Zeren LI

CONTACT INFORMATION	Level #03-01J, Wing B Oei Tiong Ham Building, 469C Bukit Timah Road Singapore	*Phone:* +65 6516 5142 *Email:* zeren.li@nus.edu.sg *Website:* zerenli.org

EMPLOYMENT

National University of Singapore — 2023–Present
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
Assistant Professor

Yale University — 2021–2023
Postdoctoral Associate
Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy

EDUCATION

Duke University — 2021
PhD in Political Science

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology — 2016
MPhil in Social Science

Fudan University — 2014
LLB in Political Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Political Economy, Government-Business Relations, Corruption, Bureaucracy, China

PUBLICATIONS

"Subsidies for Sale: Post-government Career Concern, Revolving-Door Channels, and Public Resource Allocation in China." *Journal of Politics*, 2024
- Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for Best Comparative Politics Paper, Midwest Political Science Association

"Connections as Liabilities: The Cost of the Politics-Business Revolving Door in China." *British Journal of Political Science*, 2023

"The Decline of Factions: The Impact of Purge on Political Appointments in China." With Melanie Manion, *British Journal of Political Science*, 2023

"Public Investment As Downward Benefit Distribution: Theory and Evidence from China's Public-Private Partnership Programs." With Daniel Z. Li and Qi Zhang, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2023

"Markets Under Mao: The Persistence of Market Activity in Maoist China." With Adam Frost, *The China Quarterly*, 2023

"Judicial Recentralization as Political Control: A Difference-in-Differences Analysis of Judicial Leader Rotation in China." With Zeyuan Wang, *Social Science Quarterly*, 2023

"The Last Strike: Age, Career Incentives and Taxation in China." With Arthur Zeyang Yu, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2022

"Within-Party Mobility and Economic Performance in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from China." With Arthur Zeyang Yu, *Party Politics*, 2022

"An Introduction to Procedural Rule in China's Provincial People's Congress." *Chinese Law & Government*, Vol. 49 No. 1, 2017: 1-4

WORKING PAPERS "Olson in China: Regional Chamber of Commerce, Political Brokers, and Firm Subsidies." With Shenghua Lu. Revise and resubmit by *American Journal of Political Science*

"A Privilege of the Rich? A Duality of Unequal Government Responsiveness in Urban China." With Jiawei Fu and Haibin Yan. Revise and resubmit by *Comparative Political Studies*

"Favor With Fear: The Distributional Effect of Political Risk on Government Procurement in China." With Songrui Liu. Under Review

WORK IN PROGRESS How Firms Influence Regulation in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Industrial Standards Formation in China, with Songrui Liu and Linchuan Zhang

Railway and Revolution, with Jun Fang

Trade Turbulence and the Rise of Communist Party in China, with Ting Chen and Jun Fang

BOOK PROJECT **Red Quid Pro Quo: The Political-Business Revolving Door in China**

Abstract: Scholars contend that in a weak institutional context, firms enter the political marketplace primarily through bribery or entrepreneurs running for public office. My book project challenges this conventional understanding by arguing that revolving-door channels have become a prevalent means of rent-seeking when within-government career opportunities are rare for public officials and the private sector is profitable. I propose a theoretical framework for understanding the emergence of revolving-door officials in authoritarian regimes and test this framework through a rigorous inquiry of firms in China. The three papers that constitute this work analyze the pattern, formation, and economic outcome of hiring revolving-door officials. I show the distortionary impact of post-government career concerns on public resource allocation, a mixed revolving-door recruitment strategy adopted by firms seeking both political power and regulatory expertise, and the salient signaling effect of revolving-door connections on financial investors.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty Start-up Grant, Ministry of Education, Singapore	2023
NUS HSS Seed Fund, Singapore	2023
Yale Macmillan Center Research Grant	2021, 2022
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	**Invited Talks** 2024: Australian National University, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2023: University of California, Berkeley; Yale University; Tsinghua University; East China University of Political Science and Law; Fudan University; Renmin University of China 2022: City University of Hong Kong; Nanyang Technological University; NYU Quantitative Chinese Studies Seminar; Tsinghua University 2021: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University College London; NYU Shanghai; Northeast Workshop of Empirical Political Science; 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 2015: Ronald Coase Institute Workshop on Institutional Analysis **Conferences** American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2015, 2018, 2021–2024 Academy of Management Annual Meeting, 2023 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023 Money in Politics Conference, Copenhagen Business School: 2023 Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics Annual Conference: 2021
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	**Political Economy** Business and Politics, Yale University & National University of Singapore, *Instructor* Global Business-Government Relations, National University of Singapore, *Instructor* Political Economy of China, Yale University, *Instructor* Prisoner's Dilemma and Distributive Justice, Duke University, *Teaching Assistant* Global Corruption, Duke University, *Teaching Assistant* World of Politics, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, *Teaching Assistant* **Economics** Introduction to Economics, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, *Teaching Assistant* **Quantitative Methods & Data Science** 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, Asia-Pacific Social Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, China Journal, China: An International Journal, Chinese Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Environmental Politics, Fiscal Studies, Governance, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Policy, Political Science Research Methods, Political Research Quarterly, PLOS One, Public Choice, Public Performance & Management Review*

Steering Committee Member, Chinese Politics Mini-conference, APSA	2024
Member, Junior Recruitment Committee, NUS	2024

STUDENT ADVISING	Ph.D. Advisee: Caixin Jiang Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member: Chitao Yu Master Students: Harris Amjad; Rui Wang, Zhen Zhang
LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE	Mandarin Chinese: Native Programming Languages: R, Python, git, TensorFlow, SQL

Software: Stata, ArcGIS, QGIS, Gephi, L&ATEX

PROFESSIONAL   American Political Science Association
MEMBERSHIPS   Academy of Management
                  Midwest Political Science Association

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