

Xudong Zhu, Ph.D. Student

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EDUCATION

University of Aberdeen

Aberdeen, UK

PhD Student in International History

Mar. 2025 – Present

- Dissertation title: "The Impacts of Germany on China's Rebuilding and Modernization: Beyond a Geo-military Perspective (1928-1938)"
- Supervisors: Prof.Dr. Thomas Weber, Dr. Andrew Dilley
- Research area: History and international relations, Global security and governance

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Heidelberg, Germany

M.A. in American Studies

Oct. 2021 – Aug. 2023

- Core Modules: Political Science and History
- Thesis title: "On the Theory of Empire in International Relations and an Analysis of Pax Americana"
- Main Courses: US Economic Policy, The Transatlantic Alliance, Nuclear Deterrence Theory, Trump-era Politics, Political Psychology, Varieties of Conservatism in the US

Jilin University

Changchun, China

Bachelor's Degree of Law

Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2021

- Major in Diplomacy
- Main Courses: International History, IR theoretical frameworks, International Law, Negotiation Skills, Political Philosophy, Power Politics, Diplomatic Etiquette

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Aberdeen

2025/26

HI1022: Europe in the Twentieth Century

HI2520: Global Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

summer semester 2023

From Washington to Peking: History of Early Interactions Between the US and China

- This course examines the historical foundations of Sino-U.S. relations, focusing on the interactions between the two countries from 1784 to 1882.
- It examines four key dimensions: trade, diplomacy, education, and labour.
- The goal is to deepen the understanding of China's integration into the international system and the role of the U.S. in this process.

PUBLICATIONS

Academic:

1. **Xudong Zhu**. *Trump As the (In)advertent Harbinger of a New Transatlantic Security Architecture: Europe's Autonomy as a Bulwark Against Chinese Influence*. Jimmy Carter Prize, Runner-up. China Focus Essay Contest, 2025.
<https://uscnpm.org/2025/08/12/europe-autonomy-against-chinese-influence/>
2. Li Wang, **Xudong Zhu**. *How to Maintain a Balance in The Intricate Pas Detrois Among China, US and EU*. forthcoming publication by Routledge. 2025.

3. **Xudong Zhu.** *What to Do About the Strategic Challenge? An Analysis of the Background of NATO's New China Strategy.* Seventh Annual Young Scholars Forum on U.S. - China Relations. The Carter Center. 2022.

Media:

1. 朱旭东, 《从“交易的艺术”到“外交的艺术”: 特朗普国际关系观的前后呼应》, 卡特中心中美印象, 11/09/2025。 <https://zmyx.info/on-trump-interview-with-playboy-in-1990/>
(**Xudong Zhu**, *From “The Art of the Deal” to “The Art of Diplomacy”: The Continuities in Trump's View of International Relations*, U.S.-China Perception Monitor, The Carter Center, 11/09/2025)

INTERNSHIP

The University of Aberdeen, Directorate of People, *Intern* Jun.2025 – Aug. 2025

Contributed to enhancing the international student experience:

- Conducted research on the study journeys of international students (UG, PGT, ISC/Language Centre) and developed roadmaps.
- Promoted communication between university departments.
- Assisted in the production of welcome videos aimed at orienting new international students.

The Carter Center, *Academic Assistant* Jun.2020 – Sep. 2020

- Translated articles for the center's website “US-China Perception Monitor”
- Organized eight academic conferences and wrote summaries
- Interviewed scholars and wrote reports
- Published articles averaging over 5,000 views

MEMBERSHIP

Royal Historical Society, *Graduate Member* From 2025

Association of Chinese Political Studies, *Member* From 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen Jul. 2019 – Aug. 2019

The “International and European Studies” research project

- History and Politics of the EU
- Human Rights in Europe
- Regional Economic Integration

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Jun. 2018 – Jul. 2018

Student summer program at Rutgers University

Jilin University Oct. 2017

Field study along the China-North Korea border

- National Security and Border Control

AWARDS

2025

Jimmy Carter Prize, Runner-up
China Focus Essay Contest, 2025

2018

- Received the “Excellence Award” at the 16th National Diplomatic Etiquette Competition for outstanding performance
- Awarded “Best Negotiator” at the 3rd Simulated Diplomatic Negotiation Competition, Jilin University, for exceptional negotiation skills

2017

- Earned the “Diplomatic Award” at the 1st Simulated Diplomatic Spokesperson Competition, Jilin University, for excellence in diplomatic communication

SERVICE

- Completed 120 hours of volunteer service with the Red Cross Society
- Volunteer of the 6th China-Korea Public Diplomacy Forum
- Moderator of the Academic Forum at SIPA, Jilin University
- Worked as Prof. Swaran Singh’s assistant during his visit to Jilin University
- Member of the student union of SIPA, Jilin University
- Member of the Kung Fu Association, Jilin University

SKILLS

Languages: Chinese (native), English (proficient, IELTS 7.0), German (good)

IT Skills: LATEX, Web development (HTML/CSS, JavaScript), SPSS, Canva

Academic Writing: Proficient in crafting clear, evidence-based, and analytically rigorous prose for scholarly articles, dissertation chapters, and conference papers, adhering to historical and political methodologies and citation standards.

Geopolitical and IR Analysis: Skilled in evaluating historical and contemporary geopolitical dynamics, analyzing state interactions, power structures, and global conflicts through primary source research and interdisciplinary frameworks. Specialized in the analysis of great power politics, especially the trilateral relationship between China, the United States and Europe.

Leadership: Skilled in preparing and presenting written and verbal communications tailored to a range of audiences, including academics, students of mixed abilities/levels and the general public.

Communication: Skilled in preparing and presenting written and verbal communications tailored to a range of audiences, including academics, students of mixed abilities/levels and the general public.

Time Management: Excellent time management skills: during my PhD research experience and research roles, I ensured that participants were tested in a timely and efficient manner. Skilled at meeting project deadlines and submitting revisions to peer-review manuscripts within a predefined timescale.