

Zhenhuan (Reed) Lei

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Last updated: May 5, 2026

Present Appointments	Shanghai Jiao Tong University (上海交通大学) Associate Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, 2024–present
Earlier Appointments	University of Wisconsin-Madison Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, 2020–2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trice Family Faculty Fellow, 2020–2022- Jerry and Mary Cotter Faculty Fellow, 2021–2022 Faculty Affiliate, Center for East Asian Studies, 2020–2024 Faculty Affiliate, East Asian Legal Studies Center, 2021–2024 Peking University (北京大学) Visiting Scholar, National School of Development, 2022–2023
Education	New York University Ph.D., Political Science, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dissertation: Essays on the Allocation of Public Resources in China- Dissertation committee: Bruce Bueno de Mesquita (chair), Daniel Mattingly, Julia Payson, and Adam Przeworski M.Phil., Political Science, 2020 M.A., Political Science, 2018 University of Southern California Master of Public Administration, 2016 Master of Arts, Economics, 2016 China Foreign Affairs University (外交学院) Bachelor of Arts, English Language and Literature, 2014 Bachelor of Economics, International Economics and Trade, 2014
Publication	<u>English journal articles:</u> “ Making Local Courts Work: The Judicial Recentralization Reform and Local Protectionism in China. ” (2025) <i>The Journal of Politics</i> , 87(4), 1573–1586, with Yishuang Li. “ The Fiscal Logic of Political Responsiveness: Public Finance, Elections, and Public Goods Provision in Rural China. ” (2024) <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> , 59, 1-26. “ The Political Resource Blessing or Curse? Patronage Networks, Infrastructure Investment, and Economic Development in China. ” (2023) <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> , 56(8), 1156–1188. “ Political Alignment and the Allocation of Stock Market Resources in China. ” (2023) <i>Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy</i> , 4(1), 51–80, with Yishuang Li. “ Private Returns to Public Investment: Political Career Incentives and Infrastructure Investment in China. ” (2022) <i>The Journal of Politics</i> , 84(1), 455-469, with Junlong Aaron Zhou.

[“Coordinating China’s Economic Growth Strategy via Its Government-Controlled Association for Private Firms.”](#) (2018)
Journal of Comparative Economics, 46, 1273-1293, with Jeff Nugent.

Chinese journal articles (中文发表):

“国家治理指数和发展中国家现代化——基于历史沿革、理论逻辑和构建方法的考察,” 《国家现代化建设研究》2024年第1期。
合作者: 席天扬、刘诗尧、李怡爽、刘珍岑、赵家琪

Working Papers

[“Do Full-Time Lawmakers Strengthen Legislative Assertiveness under Single-Party Rule? Evidence from China,”](#) with Nailong Shi (SJTU) and Zeyi Song (PKU).

[“Matriarch for the Patriarch: Female Regency, Two-Sided Commitment and Political Stability in Historical China,”](#) with Joy Chen (RUC) and Xiuyu Li (NYU).

[“From Office to Oversight: Retiring Senior Officials and Legislative Assertiveness in China,”](#) with Chuan Liu (UW-Madison) and Anchu Wang (SJTU).

[“Seeing Corruption Differently: An Information-Based Perspective on the Expert-Citizen Gap in Corruption Indicators,”](#) with Tianyang Xi (Peking University) and Jiaqi Zhao (Peking University).

Work in Progress

“Making Decentralization Work: The Party-State System and China’s Economic Reforms and Development.”

“Decentralization and Environmental Regulation: Evidence from China’s Legislative Decentralization Reform,” with Yuanning Liang (PKU), Jianwei Xing (PKU), and Shilong Zhuang (PKU).

“Turning the Blade Inward: Deregulation to Discipline the Bureaucracy,” with Lizhi Liu (Georgetown).

Presentations

Seminar and workshop presentations:

2026: **Renmin University of China** (School of Economics, April 20); **Xiamen University** (School of Economics, May 18, 2026); **Shanghai University of Finance and Economics** (School of Finance and Investment, May 25, 2026).

2025: **Renmin University of China** (School of International Relations, March 12, 2025); **Tsinghua University** (Department of Political Science, April 21, 2025); **Fudan University** (School of Economics, April 29, 2025); **Duke Kunshan University** (Environmental Economics Workshop, May 20, 2025); **Renmin University of China** (School of Public Administration, Seminar on Public Administration Theory, June 21, 2025); **Southeast University** (School of Law, Seminar on “Law, Court, and Judges in Comparative Perspectives,” June 28-29, 2025); **Zhejiang University** (Department of Sociology, Seminar on “Historical Political Economy,” August 3-4, 2025); **Tsinghua University** (Department of Political Science, Conference on “The Frontiers of Political Science Theory and Methods,” October 25, 2025); **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** (Antai College of Economics and Management, YES-SHINE-2025 conference, November 15-16, 2025); **Zhongnan University of Economics and Law** (Law School, Research Camp of Law and Social Science, December 1, 2025); **Renmin University of China** (Department of Public Policy, School of Government, December 12, 2025); **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** (Shanghai Institute for National Economy, December 23, 2025).

