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, February 2025.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Seizing the Momentum: Opportunities and Roadblocks for Combating the Proliferation of Commercial Spyware - a Multistakeholder Action.* **Participation** at Paris Peace Forum 2024 Side Event, Paris, November 2024
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Tackling the Proliferation and Irresponsible use of Commercially available cyber intrusion capabilities.* **Consultation** at The Pall Mall Process with [United Kingdom and France](#) governments, London UK, September 2024.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Global digital connectivity.* **Workshop** at Special Competitive Studies Project, Arlington VA, September 2024.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese surveillance tools as a technical fix in Africa.* **Lecture** at Sydney Law School, Sydney, Australia, August 2024.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Global South, Geopolitics, and U.S, Europe, and China's Competition to Influence Global AI Regulation.* **Co-convenor** at Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School and Georgetown Law School, Cambridge, MA April 2024.
2024. *Africa-China Initiative: Demand, Disruption, and Transformation: African Agency in Digital Geopolitics.* **Research Working Group** at Georgetown University and Howard University, March 2024.

2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Digital Surveillance as a technological fix in Kenya.* **Workshop** at Leiden University, Hague, March 2024.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Rethinking Security in the Age of Star Wars.* **Workshop** at International Strategy Forum, Seoul, Korea, February 2024.
2024. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China in the Global South: Development and Influence in a Shifting Global Order.* Panel Talk at Atlantic Council, Washington, DC, February 2024.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Safe Cities and Technology Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.* **Brief** at [Embassy of the United States of America to Kenya](#), US State Department, Nairobi, November 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *AI Governance in the Global South.* **Webinar Presentation** at [OpenAI](#) San Francisco, CA, September 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Surveillance Ecosystem.* **Webinar Presentation** at [Meta Platforms](#), Inc., Menlo Park, CA, US. September 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** The Exportation of Chinese Surveillance Systems. Talk at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA. September 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Future Plenary.* **Panel** at Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA. September 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** The Spread of *Chinese Surveillance tools.* **Talk** at Information Technology and Innovation Foundation August 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Promoting responsible use of commercial cyber capabilities.* **Presentation** at [United Nations](#) Open-ended Working Group, July 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *What is driving the adoption of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa?* **Webinar** at China Global Hub, Washington D.C., June 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *AI, data protection, privacy, and surveillance.* **Panelist** at Lawyers Hub and Cambridge University, Nairobi, Kenya, June 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Adoption of Chinese Digital Surveillance Products in Africa.* **Lecture** at University of Hong Kong Law School, Hong Kong, March 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Rethinking Infrastructural Decision-Making in Difficult Circumstances: Contact Tracing and Beyond.* **Talk** at University College London and EPFL, Nairobi, Kenya June 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China's Surveillance Ecosystem & The Global Spread of Its Tools.* **Talk** at Democracy Office of [United States Agency for International Development](#), Nairobi, Kenya, May 2023.

2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Deep Dives: On dissent and surveillance in contemporary China.* **Panelist** at Network 20/20, New York, New York, May 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Privacy, Ethics, and Civil Rights in AI.* **Panelist** at Atlantic Council GeoTech Center and U.S. Department of State, Nairobi, Kenya, April 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *What is Inclusive Digital Trade: Designing A Better Digital Future.* **Workshop** at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC, April 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Africa Futures Symposium.* **Panelist** at Lauder Africa Futures Symposium at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 2023.
2023. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Proliferation of Public Security Systems.* **Talk** at **Institute for Global Policy and Law & Stellenbosch University**, Stellenbosch, SA, January 2023.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Offensive Cyber Proliferation from China.* **Talk** at the Global China Hub at Atlantic Council, DC, November 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Offensive Cyber Proliferation – Asymmetric Security Working Group.* **Workshop** at the Atlantic Council, DC, October 2022
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Surveillance tools in Africa.* **Lecture** at ETH Zurich Center for Law and Economics, Zurich, Switzerland, October 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Surveillance Technology and Global Human Rights.* **Webinar Moderator** at Electronic Privacy Information Center, Washington D.C., July 2022.  
(<https://epic.org/chinese-surveillance-technology-and-global-human-rights-webinar-recap/>)
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Cybersecurity threats in Africa.* **Speaker** at Meta Fellowship Summit, September 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Potential China-Africa Panel.* **Speaker** at Black China Caucus Association, September 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Meet the Pros.* **Speaker** at Black China Caucus Association, June 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Mass Surveillance and Human Rights.* **Speaker** at RightsCon 2022 with Access Now and Human Rights Watch, June 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Spread of Chinese Surveillance technologies in Africa.* **Speaker** at UK Government's Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, May 2022.
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Migration Technologies and Human Rights.* **Speaker** at Center for strategic and International Studies, The Human Rights Initiative and Strategic Technologies Program, May 2022.

