

Rigao (Ray) Liu

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Education

University of Kansas (KU)

Ph.D.Candidate, Political Science, 2019 Fall-2025 Spring (expected)
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Methodology (Minor)
Disseration: Class, Nationalism, and Redistributive Preferences in China
Committee: John James Kennedy (Chair), Robert Rohrschneider, Jiakun Jack Zhang, Michael Wuthrich, and Zongwu Cai (Department of Economics)

Shaanxi Normal University (Xi'an, China)

M.A., Economics, 2018

Jinling Institute of Technology (Nanjing, China)

B.A., Economics, 2015

Research Interests

Political Economy, Public Opinion, China-Africa Relations, US-China Relations, Chinese Politics and Society, Experiment and Causal Inference.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

[5] Nagao, Haruka, William Hatungimana, **Rigao Liu**, and John James Kennedy. "A Party with China: Political Party Affiliation and Perceptions of China in African Countries." *Journal of Modern African Studies*, forthcoming.

[4] **Liu, Rigao**, Haruka Nagao, William Hatungimana, Jiakun Jack Zhang, and John James Kennedy. "The Politics of Flu Vaccines: International Collaboration and Political Partisanship." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (2024):1-14.Link

[3] **Liu, Rigao**, Haruka Nagao, and William Hatungimana. "Economic performance and good governance: Examining the role of economic well-being in local governance evaluation in China." *Journal of Chinese Governance* (2024):1-20.Link (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[2] Youn, Leeann, Haruka Nagao, William Hatungimana, and **Rigao Liu**. "Where do social media and education meet? A closer look at understanding of democracy." *Democratization* 31,no.1 (2024):157-184. Link (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[1] **Liu, Rigao**, Jiakun Jack Zhang, and Samantha A.Vortherms. "In the middle: American multinationals in China and trade war politics." *Business and Politics* 24,no.4 (2022):348-376. Link

Book Chapters and Editor-Reviewed Articles

[2] **Liu, Rigao**, and John James Kennedy. “China’s Second Generation of Left Behind Children” *The China Story*, 2024. [Link](#)

[1] Kennedy, John James, and **Rigao Liu**. “One County, Many Paradigms: Diversity in China Political Studies.” In *Paradigm Shifts in Chinese Studies*, pp. 173-199. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore, 2022. [Link](#)

Under Review

[5] **Liu, Rigao**, Haruka Nagao, and John James Kennedy. “The Digital Side to Mental Health: Uncovering the Relationship Between Screen-Based Entertainment and Mental Well-being Among Rural Elders in China.” Revise and Resubmit at *Social Indicators Research*.

[4] Chu, Hyoungrohk, **Rigao Liu**, Leeann Youn, William Hatungimana, and Haruka Nagao. “Election Delay: Determinants of Postponing Elections and Public Support During a Crisis Time in Africa.” (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[3] Nagao, Haruka, **Rigao Liu**, William Hatungimana, Leeann Youn, and John James Kennedy. “The Politics of Covid-19 Vaccines and Public Opinion in Zimbabwe.”

[2] Nagao, Haruka, William Hatungimana, **Rigao Liu**, and John James Kennedy. “Perception of China in Zimbabwe: Influence of Partisanship and Media Exposure.”

[1] Hatungimana, William, Haruka Nagao, **Rigao Liu**, and Leeann Youn. “The Price of Ethnic Exclusion in Times of Public Health Crisis in Africa.” (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

Works in Progress

[7] “China in the Voce Populi: Africa-China Relations from the Bottom Up.” (Book Manuscript in Preparation, with William Hatungimana, and Haruka Nagao) (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[6] “Strategic Competition and International Expansion Support in US and China.” (with Haruka Nagao, and William Hatungimana) (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[5] “Bridging the East and South: A Chinese Perspective on the China-Africa Relations.” (with Haruka Nagao, and William Hatungimana) (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[4] “Political Representation and Environmental Performance.” (with Leeann Youn, Haruka Nagao, and William Hatungimana) (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[3] “Social Identity and Soft Power: The Perception of Chinese Immigrants in Zimbabwe.” (with Haruka Nagao, William Hatungimana, and Takudzwa Chawota) (Collab with fellow KU graduates)

