

# Zhaomin Li

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Department of Political Science, University of Washington  
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## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

*Substantive:* Comparative Politics, Historical Political Economy.  
*Methodological:* Formal Theory, Causal Inference, Computational Text Analysis.

## EDUCATION

*Ph.D. in Political Science* 2027 (expected)  
University of Washington  
• Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Political Methodology.  
• Dissertation: *Three Essays on the Political Economy of Beliefs*.  
*M.A. in Politics* 2022  
New York University  
*M.A. in Economics* 2021  
Duke University  
*B.A. in Economics & B.S. in Mathematics* 2018  
University of Colorado Denver

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Clair Yang, Yasheng Huang, and **Zhaomin Li**. “Meritocracy and Autocratic Power-Sharing: A Historical Perspective.” *The Journal of Politics*, published online April 17, 2026. [DOI]
2. Zhaowen Guo, **Zhaomin Li**, and Tao Lin. “Informed Inattention: How Political Connections Undermine Judicial Responsiveness in China.” *Chinese Political Science Review* 10(4): 634–671 (2025). [DOI]

## SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

1. The Ruler’s Flattery Game: Screening, Conformity, and Informational Collapse (with Tongtian Xiao).
2. Extractive vs. Reciprocal States: Evidence from Bronze-Iron Transition in Antiquity (with Clair Yang).
3. A Theory of Delegation and Informal Governance (with Jidong Chen).

## CONFERENCES & TALKS

*3rd Annual HPE Conference*, USC (scheduled) 2026  
*APSA Annual Meeting* (scheduled) 2026  
*MPSA Annual Meeting* 2026  
*CIDEG 20th Anniversary Academic Conference* 2025  
Tsinghua University, China  
*2nd HPE Workshop*, Zhejiang University, China 2025  
*Panel: Historical Political Economy of China: New Research Frontiers*, APSA Virtual Research Meeting (panel chair) 2024  
*Political Economy Forum*, UW 2024, 2023  
*China Studies Group*, UW 2023

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|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>CONFERENCES<br/>&amp; TALKS<br/>(CONT.)</b> | <i>Southern Economic Association 90th Annual Meeting</i> (via Zoom)                                                                                              | 2020                        |
|                                                | <i>Tashkent &amp; IFPRI Seminar</i> , Uzbekistan (via Zoom)                                                                                                      | 2020                        |
| <b>TEACHING<br/>EXPERIENCE</b>                 | <i>Advanced Quantitative Political Methodology</i>                                                                                                               | Spring 2026 · Spring 2025   |
|                                                | Graduate · TA & lab instructor                                                                                                                                   | Student evaluation: 5.0/5.0 |
|                                                | Course instructor: Caitlin Ainsley                                                                                                                               |                             |
|                                                | <i>Advanced Political Research Design and Analysis</i>                                                                                                           | Winter 2026 · Winter 2025   |
|                                                | Graduate · TA & lab instructor                                                                                                                                   | Student evaluation: 5.0/5.0 |
|                                                | Course instructor: Caitlin Ainsley                                                                                                                               |                             |
| <b>SELECTED<br/>AWARDS</b>                     | <i>Introduction to Political Economy</i>                                                                                                                         | Fall 2024                   |
|                                                | Undergraduate · TA                                                                                                                                               | Student evaluation: 4.7/5.0 |
|                                                | Course instructor: Anthony Gill                                                                                                                                  |                             |
|                                                | <i>China Studies Fellowship</i> , UW                                                                                                                             | 2026–2027, 2022–2023        |
| <b>TECHNICAL &amp;<br/>LANGUAGE<br/>SKILLS</b> | <i>Levi and Kaplan Fellowship</i> , UW                                                                                                                           | 2024                        |
|                                                | <i>Political Science Department Fellowship</i> , UW                                                                                                              | 2023–2024                   |
|                                                | <i>Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Fellowship</i> , UW                                                                                                    | 2022–2023                   |
|                                                | <i>Politics Predoctoral Scholarship</i> , NYU                                                                                                                    | 2021–2022                   |
|                                                | <i>Department of Economics Research Assistantship</i> , Duke University                                                                                          | 2020–2021                   |
| <b>TECHNICAL &amp;<br/>LANGUAGE<br/>SKILLS</b> | <i>Technical</i> : Proficient in Stata, R, and L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X; intermediate in Python and Mathematica; basic familiarity with SageMath and C++. |                             |
|                                                | <i>Language</i> : Mandarin Chinese (native).                                                                                                                     |                             |