

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 – Present
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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

Mary Parker Follett Prize, Politics and History Section, APSA	2025
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. *American Political Science Review* online first (2025) (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)

* Winner of the 2025 Mary Parker Follett Prize from the Politics and History Section of the American Political Science Association

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)

UNDER REVIEW	Cross-cutting Cleavages and Native-Refugee Contact: Evidence from Germany (with A. Kommol) Non-Compliance in Survey Experiments with Placebo Treatments (with D. Baldassarri)	
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) The Upside of Prejudice: Do Muslims in Europe Enjoy a Religious Trust Premium? (with J. Hellyer, Y. Fadavi Asghari, and J. Gereke) Childhood Exposure to Ethnic Outgroups Predicts Inter-ethnic Marriage (with L. Wendering and K. Ostermann)	
COURSES TAUGHT	CDSS Workshop (Mannheim) BA Thesis Colloquium (Mannheim) BA Tutorial: Methods in Comparative Politics (Mannheim) BA Tutorial: Methods in International Relations (Mannheim) BA Tutorial: Methods in Political Sociology (Mannheim) MA Seminar: Applied Causal Inference (Mannheim) Graduate Seminar: Strengthening the External Validity of Causal Designs (EITM Oslo) BA Tutorial: Data Analysis (Mannheim) The Politics of Ethnic Diversity (Mannheim) Research Design (Mannheim) Introduction to Causal Inference (Mannheim) Field Experiments: A Practice-Based Seminar (Mannheim) Ethnic Diversity and Social Cohesion (Mannheim) Conducting a Field Experiment: A Hands-On Introduction (Mannheim) Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences (GIGA, Hamburg) Corruption, Conflict and Financial Crisis (Stanford) Introduction to International Relations (Stanford) Introduction to American Law (Stanford) Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (Stanford)	2025-2026 2024, 2025 2024, 2025 2024, 2025 2024, 2025 2024 2024 2024 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2022 2022 2019 2013 2012 2010, 2011 2009
SUPERVISION	Doctoral Students Alexandra Kommol Leonard Wendering MA Students Anna Aigner Okan Sarioglu Elenia Karagianni	 ongoing ongoing 2025 2024 2024
SELECTED PRESENTATIONS 2015-PRESENT (* INVITED)	Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna* Uni Duisburg-Essen* LSE* Uni Hamburg* Uni Konstanz, CPPE Seminar* EPSA Annual Meeting	2025 2025 2025 2025 2024 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

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, Journal of Conflict Resolution
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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

**PERSONAL
INFORMATION**

Date of Birth: 3 January 1984

Place of Birth: Beijing, China

Citizenship: American, with German *Aufenthaltstitel*

Family: Married, 2 daughters (born 2016 and 2021)

[Last updated 2025-08-26]