

Xudong Zhu

Ph.D. Student

xudong.zhu01@gmail.com | <https://xudong-zhu01.github.io/>

EDUCATION

University of Aberdeen

PhD Student in International History

Aberdeen, UK

Mar. 2025 – Present

- **Supervisors:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber, Dr. Andrew Dilley
- **Research Area:** Applied History, History and International Relations, Global Security

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

M.A. in American Studies

Heidelberg, Germany

Oct. 2021 – Aug. 2023

- **Core Modules:** Political Science and History
- **Thesis:** “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

Bachelor's Degree of Law, Major in Diplomacy

Changchun, China

Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2021

- **Main Courses:** International History, IR Theoretical Frameworks, International Law, Negotiation Skills, Political Philosophy, Power Politics, Diplomatic Etiquette

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Aberdeen

Teaching Assistant / Tutor

Aberdeen, UK

2025/26

- HI1022: Europe in the Twentieth Century
- HI2520: Global Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Tutor

Heidelberg, Germany

Summer Semester 2023

- Course: From Washington to Peking: History of Early Interactions Between the US and China
- Examined historical foundations of Sino-U.S. relations (1784–1882) focusing on trade, diplomacy, education, and labour.
- Goal: Deepen understanding of China's integration into the international system and the role of the U.S. in this process.

MEMBERSHIP

- **Royal Historical Society**, Postgraduate Member (From 2025)
- **Association of Chinese Political Studies**, Member (From 2025)

PUBLICATIONS

Academic

- **Zhu, X.** “Beyond Divide and Rule: Advocating a Respect-Based Chinese Policy Toward the European Union,” *ACPS Annual Conference 2025*, Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS), 20/11/2025.
- **Zhu, X.** “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/>
- Wang, P. and **Zhu, X.** “How to Maintain a Balance in the Intricate Pas de Trois among China, US and EU,” in *The Trilateral Interactions China, the US, and the EU on Tensions, Competition, and Cooperation*, ed. by Zuokui Liu, Marek Hrubec, and Shaohua Yan (Routledge, 2026).
<https://www.routledge.com/9781041233336>
- **Zhu, X.** “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

- **Zhu, X.** “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.

(an article in Chinese) <https://zmyx.info/on-trump-interview-with-playboy-in-1990/>

- **Zhu, X.** “If Bismarck Ran Washington: What Approach Would He Take to U.S.–China Relations?” *U.S.-China Perception Monitor*, The Carter Center, 11/12/2025.
(an article in Chinese) <https://zmyx.info/if-bismarck-directed-china-policy-in-washington/>

INTERNSHIP

The University of Aberdeen, Directorate of People
Intern

Aberdeen, UK
Jun. 2025 – Aug. 2025

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

The Carter Center
Academic Assistant

Atlanta, USA (Remote)
Jun. 2020 – Sep. 2020

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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen** (Jul. 2019 – Aug. 2019): “International and European Studies” project; focused on History/Politics of the EU, Human Rights, and Regional Economic Integration.
- **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey** (Jun. 2018 – Jul. 2018): Student summer program.
- **Jilin University** (Oct. 2017): Field study along the China-North Korea border regarding National Security and Border Control.

AWARDS

- **2025:** Jimmy Carter Prize (Runner-up), China Focus Essay Contest.
- **2018:** “Excellence Award” at the 16th National Diplomatic Etiquette Competition.
- **2018:** “Best Negotiator” at the 3rd Simulated Diplomatic Negotiation Competition, Jilin University.
- **2017:** “Diplomatic Award” at the 1st Simulated Diplomatic Spokesperson Competition, Jilin University.

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.
- Assistant to Prof. Swaran Singh during his visit to Jilin University.

SKILLS

- **Languages:** Chinese (native), English (proficient), German (proficient).
- **IT Skills:** L^AT_EX, Web development (HTML/CSS, JavaScript), SPSS, Canva.
- **Academic Writing:** Proficient in crafting clear, evidence-based, and analytically rigorous prose for scholarly articles, dissertations, and conference papers.
- **Geopolitical & IR Analysis:** Specialized in great power politics (China, US, Europe), state interactions, and global conflicts using primary source research.
- **Communication & Leadership:** Skilled in presenting to diverse audiences (academics, students, general public) and managing time efficiently for research projects and peer-review deadlines.