

MA Ming

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Political Science, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2021
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Cai Yongshun, Dr. Liu Chunrong, Dr. Cole Alistair Mark, Dr. Cabestan Jean-Pierre, Dr. Kang Yi
Dissertation Title: The Institutionalization of Primary-level Party System in Rural China: Managing the Unintended Consequences of Grassroots Democracy
- M.A. Public Management, Sun Yat-sen University, 2018
- B.A. Public Management, China Agricultural University, 2016

APPOINTMENTS

- 2025.10 – Present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Zeppelin University, Department of Political & Social Science, ERC Funded Project "BiasAI"
- 2023.04 – 2025.10
Postdoctoral Fellow, Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Political Science, Otto-Suhr-Institute, Cluster of Excellence, SCRIPT
- 2021.09 – 2023.04
Senior Research Associate (remote), Hong Kong Baptist University, Department of Journalism

RESEARCH AREAS

Computational Social Science, AI Ethics and Governance; Political Communication

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2025 M. Ma and Y. Kang, "Consolidated Control and Dispersive Missions: The Multiple Institutional Logics behind Lenient Disciplinary Practices at the Local Level in China", *Journal of Contemporary China*, Accepted, (SSCI)
- 2025 M. Ma, Daniil Romanov, Genia Kostka and Alexander Libman, "Listening to an Authoritarian Neighbor: Russian Propaganda on Chinese Social Media after the Ukraine Invasion", *Political Research Quarterly*, Accepted, (SSCI)
- 2025 M. Ma, Han Feng and Wang Chuyao, "Panacea or Pandora's Box: Diverse Governance Strategies to Conspiracy Theories and their Consequences in China", *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-04350-1> (SSCI)
- 2025 M. Ma, Daniil Romanov, Genia Kostka and Alexander Libman, "Mirrors and Mosaics: Deciphering Bloc-Building Narratives in Chinese and Russian Mass Media", *Perspectives on Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592724002202> (SSCI)
- 2023 M. Ma and Y. Kang, "Weaving the Social Fabric: Party-Led Community Social Capital Building in Rural Guangdong", *China Review*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48740205> (SSCI)

- 2022 M. Ma and Y. Kang, “Conflict Management through Controlled Elections: ‘Harmonizing Interventions’ by Party Work Teams in Chinese Village Elections”, *China Perspectives*, <https://doi.org/10.4000/chinaperspectives.14214> (SSCI)
- 2022 M. Ma, Y. Y. Feng and Y. Kang, “Demanding Individuality in Cross-sector Collaboration: The Case of Social Enterprise in Hong Kong”, *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.8.3.375-398> (ESCI)
- 2020 M. Ma and W. J. Zhuang, “Rural under the Rural Revitalization Strategy – Analysis of village follow-up data based on the 2012–2016 China labor force dynamic survey”, *China Public Policy Review* (CSSCI, in Chinese)

Book Chapters

- 2020 Zheng, Y., Zheng, Z., Ma, M. and Zu, Z., “Improving Usability.” *E-Government and Information Technology Management: Concepts and Best Practices*, 43. Amazon.

Working Papers

- 2024 M. Ma, Genia Kostka and Alexander Libman, “Authoritarian Aligned Narratives and Public Opinion”, *In Preparation*
- 2025 “Collaborating Bureaucrats and Experts: An Institutional Logic Perspective on Large Language Model Applications in the Chinese Public Sector”, *Under Review*

Research Projects and Experiences

- 2023.03 – Present, Major Team Member
 “SCRIPTS: Reinterpreting the alternative script? War in Ukraine, state-sponsored narratives of block building in authoritarian countries and their public perception”, PIs: Prof. Alexander Libman and Prof. Genia Kostka, Free University Berlin.
 Short Blog: Reinterpreting the alternative script?, Ma Ming 2024
- 2021.09 – 2022.09, Sub-project Manager
 “Combating COVID-19 in Hong Kong”, PI: Dr. Celine Song, Hong Kong Baptist University
- 2020.12 – 2021.12, Principal Investigator
 “The Role of Social Work in Community Governance”, Shunde District Social Innovation Center
- 2017.01 – 2018.12, Team Member
 “Social Investigation of Public Attitudes Toward Social Welfare”, PI: Prof. Kinglun Ngok, Sun Yat-sen University
- 2016.07 – 2017.03, Project Manager Associate
 “Project Assessment of Agricultural Non-point Source Pollution Control”, PI: Dr. Li Fan, The World Bank

Grants

- 2024, Co-Investigator
 “Investigate the potential of AI in Climate Change”, 5601 €, Co-PI: Wang Chuyao (*LSE*), Han Feng (*LSE*), Li Jiaxun (*Harvard*)
- 2024, Principal Organizer
 “Sharpening Analytic Instruments of Narrative Contestation During Conflicts”, 5325 €, Workshop Funding
- 2023, PI
 “The Investigation of Collective Economy Development in Rural China”, 3100 €, Nanjing Municipal Government, China

2022, PI

“Institutional Logic and Development of Community Governance”, 6000 €, Shunde District Government, China

2021, PI

“The Study of Grassroots Party Organizations in Rural China”, 4700 €, Hong Kong Baptist University

PEER REVIEW EXPERIENCE

Perspectives on Politics; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; Administration & Society; International Journal for Equity in Health

Programming Skills

Tools: R: Advanced; Python: Advanced

Methodology:

Web scraping; Natural Language Processing;
Causal Inference (Econometrics); Data Visualization;
Large Language Models

Survey: Design and Conduct Online/Field Survey (Experiment)

Conference Presentations

2024 M. Ma, “Mirrors and Mosaics: Deciphering Bloc-Building Narratives in Chinese and Russian Mass Media”, *American Political Science Association 81st Annual Meeting*.

2023 M. Ma, “Mirrors and Mosaics: Deciphering Bloc-Building Narratives in Chinese and Russian Mass Media”, *American Political Science Association 81st Annual Meeting*.

2021 M. Ma, “‘Harmonizing Intervention’ by Party Work Team in Chinese Village Election”, *Midwest Political Science Association 79th Annual Meeting*.

2020 M. Ma, “Farewell to Patronage? The Primary Party Organization and a Neo-patronage System in Rural China”, *Midwest Political Science Association 78th Annual Meeting*.

Teaching and Mentoring

Teaching Assistant

POLS1005: Foundation of Political Science;
POLS2017: Foundation of International Relations

Guest Lecturer

Digital Control in China, Free University Berlin;
Authoritarian Resilience and Case of China, Free University Berlin;
Data Collection From Chinese Social Media, Free University Berlin

Co-Supervisor

2023: SCHÖNMEIER KATJA, Master Thesis (Student at Free University Berlin)

PhD Committee Member

2024: Zhang Hao, PhD Dissertation (Student at Free University Berlin);
2024: Chen Cheng, PhD Dissertation (Student at Free University Berlin)

Updated January 2026