

Ruilin LAI

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Academic Appointment	New York University Abu Dhabi Research Assistant	2021
Education	Washington University in St Louis Ph.D. in Political Science - <i>Graduate Research Fellow</i> , 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">[1] "Capturing the Fourth Estate: Government Influence on U.S. Newspaper Coverage of Foreign Leaders" [Link] 2025, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 55[2] "Can Autocratic Power Influence Media in Democracies? Evidence from China's Expulsion of American Journalists" [Link] 2025, <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i>[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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">[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] “Independent Judiciary for Authoritarian Repression” with Jean Hong (Michigan)	
	[3] “After Repression: The Impacts of Confession Propaganda upon Failed Uprisings” with Eddy Yeung (Emory) and Matthew Gabel (WashU) <i>Under Review</i>	
	[4] “Liberal Education and Illiberal Judgments” with Jean Hong (Michigan) <i>Under Review</i>	
	[5] “Brand Cues as a Source of Perceived Media Bias” with Leonid Peisakhin (NYU Abu Dhabi) and Greg Chih-Hsin Sheen (Academia Sinica)	
	[6] “Judicial Involvement and Public Reactions to Repression” with Deniz Aksoy (WashU)	
Other Writing	[1] “China’s Vaccine Scandal 2018: Pharmaceutical Companies Pacing Heightened Regulatory Risks” with Gang Chen 2018, <i>East Asian Institute Background Brief</i> 1386.	
Honours, Grants, and Fellowships	<i>External</i>	
	[1] Academic Mentoring Grant (US\$8,000) Institute for Human Studies	2024
	<i>Internal</i>	
	[1] Global Futures Small Grant (US\$5000) WashU	2025
	[2] Weidenbaum Center Graduate Research Grant (US\$5,000) WashU	2025
	[3] LSQ Research Grant (US\$5,000) WashU	2025
	[4] Department Seed Grant (US\$2,500) WashU	2024
	[5] Arts & Sciences Conference Grant (US\$2,883) WashU	2023-2024
	[6] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Matt Gabel) (US\$13,720) WashU	2024
	[7] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Deniz Aksoy) (US\$15,000) WashU	2023
	[8] Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship WashU	2022-2028
	<i>Pre-doctoral</i>	
	[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
Conference Participation	<i>Annual Meetings</i>	
	American Political Science Association	2021, 2024-2025
	International Studies Association	2021-2022
	Midwest Political Science Association	2019-2025
	Western Political Science Association	2020
	<i>Small Conferences and Workshops</i>	
	Emerging Scholars in Public Law Conference, University of Texas at Austin	2026
	Authoritarian Institutions and State Dynamics (invited), Arizona State University	2026
	Protests and Politics Around the World (invited), Yale University	2025

	Online Seminar, Global Research Association of Politics in Hong Kong (GRAPH)	2025
	Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR)	2025
	SPSA Mini-Conference on The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes	2025
	Pacific International Politics Conference (Coauthor presented)	2021
Service	Assistant Authoritarian Political Systems Group	11/2023-05/2024
	Editorial Assistant <i>American Political Science Review</i>	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	