

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

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Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

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**ACADEMIC
APPOINTMENTS**

Princeton University
Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Affairs (July 2020 - present)
Postdoctoral Research Associate (July 2019 - June 2020)

EDUCATION

Stanford University Graduate School of Business
Ph.D. in Business Administration (Political Economics) (September 2014 - June 2019)
University of Rochester
B.A. *magna cum laude* in Economics, Political Science, and Russian Studies with minor in Mathematics (September 2010 - May 2014)

**RESEARCH
INTERESTS**

American Politics, Political Economy, Money in Politics, Interest Groups, Corporate Political Strategy

**PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATION**

Li, Zhao. 2018. "[How Internal Constraints Shape Interest Group Activities: Evidence from Access-Seeking PACs.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 792–808.

- Co-winner of the 2020 Jack Walker Award from the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association.

**INVITED
CONTRIBUTIONS**

Li, Zhao. 2019. "[Looking Inside the Black Box of Firms: A Proposal for A Research Agenda.](#)" *The Political Economist* 15(2): 17–19.

Li, Zhao. 2021. "Analyzing the Evidence: Who's Funding Google's PAC?" in *American Politics: Power and Purpose*, 16th edition, Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsburg, Ken Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. New York: W.W. Norton.

Li, Zhao. Review of *Game Changer: How Dark Money and Super PACs Are Transforming U.S. Campaigns*, Henrik M. Schatzinger and Steven E. Martin, forthcoming at *Political Science Quarterly*.

WORK PAPERS

How Economic Crises Shape Political Extremism in the United States: the Role of Campaign Donors

Inferring Issue-Specific Candidate Positions from Itemized Campaign Contributions Using Supervised Machine Learning (with Adam Bonica)

Economic Geography and Special Interest Entrenchment: Evidence from the Shale Boom and State Campaign Finance (with Richard DiSalvo)

Business Mobilization for the Protection of Democracy: Evidence from the U.S. Capitol Insurrection (with Richard DiSalvo)

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Lemons in the Political Marketplace: A Big-Data Approach to Detect ‘Scam PACs’

Media and Ideological Movements: How Fox News Built the Tea Party (with Greg Martin)

TEACHING

Money and Influence in Policymaking (undergraduate): 2020-2021

Money in American Politics (undergraduate): 2021

Graduate Reading Course (PhD): 2020

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2021

Political Economy Seminar, Columbia University (scheduled)

National Bureau of Economic Research Political Economy Summer Institute (discussant; scheduled)

American Politics and Political Economy Workshop, New York University

Political Economics Seminar, University of California, Berkeley

Colloquium on Law, Economics, and Politics, New York University

2020

American Politics Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles

“Corporate Welfare: Who Comes Out on Top” Seminar, Institute for Humane Studies and the Program in Corporate Welfare at the University of California, Irvine

Interest Groups, Policy Outcomes, and Representation in U.S. Politics, Princeton University (discussant)

Annual Conference on Political Institutions and Political Economy, University of Southern California (canceled due to COVID-19)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (CONT'D)	2019
	Bray Social Science Seminar, California Institute of Technology
	Annual Research Conference on Strategy and the Business Environment (discussant)
	Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA), The Ohio State University
	2017
	Center for the Study of American Politics Summer Conference, Yale University (poster)
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association Women's Mentoring Workshop: 2021
	Strategy Science Conference: 2021
	American Political Science Association Pre-conference on Frontiers on Money in Politics Research: 2020
	Annual Summer School on American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective: 2020
	Annual Strategy and the Business Environment Conference: 2020
	Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: 2018-2020, 2021 (scheduled)
	Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: 2018-2019, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19), 2021
	Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology: 2017-2018 (poster), 2019, 2021
MEDIA APPEARANCES	Marketplace Public Radio (2020) , Vox (2021)
FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS	American Political Science Association
	Jack Walker Award (2020)
	National Science Foundation
	Travel Grant for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (2017-2018)
	Stanford University
	Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship (2017-2019)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS (CONT'D)	University of Rochester
	Rochester International Scholarship (2010-2014)
	Phi Beta Kappa (2014)
	Omicron Delta Epsilon (2014)
	James D. McGill Memorial Prize (2014)
	Book Award (2012)
	Burton Fellowship (2011)
SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION	Founding co-organizer for the American Political Science Association Pre-conference on Frontiers on Money in Politics Research (2020-2021)
	Member of the Editorial Board for <i>Economics of Governance</i> (2021-2024)
	Manuscript referee for <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> (2019×2), <i>American Political Science Review</i> (2019, 2020×2), <i>Business and Politics</i> (2020), <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i> (2020), <i>Journal of Politics</i> (2019×2, 2020×2, 2021), <i>Oxford University Press</i> (2020), <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> (2019), and <i>Science Advances</i> (2019)
	Jack Walker Award Selection Committee for the Political Organizations and Parties of the American Political Science Association (2021)
	Panel chair for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2020) and the Midwest Political Science Association (2021)
	Panel discussant for the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association (2020) and the Midwest Political Science Association (2021)
	Poster discussant for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (2019, 2020)
SERVICE TO PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	Co-organizer of the Princeton Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Seminar (2021-2022)
	Senior Thesis Second Reader for the Department of Politics (2021)
	Co-organizer of the Political Economy Workshop (2020-2021)
	Senior Thesis Research Funding Committee for the Department of Politics (2020-2021)
	Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee for the School of Public and International Affairs (2020-2021)
COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS	R, SQLite, Stata, Matlab, Mathematica, Qualtrics
REFERENCES	Available upon request