2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *China and the Global South*. Panelist. **Speaker** at Atlantic Council's Global China Hub and Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN February 2022
2022. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Agreeing and Operationalizing International Norms*. **Speaker** at Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA January 2022.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese engagement in African tech sectors*. **Speaker** at American Bar Association, Asia Division, Rule of Law Initiative, D.C., January 2021.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese Surveillance in Africa*. **Speaker** at Mercator Institute for China studies, Berlin, December 2021.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** Susan Crawford, *Use of Technology Course*, **Speaker** at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA., March 2021.
2021. **Jili, Bulelani.** *The Spread of Surveillance Technology in Africa*. **Lecture** at Human Rights Watch Workshop, D.C., U.S., February 2021.
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** Amb. Nick Burns, *Great Power Competition Course*, **Speaker** at Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, October 2020.
2020. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Locating African Agency in Africa-China Relations*. **Lecture** at the 2020 China Africa Research Initiative Annual Conference at John Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA, October 2020.
2019. **Jili, Bulelani.** *Chinese social scoring and the exporting of authoritarianism?* **Lecture** at the "FUTUREID3: Automated Decision making" at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, March 2019

## TEACHING

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### *Graduate seminars*

Wired Asymmetries: Africa and the Politics of Digital Development, Fall 2025

### *Undergraduate course*

*Africa Rising? New African Economies, Cultures, and Their Global Implications*, Fall 2022

## STUDENT MENTORSHIP & ADVISING

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I have supported numerous students in selecting courses, concentrations (majors), thesis projects, academic life, fellowship programs, and career guidance.

*Harvard Undergraduate Students:* Joseph Alexander (A.B. candidate in Government); Larson Avery (A.B. candidate in Government); Annabel Baxter (A.B. candidate in Social Studies); Stephanie Lin (A.B. candidate in Applied Math) Jorge Ruiz (A.B. candidate in Economics); Charlie Steinbaum A.B. candidate in Economics); Zoya Surani (A.B. candidate in Education & Neuroscience); Garrett O'Brien (A.B. candidate in Social Studies); Aryan Morrison (A.B. candidate in Social Studies) Ebony Smith (A.B. candidate in African American Studies & Government); Heavenly Lee (A.B. candidate



African American Studies & History and Literature); Eura Choi (A.B. candidate Government, Economics, & Regional Studies–East Asia); Anne Lheem (A.B. Anthropology)

## **INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

Internal Affairs Committee, Harvard COVID-19 Taskforce Students vs Pandemics Initiative	2020
At-Large representative for Interdisciplinary programs, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University	2019-2021
Board Member, Radcliffe Institute Student Advisory Board, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University	2019–May 2020
Funding Committee Member, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University	2019–May 2020
Department Representative, Department of African and African American Studies, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University	2019–May 2020
Law, Education, and Justice Research Working Group Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University	2019–May 2020

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: ADVISORY, LEADERSHIP, & CONSULTATIVE POSITIONS**

Trust and Safety Foundation, Global Majority Research Committee	2025–Present
Advise, <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">UK &amp; French’s Pall Mall Process</span> on cyber intrusive tools	2024-2025
Advise, <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">USAID Bureau for Development, Democracy &amp; Innovation</span>	2023
Advise, <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">UK government’s National Cyber Strategy 2022</span>	2022
Georgetown’s Africa-China Initiative Research Working Group	2025
Fellow in Values Engagement, Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics	2023-2024
Digital Task Force, New America	2024
Member of the Bretton Woods Committee	2023
Advisory Board, The University of Cambridge Black Alumni Network	2023–Present
Global Academic Network Scholar, Center for AI and Digital Policy	2022–Present
Contributing Editor, Society for Cultural Anthropology (Member Voices)	2021–2024
Book Reviewer, Theory, Culture & Society	2021–2023

Member of Pacific Council on International Policy ( <i>by invitation</i> )	2022–2024
Member of Association for Global Political Thought, Harvard University ( <i>by invitation</i> )	2021–2025
The Black China Caucus ( <i>by invitation</i> )	2020–Present
Fellow, George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations	2022–Present
Strategy Fellow, Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance	2024-2025
Vice President, Standard Bank Africa Chairman’s Scholarship Network	2019-2020
Collaborative Research Network: Technology, Law and Society Association	2020–2023
Finley Award Committee, Eliot House at Harvard College	2020–2025
Graduate Student Council Executive Board (as at-Large representative for Interdisciplinary Program)	2020–2021
Faculty Representative for the African and African American department	2020–2023
The Bright Leaders directory ( <i>by nomination</i> )	2021

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES**

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Ambassador, African Scholars Program, Wesleyan University (CT)	<i>Present</i>
Member of Africa Special Interest Group at Harvard Club of New York	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Member of National Security Group at Harvard Club of New York	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Designing Technology for Social Impact, Cornell University	<i>Summer 2021</i>
Harvard Summer School, Chinese Language, Harvard University	<i>Summer 2020</i>
Alumni Interviewer, Wesleyan Admission Office, Wesleyan University (CT)	2016 – 2020
Mentor, Yale Young African Scholars Program, Yale University	2017 – 2020
Mentor, Green Scholar Program, Harvard University	2019 - 2021
Visiting Researcher, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research	2019
School of Foreign Languages, Chinese Language, Peking University	2016-2018

## **MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

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IEEE Standards Association: Global Initiative on Ethics of AI Systems (U.S.)
The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (US)

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (US)  
African Center for Technology Studies (Kenya)  
Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (South Africa)  
Scholarly Associations: American Anthropological Association (U.S.); Law and Society Association (U.S.); African Studies Association (ASA) (U.S.); International Studies Association (STAIR) (U.S.)

## **SKILLS**

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**Languages:** English (native), Zulu (native), Chinese (Conversant), Swahili (Basic)

**Data Analysis:** Proficiency in Stata, Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS and R

**Field research & travel:** China (2016, 2016, 2017) South Africa (2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024)  
Kenya (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), South Korea (2024) Australia (2024, 2025)

**Workshops and Facilitation:** Professional Communication Program (2019) Leadership Skills and People Management (2018), Media and Press Training (2017)

**Hobbies:** Rugby, Cricket, Poetry (19<sup>th</sup> century), and Cooking

*Revised March 2025*