

CONTACT  
INFORMATION

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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 (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

Non-Market Strategy, Stakeholder Management, Corporate Social Responsibility, Private Politics and Social Movements, Money in Politics, American Politics, Political Economy

PEER-REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS

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 by the Political Organizations and Parties Section of the American Political Science Association.

Li, Zhao and Richard W. DiSalvo. "Can Stakeholders Mobilize Businesses for the Protection of Democracy? Evidence from the U.S. Capitol Insurrection" Forthcoming in the *American Political Science Review*.

- Co-winner of the 2023 Evan Ringquist Award by the Midwest Political Science Association.
- Featured in the [LSE USAPP United States Politics and Policy Blog](#) and the [UC Institute of Global Conflict & Cooperation's Political Violence at a Glance Magazine](#).

Li, Zhao. "When Do Campaign Donors Reject Extremists? Evidence from the U.S. Foreclosure Crisis." Forthcoming in the *Journal of Politics*.

WORKING PAPERS	<a href="#">Economic Geography and Special Interest Entrenchment: Evidence from the Shale Boom and State Campaign Finance (with Richard DiSalvo)</a>
	<a href="#">Media and Ideological Movements: How Fox News Built the Tea Party (with Greg Martin)</a>
	<a href="#">Inferring Issue-Specific Candidate Positions from Itemized Campaign Contributions Using Supervised Machine Learning (with Adam Bonica)</a>
	<a href="#">Keep Winning with WinRed? Online Fundraising Platform as the Party's Public Good (with Seo-young Silvia Kim)</a>
	<a href="#">Lemons in the Political Marketplace: A Big-Data Approach to Detect 'Scam PACs'</a>
INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS, BOOK REVIEWS, AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP	Li, Zhao. 2019. <a href="#">"Looking Inside the Black Box of Firms: A Proposal for A Research Agenda."</a> <i>The Political Economist</i> 15(2): 17–19.
	Li, Zhao. 2021. <a href="#">"Analyzing the Evidence: Who's Funding Google's PAC?"</a> in <i>American Politics: Power and Purpose</i> , 16th edition, Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsburg, Ken Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. New York: W.W. Norton.
	Li, Zhao. 2021. <a href="#">Review of Game Changer: How Dark Money and Super PACs Are Transforming U.S. Campaigns</a> , Henrik M. Schatzinger and Steven E. Martin, <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 1136(3): 580–581.
	Li, Zhao and Richard W. DiSalvo. 2022. <a href="#">"Will Big Business Protect Democracy?"</a> UC Institute of Global Conflict & Cooperation's Political Violence at a Glance Magazine, Nov 9.
	Li, Zhao and Richard W. DiSalvo. 2022. <a href="#">"Stakeholder Activism Can Have a Big Influence on Corporate Political Donations."</a> LSE USAPP United States Politics and Policy Blog, Dec 2.
TEACHING	<a href="#">Business Influence in American Politics (Self-designed undergraduate lecture)</a>
	<a href="#">Money and Influence in Policymaking (Self-designed undergraduate seminar)</a>
	<a href="#">Money in American Politics (Self-designed undergraduate seminar)</a>
	<a href="#">Lobbying and Interest Group Politics (PhD-level independent reading course)</a>
INVITED PRESENTATIONS	<a href="#">2023</a>
	<a href="#">University of Houston Conference on Parties in American Legislatures</a>

**INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS  
(CONT'D)**

2022

Non-Market Strategy Research Community Brown Bag Seminar  
Pennsylvania State University Program in Empirical International Relations Workshop  
Princeton University Symposium on Bringing Transparency to Digital Political Campaigns  
Quebec Political Economics Webinar Series  
Southern Political Science Association Pre-conference on Interest Groups and Polarization  
Stanford Graduate School of Business PhD Alumni Conference  
Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program  
University of Chicago Center for Effective Governance American Politics Conference  
Washington University in St. Louis Olin School of Business Strategy Seminar Series  
Wharton Nonmarket Strategy Workshop

2021

Columbia University Political Economy Seminar  
Essex University Government Department Speaker Series  
New York University American Politics and Political Economy Workshop  
New York University Colloquium on Law, Economics, and Politics  
Roundtable Panelist on "The American Political Economy: Politics, Markets, and Power" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association  
University of California, Berkeley Political Economics Seminar  
University of Southern California Political Institutions and Political Economy Workshop

