

Qin Huang

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[Personal Website](#)

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 Book 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 dominance. 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 path-dependent trajectories that have since been reinforced. The study underscores the importance of the early autonomy granted by Deng Xiaoping, which enabled local officials to pursue tailored development strategies and localized institutional innovation—effects that 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*, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)

“Lifting the Government Veil: Data Openness and Transparency in Chinese Urban Governance” (with Xiang Wang, in Chinese), *Public Administration and Policy Review*, Forthcoming.

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

- 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*

Selected Working Papers

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

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

“‘Empirical Type’: Towards a Multi-Method Approach of Classification and Concept Building”

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

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

External

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$20,000) 2025

Humane Studies Fellowship, George Mason University (\$10,000) 2024 & 2025

First Generation Scholars Travel Grant, American Political Science Association 2024

Emerging Methodologists Workshop Travel Grant, National Science Foundation 2024

Travel Grant for PolMeth, National Science Foundation 2023

Northwestern University

Buffet Dissertation Fellowship Award (full tuition and stipend) 2025-2026

Marvin & Carol Soroos Research & Travel Award (\$6,000) 2025

Buffett Dissertation Research Travel Award (\$14,000) 2024 & 2025

National Institute of Social Sciences Dissertation Grant (University Nominee) 2025

Graduate Research Grant (\$3,000) 2023

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

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

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

Other Major Awards

Rhodes Scholarship (full tuition and stipend) 2017-2019

Academic Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University 2014 & 2015

National Encouragement Scholarship, Ministry of Education 2012-2014

Talks and Conferences

Conferences

Computational Social Science meets Qualitative Research Workshop at LSE	2025
New Faces in Chinese Politics Conference at Yale University	2025
Workshop on Chinese and Comparative Economic History at Oxford University	2025
Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference at ASA	2025
The Emerging Methodologists Workshop	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

"Towards Machine-Learning Enhanced QCA", Jagiellonian University	2025
"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; PKU Political Science Review

June 29, 2025