

Nan Zhang

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POSITIONS

University of Mannheim

Professor (W3) of Political Science, Evidence-Based Political Research	2025 – Present
Interim Professor (W3) of Political Science, Evidence-Based Political Research	2023 – 2025

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)

Emmy-Noether Junior Research Group Leader	2021 – 2024
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Max-Planck-Institute for Research on Collective Goods

Senior Research Fellow	2016 – 2021
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European University Institute

Max Weber Post-Doctoral Fellow	2014 – 2016
Research Fellow, ERC Project “Willing to Pay?”	2013 – 2014

Stanford University

Instructor, Stanford Summer College	2013
Graduate Teaching Assistant	2009 – 2012

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Political Science	2014
J.D. Stanford Law School	2012

University of California, Berkeley

Double B.A. in Economics and Political Science	2006
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GRANTS & AWARDS

Diligentia Foundation for Empirical Research (Co-PI, €49.575)	2023
Best Article Prize Award, European Politics and Society Section, APSA	2020
German Research Foundation (DFG) Emmy Noether Programme (6 years, €1.286.406)	2020
Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, Princeton University (Co-PI, \$7.500)	2020
ESR Prize for Best Article of the Year (€500)	2020
Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences Grant, Princeton University (Co-PI, \$7.200)	2016
President’s Fund, European University Institute (€5.300)	2016
The Europe Center Graduate Student Grant, Stanford University (\$3.000)	2013
Global Underdevelopment Action Fund, Stanford University (\$25.000)	2011 – 2013
Graduate Research Opportunity Fund, Stanford University (\$5.000)	2012
Philo Sherman Bennett Prize in Political Science, U.C. Berkeley (\$1.000)	2006

PUBLICATIONS

Military Service and Immigrants’ Assimilation: Evidence from the Vietnam Draft Lotteries.
Conditionally accepted at the *American Political Science Review* (with M. Lee)

The Reliability of Replications: A Study in Computational Reproductions. *Royal Society Open Science* 12.3 (2025): 241038 (with N. Breznau, E. M. Rinke, A. Wuttke, and others)

Ethnic Diversity and Cooperation: Evidence from a Lost Letter Experiment. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 50.18 (2024): 4600-4620 (with A. Kommol)

Cultural Adaptation and Demographic Change: Evidence from Mexican-American Naming Patterns During the California Gold Rush. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 50.1 (2024): 132 - 148 (with M. Abascal)

From *Pluribus* to *Unum*: Statebuilding and the Imagined Community in 19th Century America. *American Political Science Review* 118.1 (2024): 127 - 143 (with M. Lee)

Norms of Prejudice: Political Identity and Polarization. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 379.1897 (2024): 20230030 (with A. Álvarez-Benjumea and F. Winter)

The Effects of Combating Corruption on Institutional Trust and Political Engagement: Evidence from Latin America. *Political Science Research and Methods* 12.3 (2024): 633 - 642 (with M. Poertner)

No Differential Effects of Classroom Composition for Native and Immigrant Adolescents: A Comment on Smith et al. 2016. *American Journal of Sociology* 129.2 (2023): 570–585 (with D. Kretschmer, J. Gereke and F. Winter)

Observing Many Researchers Using the Same Data and Hypothesis Reveals a Hidden Universe of Uncertainty. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119.44 (2022): e2203150119 (with N. Breznau, E. M. Rinke, A. Wuttke, H.H.G. Nguyen and others)

Demographic change and group boundaries in Germany: The effect of demographic decline on perceptions of who has a migration background. *Sociological Science* 9 (2022): 206-220 (with J. Gereke, J. Hellyer, S. Veit and 12 others)

Everyday Discrimination in Public Spaces: A Field Experiment in the Milan Metro. *European Sociological Review* 38.5 (2022): 679–693 (with J. Gereke and D. Baldassarri)

Literacy and State-Society Interactions in 19th Century France. *American Journal of Political Science* 64.4 (2020): 1001–1016 (with M. Lee)

* Winner of the 2020 Best Article Prize in the European Politics and Society Section of the American Political Science Association

Prosocial Behavior in Interethnic Encounters: Evidence from a Field Experiment with High- and Low-Status Immigrants. *European Sociological Review* 35.4 (2019): 582–597. (with A. Aidenberger, H. Rauhut and F. Winter)

* Winner of the 2020 ESR Prize for Best Article of the Year

Social Norm Enforcement in Ethnically Diverse Communities. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115.11 (2018): 2722-2727. (with F. Winter)

Institutions, Norms, and Accountability: A Corruption Experiment with Northern and Southern Italians. *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 5.1 (2018): 11–25.

Legibility and the Informational Foundations of State Capacity. *Journal of Politics* 79.1 (2017): 118–132. (with M. Lee)

Willing to Pay? An Experimental Analysis of Tax Compliance in Britain and Italy. *PLoS ONE* 11.2 (2016). (with G. Andrighetto, S. Ottone, F. Ponzano, and S. Steinmo)

Are Some Countries More Honest than Others? Evidence from a Tax Compliance Experiment in Sweden and Italy. *Frontiers in Psychology* 7 (2016): 472 (with G. Andrighetto, S. Ottone, F. Ponzano, J. D’Attoma and S. Steinmo)

Changing a ‘Culture’ of Corruption: Evidence from an Economic Experiment in Italy. *Rationality & Society* 27.4 (2015): 387-413.