2020

Institute for Humane Studies "Corporate Welfare: Who Comes Out on Top" Seminar  
University of California, Los Angeles American Politics Workshop  
University of Southern California Annual Conference on Political Institutions and Political Economy (canceled due to COVID-19)

2019

California Institute of Technology, Bray Social Science Seminar  
The Ohio State University Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA)

<b>INVITED DISCUSSANTS</b>	Annual Research Conference on Strategy and the Business Environment (2019, 2022, 2023)
	California Institute of Technology Empirical Models of Political Economy Conference (2023)
	Columbia Business School Non-Market Effects of Market Power Conference (2023)
	National Bureau of Economic Research Political Economy Summer Institute (2021)
	Princeton University Workshop on Interest Groups, Policy Outcomes, and Representation in U.S. Politics (2020)
	Virtual Workshop on Interest Groups (2021)
	Wharton Nonmarket Strategy Workshop (2022)
<b>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</b>	Academy of Management Annual Conference (2023)
	Alliance for Research on Corporate Sustainability Annual Conference (2023)
	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018-2021)
	American Political Science Association Pre-conference on Frontiers on Money in Politics Research (2020)
	American Political Science Association Women's Mentoring Workshop (2021)
	Annual Research Conference on Strategy and the Business Environment (2020)
	Annual Summer School on American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective (2020)
	Climate Pipeline Project Conference (2022)
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018-2022)
	Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (2022)
	Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2017-2019, 2021-2022)
	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2022)
	Strategy Science Annual Conference (2021-2022)
	Yale University Center for the Study of American Politics Summer Conference (2017)
<b>MEDIA APPEARANCES</b>	<a href="#">Marketplace Public Radio (2020)</a> , <a href="#">Vox (2021)</a> , <a href="#">Facts about PACs Podcast (2021)</a> , <a href="#">P.S. You're Interesting Podcast (2021)</a> , <a href="#">U.S. News (2022)</a> .

**SELECT AWARDS,  
FELLOWSHIPS, AND  
GRANTS**

Midwest Political Science Association

Evan Ringquist Award (2023): best paper on the topic of political institutions

Princeton University

Data-Driven Social Science Initiative (DDSS) Innovation Funding (2022)

American Political Science Association

Jack Walker Award (2023): an article published in the last two calendar years that makes an outstanding contribution to research and scholarship on political organizations and parties

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)

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

Co-founder: American Political Science Association Pre-conference on Frontiers on Money in Politics Research (2020-2022)

Editorial Board: *Economics of Governance* (2021-2024), *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* (2023-2025)

Award Selection Committee: Jack Walker Award for the Political Organizations and Parties Section of the American Political Science Association (2021)

Member: Non-Market Strategy Research Community (2023-present)

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Business and Politics*, *Economics of Governance*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *National Science Foundation*, *Oxford University Press*, *Party Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Research and Politics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Science Advances*, *Strategic Management Journal*

Panel chair: annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (2020) and the Midwest Political Science Association (2021)

Discussant: annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (2020-2021), the Midwest Political Science Association (2021), and Society for Political Methodology (2019-2020, 2022)

**PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

Academy of Management, American Political Science Association, Non-Market Strategy Research Community, Strategic Management Society

**UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE**

Co-organizer: Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Speaker Series (2021-2022) and Political Economy Workshop (2020-2021)

Doctoral Dissertation Fourth Reader: Eric Manning (2023)

Faculty Coordinator: American Politics Graduate Research Seminar (2021, 2023)

Faculty Grader: American Politics Graduate General Exam (2021)

Junior Paper Advisor: Department of Politics (2023)

Senior Thesis Research Funding Committee: Department of Politics (2020-2021)

Senior Thesis Second Reader: Department of Politics (2021, 2023) and the School of Public and International Affairs (2023)

Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee: School of Public and International Affairs (2020-2021, 2022-2023)

**REFERENCES**

**David P. Baron**

The David S. and Ann M. Barlow Professor of Political Economy and Strategy, Emeritus

Stanford University Graduate School of Business

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**Kenneth W. Shotts**

The David S. and Ann M. Barlow Professor of Political Economy

Stanford University Graduate School of Business

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**David M. Primo**

The Ani and Mark Gabrellian Professor of Political Science and Business Administration

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