


Ruilin LAI

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Updated March 2026

Academic Appointment	New York University Abu Dhabi Research Assistant	2021
Education	Washington University in St Louis Ph.D. in Political Science - Graduate Research Fellow, Weidenbaum Center M.A. in Political Science	<i>Expected 2027</i> 2025-2027 2024
	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology M.Phil. in Social Science (<i>on study leave in 2021</i>) M.Sc. in Global China Studies	2022 2019
	Hong Kong Baptist University B.Soc.Sc. (First Class Honors) in Government and International Studies	2018
	L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po Paris) One-year exchange study	2016-2017
Additional Training	University of Michigan Ann Arbor ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	2019
Interests	Substantive: Comparative politics, judicial politics, political communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Propaganda and (judicial) repression in autocracies; autocratic judicial politics• Political economy of authoritarianism• Media bias and media capture in democracies• Chinese politics; Hong Kong politics; American politics Methodological: Text-as-data	
Publication	[1] “Can Autocratic Power Influence Media in Democracies? Evidence from China’s Expulsion of American Journalists” [Link] 2026, <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> 14(1) [2] “Capturing the Fourth Estate: Government Influence on U.S. Newspaper Coverage of Foreign Leaders” [Link] 2025, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 55 [3] “Who Funds Whose Infrastructure: Country Dyadic Analysis of Global Project Finance Loans” with Jean Hong (Michigan) and Ilker Karaca (Iowa State) [Link] 2024, <i>Review of International Political Economy</i> 32(2) [4] “Political Institutions and Global Project Finance Loans” with Jean Hong (Michigan) and Ilker Karaca (Iowa State) [Link] 2023, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 67(2)	
Working Paper	[1] “Judicial Repression and Opposition to Autocracy: Evidence from Hong Kong” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Young Scholar Best Paper Award</i>, APSA Conference Group on Taiwan Studies• <i>Best Graduate Student Paper</i>, Department of Political Science, WashU	

- [2] “Prosecutors, Lawyers, and Repression in Autocratic Courts” with Jean Hong (Michigan)
- [3] “After Repression: The Impacts of Confession Propaganda upon Failed Uprisings” with Eddy Yeung (Emory) and Matthew Gabel (WashU) *Under Review*
- [4] “Liberal Education and Illiberal Judgments” with Jean Hong (Michigan) *Under Review*
- [5] “Brand Cues as a Source of Perceived Media Bias” with Leonid Peisakhin (NYU Abu Dhabi) and Greg Chih-Hsin Sheen (Academia Sinica) *Under Review*
- [6] “Judicial Involvement and Public Reactions to Repression” with Deniz Aksoy (WashU) *Under Review*

Other Writing

- [1] “China’s Vaccine Scandal 2018: Pharmaceutical Companies Pacing Heightened Regulatory Risks” with Gang Chen
2018, *East Asian Institute Background Brief* 1386.

Honours, Grants, and Fellowships

External

- [1] Academic Mentoring Grant (US\$8,000) | Institute for Human Studies 2024

Internal

- [1] Arts & Sciences Conference Travel Grant (US\$4,783) | WashU 2023-2026
- [2] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Matt Gabel) (US\$15,000) | WashU 2026
- [3] Global Futures Small Grant (US\$1,500) | WashU 2025
- [4] Weidenbaum Center Graduate Research Grant (US\$5,000) | WashU 2025
- [5] LSQ Research Grant (US\$5,000) | WashU 2025
- [6] Department Seed Grant (US\$2,500) | WashU 2024
- [7] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Matt Gabel) (US\$13,720) | WashU 2024
- [8] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Deniz Aksoy) (US\$15,000) | WashU 2023
- [9] Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship | WashU 2022-2028

Pre-doctoral

- [1] Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship (HK\$8,000) | HKUST 2022
- [2] Dr Charles Chan Postgraduate Scholarship (HK\$54,090) | HKUST 2020
- [3] Postgraduate Studentship (HK\$415,920) | HKUST 2019-2022
- [4] EITM Certification Scholarship for ICPSR Summer Program (US\$3,700) 2019
- [5] MGCS Program Scholarship (HK\$20,000) | HKUST 2019
- [6] MGCS Program Conference Grant (HK\$11,000) | HKUST 2019
- [7] Scholarship for Global Attachment Opportunities (HK\$6,000) | HKBU 2018
- [8] Reaching Out Award (HK\$10,000) | Hong Kong SAR Government 2018
- [9] Social Sciences Scholarship for Global Exchange (HK\$4,000) | HKBU 2018
- [10] Exchange Sponsorship (HK\$34,000) | HKBU 2017
- [11] Full Admission Scholarship (HK\$680,000) | HKBU 2014-2018

Conferences & Talks

Annual Meetings

- American Political Science Association 2021, 2024-2026 (Scheduled)
- International Studies Association 2021-2022
- Midwest Political Science Association 2019-2026 (Scheduled)
- Western Political Science Association 2020

Small Conferences and Workshops (* = invited)

APSA Mini-Conference on Chinese Politics	2026 (Scheduled)
Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, University of Texas at Austin	2026
Authoritarian Institutions and State Dynamics,* Arizona State University/IHS	2026
Protests and Politics Around the World,* Yale University	2025
Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR)	2025
SPSA Mini-Conference on The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes	2025
Pacific International Politics Conference (<i>coauthor presented</i>)	2021

Talks

Weidenbaum Center Interdisciplinary Workshop Series, WashU	2026
Online Seminar, Global Research Association of Politics in Hong Kong (GRAPH)	2025

Service **Assistant** | Authoritarian Political Systems Group 11/2023-05/2024

Editorial Assistant | *American Political Science Review* 10/2023-05/2024

Teaching Experience

Assistant Instructor Department of Political Science, WashU	
The Politics of Law and Order (Advanced Undergraduate)	Spring 2026
The Politics of the U.S. Supreme Court (Advanced Undergraduate)	Fall 2025
Research Design and Methods (Advanced Undergraduate)	Spring 2025
Data Science for Politics (Undergraduate)	Fall 2024
Senior Thesis Research (Advanced Undergraduate)	Spring 2024
Political Violence (Advanced Undergraduate)	Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant Division of Social Science, HKUST	
Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Research (Undergraduate)	Spring 2022
Politics Through Films (Undergraduate)	Fall 2020

Skills

Language

Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Advanced), Cantonese (Intermediate)

Software

R, Python, Java, Stata, \LaTeX , Gephi, Visone

Other

Citizenship: Hong Kong