

# Ruilin LAI

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

- [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) *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)
- [6] "Judicial Involvement and Public Reactions to Repression" with Deniz Aksoy (WashU)

<b>Other Writing</b>	[1] "China's Vaccine Scandal 2018: Pharmaceutical Companies Pacing Heightened Regulatory Risks" with Gang Chen 2018, <i>East Asian Institute Background Brief</i> 1386.
<b>Honours, Grants, and Fellowships</b>	<p><b>External</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1] Academic Mentoring Grant (US\$8,000)   Institute for Human Studies 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Internal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1] Global Futures Small Grant (US\$5000)   WashU 2025</li> <li>[2] Weidenbaum Center Graduate Research Grant (US\$5,000)   WashU 2025</li> <li>[3] LSQ Research Grant (US\$5,000)   WashU 2025</li> <li>[4] Department Seed Grant (US\$2,500)   WashU 2024</li> <li>[5] Arts &amp; Sciences Conference Grant (US\$2,883)   WashU 2023-2024</li> <li>[6] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Matt Gabel) (US\$13,720)   WashU 2024</li> <li>[7] Weidenbaum Center Research Grant (with Deniz Aksoy) (US\$15,000)   WashU 2023</li> <li>[8] Arts &amp; Sciences Graduate Fellowship   WashU 2022-2028</li> </ul> <p><b>Pre-doctoral</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1] Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship (HK\$8,000)   HKUST 2022</li> <li>[2] Dr Charles Chan Postgraduate Scholarship (HK\$54,090)   HKUST 2020</li> <li>[3] Postgraduate Studentship (HK\$415,920)   HKUST 2019-2022</li> <li>[4] EITM Certification Scholarship for ICPSR Summer Program (US\$3,700) 2019</li> <li>[5] MGCS Program Scholarship (HK\$20,000)   HKUST 2019</li> <li>[6] MGCS Program Conference Grant (HK\$11,000)   HKUST 2019</li> <li>[7] Scholarship for Global Attachment Opportunities (HK\$6,000)   HKBU 2018</li> <li>[8] Reaching Out Award (HK\$10,000)   Hong Kong SAR Government 2018</li> <li>[9] Social Sciences Scholarship for Global Exchange (HK\$4,000)   HKBU 2018</li> <li>[10] Exchange Sponsorship (HK\$34,000)   HKBU 2017</li> <li>[11] Full Admission Scholarship (HK\$680,000)   HKBU 2014-2018</li> </ul>
<b>Conference Participation</b>	<p><b>Annual Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Political Science Association 2021, 2024-2025</li> <li>International Studies Association 2021-2022</li> <li>Midwest Political Science Association 2019-2025</li> <li>Western Political Science Association 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Small Conferences and Workshops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Scholars in Public Law Conference, University of Texas at Austin 2026</li> <li>Authoritarian Institutions and State Dynamics (invited), Arizona State University 2026</li> <li>Protests and Politics Around the World (invited), Yale University 2025</li> </ul>

	Online Seminar, Global Research Association of Politics in Hong Kong (GRAPH) Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR) SPSA Mini-Conference on The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes Pacific International Politics Conference (Coauthor presented)	2025 2025 2025 2021
<b>Service</b>	<b>Assistant</b>   Authoritarian Political Systems Group	11/2023-05/2024
	<b>Editorial Assistant</b>   <i>American Political Science Review</i>	10/2023-05/2024
<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<b>Assistant Instructor</b>   Department of Political Science, WashU The Politics of Law and Order (Advanced Undergraduate) The Politics of the U.S. Supreme Court (Advanced Undergraduate) Research Design and Methods (Advanced Undergraduate) Data Science for Politics (Undergraduate) Senior Thesis Research (Advanced Undergraduate) Political Violence (Advanced Undergraduate)	Spring 2026 Fall 2025 Spring 2025 Fall 2024 Spring 2024 Fall 2023
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>   Division of Social Science, HKUST Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Research (Undergraduate) Politics Through Films (Undergraduate)	Spring 2022 Fall 2020
<b>Skills</b>	<b>Language</b> Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Advanced), Cantonese (Intermediate)	
	<b>Software</b> R, Python, Java, Stata, <i>LATEX</i> , Gephi, Visone	
<b>Other</b>	Citizenship: Hong Kong	