[2] “Theory of Mutual Noncompliance: Resolving Contradictions between Central Policies and Local Interests in Rural China.” (with John James Kennedy)

[1] “The Local Political Economy of Firm Exit: Industrial Policy and Investment Networks in the US-China Trade War.” (with Jiakun Jack Zhang and Samantha A. Vortherms)

Conferences

APSA Annual Meeting, 2023, 2024
MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022, 2023, 2024
SPSA Annual Meeting, 2021
Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) Annual Meeting, 2022
International Studies Association (ISA)-Midwest Annual Meeting, 2020, 2022

Awards and Fellowships

KU

IPSR Research Assistantship (work with Dr. Jiakun Jack Zhang), 2024-2025
Walter Thompson Research Scholarship, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Institute for Policy and Social Research Doctoral Research Fellows, 2022-2023
Doctoral Student Research Fund, 2023
Graduate Student Travel Fund, 2023, 2024
Applied Humanities Summer Fellowship, 2022
CTE Course Transformation Grant (with Dr. Jiakun Jack Zhang), 2021
Diversity and Mentoring Program Grant, 2021
Undergraduate Research Mentor Spotlight, 2021
CLAS Graduate Scholarly Development Fund, 2021, 2022
Williams Jennings Bryan Essay Prize, 2020

External

Hayek Fund for Scholars, The Institute for Humane Studies, 2021, 2023
APSA Travel Grant, 2023, 2024
ISA-Midwest Travel Grant, 2022

Survey and Fieldwork

“Citizens’ Domestic and Foreign Policy Preferences.” (Survey), China, 2024
“Zimbabweans’ Perspectives on China.” (Survey), Zimbabwe, 2023
“Bare Branch and Social Stability.” (Interview), Northwestern China, 2018, 2019

Teaching and Mentoring

KU Graduate Teaching Assistant

Political Science Methods of Inquiry, Spring 2024
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2023
Introduction to International Politics, 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023
Introduction to Political Science as a Career, Fall 2022
Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2020
Chinese Foreign Policy, Spring 2020
Life in China: Beyond Headlines, Fall 2019
Reform in Contemporary China, Fall 2019, Fall 2022

Guest Lecture

Introduction to International Politics, KU, 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023
Fundamentals of Political Science, Oklahoma State University, Spring 2024

KU Undergraduate Research Mentor

Co-mentoring undergraduate students with Dr. Jiakun Jack Zhang
Bethlehem Legesse Kelecha(KU’24): “The Belt and Road initiative (BRI) and Chinese Economic Statecraft in East Africa.” (Bethlehem’s project won the KU Undergraduate Research Award in 2022)

Jackson Martin(KU'21): “Case Study of Foreign Invested Enterprises in the US-China Trade War.”(Jackson’s project won the KU Undergraduate Research Award in 2021)

Edmond Cheung(KU'22): “Measuring Corporate Opposition to the Trade War and its Effectiveness”; “Determinants and Returns of Corporate Political Action: Section 301 Tariff Exclusion Process.”(Edmond presented this project at ISA-Midwest 2021)

Services

Discussant

KU Trade War Lab Speaker Series, 2021

MCAA Annual Meeting, 2022

SPSA Annual Meeting, 2021

Referee Service

Democratization, Journal of Contemporary China, Climatic Change, Journalism Practice, Frontiers in Political Science

Campus Service

KU Trade War Lab Project Lead, 2020-

KU Trade War Lab Outreach Team Leader, 2021-2022

KU Faculty Mentor Award Committee, 2022

KU CEAS Public Health Movie Series Discussant, 2022

KU Undergraduate Research Mentor, 2020-2023

First-Year Co-Representative, Political Science Graduate Students Association, 2019-2020

Languages and Skills

Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)

Stata, R, SPSS, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics

References

John James Kennedy
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