

Yiwen Zhang

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EDUCATION

London School of Economics and Political Science
Department of Government & Data Science Institute
MRes/PhD in Political Science

September 2025 - September 2029

Supervisor: Professor Valentino Larcinese
Enlighten Scholarship (£50,000 per academic year)

Peking University

M.Phil. in Comparative Politics, GPA: 3.87/4.0 (Ranked 1st; Thesis with Distinction)

September 2022 - June 2024

Supervisor: Dr Yanjun Liu

Awards: Peking University Leo KoGuan Scholarship, Graduate Academic Scholarship, Student of the Year Nominee

Overseas Study: **Stanford University** (China Study in Beijing Program; Prof. Scott Rozelle, Prof. Michael McFaul), **University of Oxford** (International Politics Seminar, Prof. Paul Chaisty), **Sciences Po** (Global Governance Program)

Peking University

B.A. in Politics and Administration, GPA: 3.7/4.0 (Ranked 2nd; Highest Honors)

September 2018 - June 2022

Joint Honors Program in Politics, Law, and Sociology

Awards: May Fourth Scholarship (Highest Honours scholarship for undergraduate), Academic Innovation Award, 2021 (The only undergraduate in the department)

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Can Welfare States Break Free from the Political Trap of Income Inequality? - An Empirical Analysis of Global Data from 1960 to 2023

In Progress

- Led as the 1st Author, utilized cross-national panel data from 159 countries spanning 1960 to 2023, along with multiple waves of data from the World Values Survey and V-Dem, to explore the impact of economic inequality on political equality
- Utilized two-way fixed effects models and multilevel regression to confirm the core hypothesis that greater welfare state inclusivity weakens the negative impact of national income inequality on political equality and reduces the explanatory power of individual income levels on subjective perceptions of political equality and political participation

Chinese Worldviews and International Policy Attitudes: An Online Experiment

In Progress

- Embed an online experiment in the 2023 Beijing Area Study (an annual survey conducted since 1995 among Beijing residents), achieving a rigorously randomized sample of 1,000 respondents
- Integrated the classic frameworks of militant and cooperative internationalism with a new propaganda context to examine the effects of different narratives on Beijing residents' worldviews and international policy attitudes. Quantitative analysis by STATA revealed that pride and humiliation narratives, derived from actual social media content, significantly influenced foreign policy preferences

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2022, 2025

International Conference on Political Sociology, 2024

Chinese Community of Political Science and International Studies Annual Conference, 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2022, 2025

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Zhejiang Early Childhood Development Tracking Survey Project

June 2024 - September 2024

Research Assistant | Advisor: Professor Scott Rozelle (Stanford University)

- Assisted in designing rigorous randomized intervention experiments to identify the impact of parenting practices on cognitive development among children in Zhejiang, China, and utilized socioeconomic scales to assess parenting environments and behaviors, providing policy recommendations for improving social welfare policies
- Led the baseline field survey team, conducting on-site interviews and measurements with children and parents, successfully collecting 500 data samples in the first phase. The following steps involve randomly offering scientifically informed family caregiving resources and evaluating the impact of the social intervention

Annual "Beijing Area Study" under the Research Centre for Contemporary China

January 2021 - Present

Research Assistant | Advisor: Dr Yanjun Liu, Dr Yu Zeng, Dr Xiao Ma (Peking University)

- Led the research design and conducted comprehensive literature reviews for two modules on Chinese international attitudes and grassroots democratic preferences within the Beijing Area Study. Demonstrated expertise in online experiment design, focusing on creating experiments for choice-based conjoint analysis
- Contributed to developing research article based on original survey data, leading data cleaning, statistical analysis in R and Python, and drafting key manuscript sections. This experience fostered advanced academic writing skills, a comprehensive understanding of quantitative methods from design to presentation, and the practical application of classic political psychology and communication theories in empirical research

Covid-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT), University of Oxford

January 2021-March 2023

Data Processing Associate | Advisor: Dr Yuxi Zhang, Professor Thomas Hale (University of Oxford)

- Spearheaded policy coding efforts for numerous provincial-level governments, notably including Shanxi and Guangdong provinces, instrumental in shaping the creation of a pioneering pandemic policy database recognized on a global scale
- Developed my undergraduate thesis using a global multilevel dataset by recoding the OxCGRT dataset into a longitudinal format and integrating multiple waves of individual surveys. Employed a two-way fixed effects model in STATA to demonstrate that stricter containment policies and more economically supportive government actions significantly lead to a leftward shift in public ideology and increased support for government surveillance during crises

Peking University “Challenge Cup” Academic Competition

November 2020 - May 2021

Team Leader & First Author | Advisor: Dr Yanjun Liu (Peking University)

- Pioneered a comprehensive investigation into the intricate domains of political socialisation and youth national identity, assuming a central role in formulating research questions, structuring research designs, and optimising the quantitative models to ensure the most insightful findings.
- Executed in-depth statistical analyses, encompassing factor analysis and logistic regression, independently refining the dimensions of national identity concepts. These analyses unearthed a pivotal discovery, highlighting the profound influence of psychological gender on shaping national identity.

SELECTED HONOURS & AWARDS

Enlighten Scholarship, £ 200,000, London School of Economics and Political Science	<i>July 2025</i>
The China Scholarship Council Scholarship \$ 26,400	<i>July 2024</i>
Compass Research Scholarship \$ 31,000, University of Chicago	<i>March 2024</i>
Graduate Scholarship for Academic Excellence, ¥44,000, Peking University	<i>September 2022 - July 2024</i>
Global Governance Program Scholarship €3,000, Sciences Po & Peking University	<i>October 2023</i>
Forbes 30 Under 30 (Honored for contribution to education equity, only 4 Chinese in this area selected)	<i>December 2023</i>
Leo KoGuan Scholarship \$2,850, Peking University (Top 0.05%)	<i>September 2023</i>
International Alliance of Research Universities Summer School Scholarship £289, University of Oxford	<i>June 2023</i>
Student of the Year Nominee, Peking University (Top 0.1%)	<i>December 2022</i>
May Fourth Scholarship ¥12,000, Peking University (Highest Honours scholarship for undergraduate)	<i>September 2021</i>
Academic Innovation Award, Peking University (The only undergraduate in the department)	<i>September 2021</i>
Peking University “Challenge Cup” Academic Competition First Prize	<i>April 2021</i>

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Organization for Migration (UN Migration) in the UK, On-site Full-time Data Intern	<i>August 2024 – July 2025</i>
World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community, Curator of Beijing Hub (Part-time)	<i>January 2024 - Present</i>
“Future Youth” Educational Equality Public Welfare Project, Co-Founder (Part-time)	<i>May 2022 - Present</i>
Development and Reform Commission of Beijing, Intern	<i>March 2021 - May 2021</i>
Institution of New Economy Development, Consultant	<i>July 2020 - September 2020</i>

METHODS AND SKILLS

Research Method: Survey Experiment, Causal Inference, Multilevel Modelling, Panel Data Analysis

Programming and Software: Python, R, STATA, LaTeX, SPSS

Languages: English and Chinese - Advanced proficiency for research and teaching, French - Basic, Spanish - Basic