

# Zeren Li

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Employment

**Yale University**  
Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer  
Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy  
Course Instructor of Business and Politics

2021–Present

## EDUCATION

**Duke University**  
PhD in Political Science

2021

- Fields: Political Economy (major), Political Methodology (minor)
- Dissertation: *Institutionalized Rent-seeking: The Political-Business Revolving-Door in China*
- Committee: Melanie Manion and Edmund Malesky (co-chairs), Daniel Stegmueller, Yasheng Huang (MIT Sloan)
- Award: NSF-APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
MPhil in Social Science

2016

**Fudan University**  
LLB in Political Science

2014

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
*Exchange student, coursework in political science*

2013

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy of Development, Business-Government Relations, Bureaucracy, Good Governance, Chinese Politics, Data Science

## PUBLICATIONS

[“Connections as Liabilities: The Cost of the Politics-Business Revolving Door in China.”](#) Forthcoming, *British Journal of Political Science*.

[“The Last Strike: Age, Career Incentives and Taxation in China.”](#) With Arthur Zeyang Yu. 2022, *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

[“An Introduction to Procedural Rule in China’s Provincial People’s Congress”](#), *Chinese Law & Government*, vol.49 no.1 , (2017): 1-4.

## BOOK PROJECT

*Institutionalized Rent-seeking: The Political-Business Revolving-Door in China* (book manuscript in preparation)

## WORKING PAPERS

[“Subsidies for Sale: Post-government Career Concern, Revolving-Door Channels, and Public Resource Allocation in China.”](#) Job Market Paper, R&R, *Journal of Politics*

[“The Decline of Factions: The Impact of Purge on Political Appointments in China.”](#) With Melanie Manion, R&R, *British Journal of Political Science*.

“Within-Party Mobility and Economic Performance in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from China.”  
With Arthur Zeyang Yu. R&R, *Party Politics*.

“Markets Under Mao: The Persistence of Market Activity in Maoist China.” With Adam Frost.  
R&R, *China Quarterly*.

“Downward Power Consolidation and Public Investment: Theory and Evidence from China .”  
With Daniel Z. Li and Qi Zhang. Under review.

“Judicial Recentralization as Political Control: A Difference-in-Differences Analysis of Judicial Leader Rotation in China.” With Zeyuan Wang. Under Review.

“Legislators as Lobbyists: Analyzing the Legislative Process in an Authoritarian Congress.”

“Why Do Firms Hire Politicians: Evidence from Chinese Revolving-Door Officials.” Under Revision.

GRANTS AND AWARDS	NSF-APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (SPS 257910)	2020
	Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	2020
	Duke Asian-Pacific Studies Institute Summer Research Fellowship	2020
	Google Cloud Platform Academic Research Grant	2019
	China Times Cultural Foundation Young Scholar Award	2019
	Hayek Fund for Scholars, Institute for Humane Studies	2019, 2021
	Alona E. Evans Research Grant, Duke University	2018, 2019
	Dissertation Improvement Grant, Duke University	2019
	Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University	2016–2020
	Graduate School Summer Fellowship, Duke University	2016–2018, 2020
	Duke Asian-Pacific Studies Institute Travel Grant	2017, 2018
	Ronald Coase Institute Fellowship	2015
	APSA Travel Grant	2015, 2018
	Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Research Travel Grant	2015
	UCLA Cross-Disciplinary Scholars in Science and Technology Scholarship	2013
	Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Postgraduate Fellowship	2014–2016

PRESENTATIONS	2022: City University of Hong Kong; Nanyang Technology University, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; NYU Quantitative Chinese Studies Seminar	
	2021: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University College London; NYU Shanghai; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference; Northeast Workshop of Empirical Political Science; American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series	
	2020: University of Washington, Seattle; NYU Quantitative Chinese Studies Seminar; Fudan University; East China University of Political Science and Law	
	2019: Peking University	
	2018: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	2017: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	
	2015: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting; Ronald Coase Institute Workshop on Institutional Analysis	
	2014: Fudan University	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Undergraduate courses</i>
	Business and Politics, Yale University, <i>Instructor, Overall Evaluation 4.5 / 5</i>

Prisoner's Dilemma and Distributive Justice, Duke University, *Teaching Assistant*  
 Global Corruption, Duke University, *Teaching Assistant*  
 Introduction to Economics, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, *Teaching Assistant*  
 World of Politics, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, *Teaching Assistant*

*Graduate courses*

Unifying Data Science (Data Science Program), Duke University, *Teaching Assistant*  
 Probability and Linear Regression, Duke University *Lab Instructor*  
 Quantitative Analysis in Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, *Lab Instructor*

SERVICE                      Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *Governance*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Science Research Method*, *Political Research Quarterly*

LANGUAGES AND              Mandarin Chinese: Native  
 SOFTWARE                    Programming Language: R, Python, git, TensorFlow, SQL  
                                       Software: Stata, ArcGIS, QGIS, Gephi, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

PROFESSIONAL                American Political Science Association  
 MEMBERSHIPS                Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES	<b>Edmund Malesky</b> (Co-chair) Duke University Professor of Political Science <a href="mailto:eddy.malesky@duke.edu">eddy.malesky@duke.edu</a>	<b>Melanie Manion</b> (Co-chair) Duke University Vor Broker Family Distinguished Professor <a href="mailto:melanie.manion@duke.edu">melanie.manion@duke.edu</a>
	<b>Yasheng Huang</b> MIT Sloan School of Management Epoch Foundation Professor of International Management <a href="mailto:yshuang@mit.edu">yshuang@mit.edu</a>	<b>Daniel Stegmueller</b> Duke University Associate Professor of Political Science <a href="mailto:daniel.stegmueller@duke.edu">daniel.stegmueller@duke.edu</a>