2024: **Peking University** (School of Government, December 4, 2024); **East China**

University of Political Science and Law (Workshop on “State and Governance in History”, November 16, 2024); **University of Macau** (Department of Government and Public Administration, August 27, 2024); **Xiamen University** (School of Public Affairs, May 30, 2024); **Sichuan University** (School of Public Administration, May 24, 2024); **Sun Yat-Sen University** (School of Government, May 20, 2024); **Zhejiang University** (School of Public Affairs, May 14, 2024); **Tsinghua University** (Department of Political Science, May 10, 2024); **China Foreign Affairs University** (Department of English and International Studies, May 9, 2024); **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** (School of International and Public Affairs, March 1, 2024); **Tsinghua University** (School of Public Policy and Management, February 27, 2024).

2023: **Stanford University** (China Social Science Workshop, November 30, 2023); **Nanyang Technological University** (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, July 28, 2023); **Peking University** (CCER Summer Institute, August, 2023); Peking University (School of Government, PKU-FDU Forum on State Governance, June, 2023); **Peking University** (Analytics Lab for Global Risk Politics, May 28, 2023); **Fudan University** (School of Economics, May 25, 2023); **University of Hong Kong** (Contemporary China Lecture Series, January 17, 2023).

2022: **Peking University** (National School of Development, Development Economics Seminar, November 10, 2022); **Peking University** (School of Government, October 25, 2022); **Peking University** (National School of Development, “Workshop on Political Economy and Political Selection,” August 23, 2022).

2021: **Peking University** (School of Government, December 18, 2021); **University of Wisconsin-Madison** (Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, Development Economics Workshop, April 8, 2021); **University of Southern California** (Marshall School of Business, April 6, 2021).

2020 and before: **Fudan University** (“Zooming in China” Webinar Series, November 17, 2020); **University of Wisconsin-Madison** (Chinese Politics and Policy Seminar (job talk), October 22, 2019); **Peking University** (National School of Development, International Conference on Comparative Political Selection, June 4-5, 2019); **Fudan University** (China-India Workshop on Development and Governance, June 8, 2018); **Peking University** (National School of Development, Rethinking the Economic Role of State, June 2-3, 2017).

Annual conferences of academic associations:

American Political Science Association: 2019, 2023, 2024, 2025

- Presenter, Chinese Politics Mini Conference (2019, 2023, and 2025)
- Co-organizer (2024 and 2025) and discussant (2025), panel on “Judicial Politics of China”
- Co-organizer and presenter, panel on “Comparative Legislature” (2025)

Midwestern Political Science Association: 2018, 2019, 2025

China Economic Association

- Annual meetings: 2023, 2025
- Summer workshops: 2025

Young Economists’ Society (YES) of China: 2025

Asian Law and Economics Association: 2025

Community of Political Science and International Relations: 2025

Fieldwork

Shantou (汕头), Guangdong (April 14, 2026); **Jieyang** (揭阳), Guangdong (April 13, 2026); **Xuzhou** (徐州), Jiangsu (Mar 16, 2026); **Zhongshan** (中山), Guangdong (Nov

28, 2025); **Zhuhai** (珠海), Guangdong (Nov 27, 2025); **Yangzhou** (扬州), Jiangsu (Jul 29, 2025); **Sanming** (三明), Fujian (Feb, 2024).

Teaching

Shanghai Jiao Tong University:

- PUM1125: Institutions and Economic Development (Undergraduate)
- PUM6606: Public Economics (Graduate)
- POL6307: Comparative Politics (Graduate)
- POL7002: Academic Writing for Political Science (Graduate)
- POL7004: Special Topics of Comparative Politics (Graduate)

University of Wisconsin-Madison:

- POLI SCI 987: Comparative Politics Colloquial (Field Workshop)
- POLI SCI 840: Comparative Political Economy (Graduate)
- POLI SCI 835: Game Theory and Political Analysis (Graduate)
- POLI SCI 324: Chinese Politics (Undergraduate)
- PUB AFFR 974: China's Policymaking and Global Influence (Graduate)
- PUB AFFR 380: Analytic Tools for Public Policy (Undergraduate)

Advising

Ph.D. students:

- **Nailong Shi**, Political Science, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (dissertation advisor)
- **Chuan Liu**, Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison (dissertation committee member)
- **Junda Li**, Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison (first-year advisor and dissertation committee member)
- **Priyadarshi Amar**, Political Science and Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison (dissertation committee member)

MPA thesis at SJTU: **Lizhe Chen** (2027 expected); **Ye Chen** (2027 expected); **Dao Cheng** (2027 expected); **Tianyu Feng** (2027 expected).