Political Culture *The Oxford Companion to Comparative Politics* (2012) New York: Oxford University Press. (with D. Laitin)

WORK IN PROGRESS	Immigration, Ethnic Diversity, and the Future of the Scandinavian Welfare State: A field experiment in Greater Copenhagen. (with J. Gereke and M. Schaeffer)	
	Relational Trust towards Religious Muslims and Christians: Evidence from Germany. (with J. Hellyer, Y. Fadavi Asghari, and J. Gereke)	
	The Girl Next Door? Childhood Cross-Group Exposure and Ethnic Inter-Marriage (with L. Wendering and K. Ostermann)	
COURSES TAUGHT	BA Thesis Colloquium (Mannheim)	2024, 2025
	BA Tutorial: Methods in Comparative Politics (Mannheim)	2024, 2025
	BA Tutorial: Methods in International Relations (Mannheim)	2024, 2025
	BA Tutorial: Methods in Political Sociology (Mannheim)	2024, 2025
	MA Seminar: Applied Causal Inference (Mannheim)	2024
	Graduate Seminar: Strengthening the External Validity of Causal Designs (EITM Oslo)	2024
	BA Tutorial: Data Analysis (Mannheim)	2024
	The Politics of Ethnic Diversity (Mannheim)	2023
	Research Design (Mannheim)	2023
	Introduction to Causal Inference (Mannheim)	2023
	Field Experiments: A Practice-Based Seminar (Mannheim)	2023
	Ethnic Diversity and Social Cohesion (Mannheim)	2022
	Conducting a Field Experiment: A Hands-On Introduction (Mannheim)	2022
	Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences (GIGA, Hamburg)	2019
	Corruption, Conflict and Financial Crisis (Stanford)	2013
	Introduction to International Relations (Stanford)	2012
	Introduction to American Law (Stanford)	2010, 2011
	Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (Stanford)	2009
SUPERVISION	Doctoral Students	
	Alexandra Kommol	ongoing
	Leonard Wendering	ongoing
	MA Students	
	Okan Sarioglu	2024
	Elenia Karagianni	2024
SELECTED PRESENTATIONS 2015-PRESENT (* INVITED)	Uni Duisburg-Essen*	2025
	LSE*	2025
	Uni Hamburg*	2025
	Uni Konstanz, CPPE Seminar*	2024
	EPSA Annual Meeting	2024
	ETH Zürich*	2024
	Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications, Venice, Italy	2023
	Annual Conference of Experimental Sociology, Madrid, Spain	2023
	Wissenschafts Zentrum Berlin (WZB), IPI-TD Seminar*	2023
	Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany*	2023
	EPSA Annual Meeting, Glasgow, Scotland	2023

	Wissenschafts Zentrum Berlin (WZB), MAD Seminar*	2022
	University of Duisburg-Essen*	2022
	Annual Conference of Experimental Sociology, Utrecht, Netherlands	2022
	Collegio Carlo Alberto, Politics and Society Seminar, Turin, Italy*	2021
	Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications, Venice, Italy	2021
	Annual Conference of Experimental Sociology, Monte Verità, Switzerland	2021
	University of Zurich, Current Sociological Research Colloquium*	2021
	University of Mannheim, MZES AB-A Colloquium*	2021
	Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications, Venice, Italy	2019
	Digital Societies, Academy of Sociology, Konstanz, Germany	2019
	Bocconi University, INTERACT Workshop, Milan, Italy*	2019
	Utrecht University, International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences	2019
	European University Institute, Florence, Italy	2019
	University of Mannheim, MZES Mittelbau Colloquium*	2018
	University of Lisbon, Migration Conference	2018
	EUI, International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences	2018
	University of Hohenheim*	2018
	Heidelberg University*	2018
	ECPR Annual Meeting, Hamburg, Germany	2018
	Barcelona University, International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences	2018
	University of Florence, Behavioral and Experimental Economics	2018
	Bocconi University, INTERACT Workshop, Milan, Italy*	2017
	Free University Berlin, Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood*	2017
	APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco	2017
	European University Institute, Willing to Pay	2016
	EPSA Annual Conference, Brussels, Belgium	2016
	Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain	2015
	Göteborg University	2015
	APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco	2015
	IASToulouse, International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences	2015
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REFEREE	American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, American Sociological Review, Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Science, Nature Scientific Reports, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, European Sociological Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of the Economic Science Association, Survey Research Methods	
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ADDITIONAL TRAINING	Baden-Württemberg Zertifikat-Hochschuldidaktik	2023
	Higher School of Economics, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science	2020
	New York University Abu Dhabi, Winter Experimental Social Science Institute	2015 – 2016
	Teacher Training Certification, European University Institute	2015
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PERSONAL INFORMATION	Date of Birth: 3 January 1984 Place of Birth: Beijing, China Citizenship: American, with German <i>Aufenthaltstitel</i> Family: Married, 2 daughters (born 2016 and 2021)	

[Last updated 2025-03-20]

