

Qin Huang

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Education

Northwestern University, The Graduate School	2019-2026
PhD in Political Science (Comparative Politics and Methods)	
Committee: James Mahoney and Iza Ding (co-chair); Jordan Gans-Morse; Jay Seawright; Yuhua Wang (Harvard)	
MS in Applied Statistics	
MA in Politics	
Oxford University, Rhodes Scholar	2015-2019
MSc in Sociology	
MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies	
MPhil in Political Theory	
Tsinghua University, School of Economics and Management	2011-2015
Bachelor in Business Administration	
Minor in Law	

Dissertation Project

Patchwork Capitalism: Institutional Change and Regional Economies in China

My dissertation examines the divergent economic trajectories of China's regions over four decades of Reform and Opening. Utilizing machine-learning analysis, I identify four distinct types of regional economies—quasi-liberal, dual-market, state-retreating, and state-dominated—each shaped by varying degrees of market development and state influence. Through extensive fieldwork in 14 provinces over two years, I find that policy choices made by provincial leaders in the 1980s were decisive, setting in motion these four path-dependent economic trajectories that have persisted and been reinforced over time. The study highlights the importance of the early autonomy granted by Deng Xiaoping, which enabled local officials to pursue tailored development strategies—the effects of which continue to shape regional economies today.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Towards Machine-Learning Enhanced QCA: Optimizing Coverage and Empirical Significance”, *Quality and Quantity: International Journal of Methodology*, Forthcoming.

“Pathways to Digital Governance: Fiscal Resources, Political Pressure, and Provincial Disparities” (with Xiang Wang, in Chinese), *Chinese Public Administration*, 2023.

- Received the “Merit Paper Award” from the Chinese Public Administration Society

Papers Under Review

“Radical Political Transformation in World History: Concepts, Cases, and Patterns” (with James Mahoney), *Under Review*

“Identifying Gender Inequalities in Pathways to Political Participation: A Large-N QCA Framework”, *Revise and Resubmit*

“Pathways to Transparent Government across Chinese Cities” (with Xiang Wang, in Chinese), *Revise and Resubmit*

Working Papers

“Patchwork Capitalism: State, Market, and Regional Economies in China” (Job Market Paper)

“Legacies of Liberalism: Political Agency and the Making of Regional Economies in China”

“From Clustering to Typology: Bridging Quantitative and Qualitative Methods for Conceptual Development”

“Disciplinary State-Building: Purges, Punishment, and Anti-Corruption in Chinese Bureaucracy”

Works in Progress

“Disaggregating Digital Authoritarianism in China: A Configurational Analysis of Regional Disparities in Digital Policing” (with Yuchen Liu)

“Missing Values and Limited Diversity in Large-N QCA: A Machine-Learning Solution”

Teaching Experience

Northwestern University

Social Movements, Social Protest, and Change

Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant (Anonymous Student Evaluation: 6/6), with Prof. Wendy Pearlman

Political Economy of Development Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant (Anonymous Student Evaluation: 5.5/6), with Prof. Jordan Gans-Morse

Introduction to Comparative Politics Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant (Anonymous Student Evaluation: 5.5/6), with Dr. David Peyton

American Government and Politics Fall 2022, Winter 2021 & Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant (Anonymous Student Evaluation: 5.9/6), with Prof. Chloe Thurston

Researchera, an Online Education Platform

Chinese Politics and International Relations (in Chinese) 2023

Instructor: Teaching Chinese Government, Political Economy, and Sino-US Relations

Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences (in Chinese) 2023

Instructor: Teaching Statistical Models and Machine Learning Algorithms

Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences (in Chinese) 2023

Instructor: Teaching Field Research, QCA, and Comparative Historical Analysis

Tsinghua University

Critical Thinking and Moral Reasoning Fall 2014

Co-Instructor, with Prof. Bin Yang

Awards and Grants

Graduate Sabbatical Grants, Institute for Humane Studies (\$5,000) 2025

Northwestern Buffett International Dissertation Research Travel Award (\$9,000) 2025

First Generation Scholars Travel Grant, American Political Science Association 2024

Humane Studies Fellowship, George Mason University (\$5,000) 2024

Emerging Methodologists Workshop Travel Grant, National Science Foundation 2024

Northwestern Buffett Graduate Student Research Travel Award (\$5,000) 2024

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000) 2023

Northwestern Buffet Global Impacts Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) 2023-2024

Travel Grant for PolMeth, National Science Foundation 2023

Minar Memorial Summer Award, Northwestern University (\$1,500) 2023

Society and Politics in Asia Grant, Northwestern University (\$5,000) 2020

Warden's Discretion Grant, Rhodes House (Oxford) 2019

Fieldwork Grant, St Antony's College and Merton College (Oxford) 2017 & 2018

Rhodes Scholarship (full tuition and stipend) 2017 - 2019

China Scholarship Council Graduate Student Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) 2015-2017

Academic Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University	2014 & 2015
Overseas Research Scholarship, Tsinghua University	2014
National Encouragement Scholarship, Ministry of Education	2012-2014
China Scholarship Council Exchange Student Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)	2013
College Entrance Scholarship, Tsinghua University	2011-2015

Talks and Conferences

Conferences

Computational Social Science meets Qualitative Research Workshop at LSE	2025
Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference at ASA	2025
Workshop on Chinese and Comparative Economic History at Oxford University	2025
Entrepreneurship Graduate Papers Workshop at George Mason University	2025
Social Science History Association Annual Meeting	2025
Chinese Politics Mini-Conference at APSA	2024
Young Scholars Conference, UCSD 21st Century China Center	2024
Chinese Politics Research in Progress Workshop	2024
Political Development Conference, Zhejiang University	2023
Comparative Politics Forum, Beijing Foreign Studies University	2022
Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology	2023 & 2025
Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research	2022 & 2024
QCA Conference of the Americas	2022, 2023 & 2024
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025

Invited Talks

“Patchwork Capitalism and Regional Economies in China”, Davidson College	2025
“Qualitative Comparative Analysis: Theory and Practices”, Peking University	2023
“Contemporary Political Theory and Realism”, Tsinghua University	2017

Original Data and Fieldwork

China Provincial and Municipal Political Economy Dataset
China Accountability, Discipline, and Supervision Dataset (In Progress)
Radical Political Transformation in World History Dataset (In Progress)
Fieldwork 2023-2024: Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong, Anhui, Shannxi, Beijing, and Tianjin

Fieldwork 2024-2025: Zhejiang, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Shangdong, Liaoning, Fujian, and Hainan

R Package

mlQCA: Machine-Learning Enhanced QCA

Manuscript Referee

Sociological Methods and Research; Quality and Quantity: International Journal of Methodology; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications

May 2, 2025