Undergraduate thesis: **Yege Wu** (SJTU, 2025); **Zhuoyuan Zhang** (SJTU, 2025); **Yumeng Chen** (UW-Madison, 2023); **Jui Lin Lu** (UW-Madison, 2023); **Annie King** (UW-Madison, 2023).

Grants

Shanghai Municipal Young Talent Program, Shanghai Municipal Government, 2025–2027, 150,000 RMB.

Grant for Young Scholars of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2025–2027, 50,000 RMB.

Fall Research Competition Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024–2025, \$47,121.

Kohl Research Competition Award, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024, \$10,000.

Fall Research Competition Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024, \$43,924.

Research Grant, East Asian Legal Studies Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022, \$7,500.

Fall Research Competition Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022–2023, \$47,132.

Pandemic-Affected Research Continuation Initiative Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022, \$39,100.

Jerry and Mary Cotter Faculty Fellow Award (for research on legislative politics), La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021-2022, \$10,000.

Fall Research Competition Grant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021-2022, \$41,616.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, Center on U.S.-China Relations, New York University, 2019, \$5,000.

Urban Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2019 - 2020.

Provost's Global Research Initiative Fellowship, New York University, 2019 summer.

George Downs Fellowship, Department of Politics, New York University, 2019 Summer and 2019 Fall.

MacCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2016 - 2021.

Service

Disciplinary Service:

Reviewer for English journals: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Asian Journal of Law and Economics*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *China Economic Quarterly International*; *Chinese Political Science Review*; *Comparative Politics*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *Democratization*; *Economics & Politics*; *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*; *Governance*; *Information, Communication and Society*; *the Journal of Chinese Political Science*; *the Journal of Politics*; *the Journal of East Asian Studies*; *the Journal of Law and Economics*; *Policy Studies*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *Public Performance & Management Review*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *Regulation & Governance*; *the Review of Economics and Statistics*; and *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

Reviewer for book manuscripts: Routledge, Cambridge Elements of *Politics and Society in East Asia*

Reviewer for Chinese journals: 《经济学（季刊）》

Co-organizer and local host, Seminar on "Laws, Courts, and Judges in Comparative Perspectives" (with Xiaohong Yu), Shanghai Jiao Tong University, July 4-5, 2026.

Co-organizer, Political Economy and Development Economics Workshop (with Shiqi Guo and Yuxiao Hu), Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2025-present.

Co-organizer, "New Faces in Chinese Politics" (with Taylor Fravel, Yue Hou, Melanie Manion, Dan Mattingly, and Yuhua Wang), University of Pennsylvania, August 9-10, 2023.

Co-organizer, Workshop on Judicial Political Economy, Peking University, June 27, 2023.

Co-organizer, "New Faces in Chinese Politics" (with Yue Hou, Melanie Manion, Dan Mattingly, and Yuhua Wang), University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 6-7, 2022.

Co-organizer, Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science (MWEPS-VII) (with Rikhil Bhavnani), University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 19, 2021.

Co-organizer, "New Faces in Chinese Politics" (with Yue Hou, Melanie Manion, Dan Mattingly, and Yuhua Wang), Duke University, August 27-28, 2021.

Co-organizer, Zoom Webinar on "Doing Fieldwork in China: Conversation with Practitioners" (with Yue Hou, Melanie Manion, Dan Mattingly, and Yuhua Wang), March 23, 2021.

Program Committee, China Research Group Doctoral Symposium, Marshall School

of Business, University of Southern California, 2021 and 2022.

Co-organizer, Zoom Webinar on “The Job Market For PhD Students in Chinese Politics 2020 and after” (with Yue Hou, Melanie Manion, Dan Mattingly, and Yuhua Wang), October 20, 2020.

Coordinator, Quantitative China Studies Seminar, New York University, 2017-2020.

University and Departmental Service:

Faculty Advisor, Model United Nations Associations, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2024–present.

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Committee (Comparative Politics), Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024.

Third-year paper review committee (Political Methodology), Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022–2024.

Kohl Competition Awards Committee, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024.

Graduate Admissions and Fellowship Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024.

Coordinator, Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023–2024.

Co-organizer, Political Economy Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021-2022 and 2023-2024.

Graduate Curriculum and Fellowship Committee, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021-2022.

Steering Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, starting from 2021–2024.

Co-organizer, Models, Experiments, and Data Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020–2022.

Graduate Appeal Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2020–2022.

Senator, Faculty Senate, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2020-2021, 2022 spring, 2023-2024.

Personal

Born in 1992

Nationality: China