Hanzhang Liu

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Academic Appointments

Florida State University — Tallahassee, FL
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science — 2025 –

Pitzer College — Claremont, CA
Assistant Professor, Political Studies — 2019 – 2025

Carnegie Mellon University — Pittsburgh, PA
Visiting Fellow, Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy & Technology — 2023 – 2024

University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, PA
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Contemporary China — 2018-2019

Education

Columbia University — New York, NY
Ph.D., Political Science — 2018
M.A., Political Science — 2013

Smith College — Northampton, MA
B.A. *magna cum laude*, Government and Economics — 2011
Phi Beta Kappa; Highest Department Honors (Government)

Research

Book Manuscript

The Autocratic Logic of Meritocracy: Co-optation via Examination in Contemporary China.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Liu, Hanzhang, and Linan Yao. Forthcoming. "Entertainment as Trojan Horse: Voluntary Consumption of Propaganda in China." *Political Communication.*

Feng, Bo, Qiwei He, and **Hanzhang Liu**. Forthcoming. "How Do Misperceptions about Non-monetary and Monetary Aspects of Government Jobs Influence Bureaucratic Selection?" *Labour Economics.*

Liu, Hanzhang. 2024. "Meritocracy as Authoritarian Co-Optation: Political Selection and Upward Mobility in China." *American Political Science Review,* 118(4): pp.1856-1872.

Ji, Chengyuan, and **Hanzhang Liu**. 2022. "State as Salesman: International Economic Engagement and Foreign News Coverage in China." *Political Communication*, 39(1): pp.122-145.

Liu, Hanzhang. 2019. "The Logic of Authoritarian Political Selection: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment in China." *Political Science Research and Methods,* 7(4): pp.853-870.

Working Papers

"Trusting an Authoritarian Government without Women? Lack of Female Leadership and Regime Legitimacy in China" (with Yesola Kweon). Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Politics*.

"Becoming Political Candidates in China: Elite University Network and Selectoral Advantage." (with Yuhua Wang)

"Educate to Equalize: Gendered Effects of Education on Political Attitude in China."

"How Efforts to Increase Innovation Security Decrease Technological Competitiveness." (with Justin Canfil)

"Misaligned Bureaucratic Incentives and Accountability: Local Government Debt Reduction in China." (with Yu You)

Work in Progress

"The Political Effects of Education under Authoritarianism: Evidence from China."

"Authoritarian Elite Recruitment: When is Meritocracy Adopted?"

"Does Entertainment Help with Propaganda Consumption and Persuasion?" (with Weifang Xu)

"Playing It Well but Safe: Female Leadership and Land Sales in Chinese Localities."

"How Chinese FDI Shapes Ethnic Dynamics in Southeast Asia." (with Seng Yee Sin)

Grants and Fellowships

First Year Assistant Professor Grant, Florida State University, $20,000	2026
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Research Grant, $18,000	2020-2022
Rosenberg Institute Scholarship, Suffolk University, $7,000	2020-2021
Scholar in Residence, Pitzer College	2021
China & Inner Asia Council Research Grant, Association for Asian Studies, $1,500	2020
Summer Faculty-Student Research Assistantship, Pitzer College, $3,000	2020
EnviroLab Asia Support for Research Fund, Claremont Colleges, $1,000	2020
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Doctoral Fellowship $19,000	2016-2017
Weatherhead Ph.D. Training Grant, Columbia University	2015
Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University	2014-2015
Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University	2011-2012
Dawes Prize for Best Undergraduate Work in Political Science, Smith College	2011
Sidney S. Cohen Prize for Outstanding Work in Economics, Smith College	2011

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting	2016–2026
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference	2020, 2022, 2026
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference	2015–2019, 2025
Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia, New York University	2026
The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations, The Carter Center	2026
Invited Talk: Department of Political Science, Claremont Graduate University	2025
Invited Talk: Department of Government, Dartmouth College	2024
Invited Talk: School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University	2024

Invited Talk: Department of Politics, London School of Economics	2023
Invited Talk: Department of Political Science, Washingtong University in St. Louis	2023
Fudan-UC Young Scholars Conference: New Directions in Survey Research	2022
Invited Talk: Center for the Study of Contemporary China, University of Pennsylvania	2022
Visions in Methodology Workshop, Society for Political Methodology	2021
Harriman-IMEMO International Conference, Moscow	2018, 2019
New Faces in China Studies Conference, Duke University	2018
Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference	2018
Carter Center Young Scholar Forum on U.S.-China Relations	2018
China and International Relations Research Workshop, University of Pennsylvania	2017
French Network for Asian Studies International Conference, Paris	2017
Fudan-UC Young Scholar Conference, UC San Diego	2016, 2017
Invited Talk: Department of Political Science, Brown University	2016
Graduate Seminar on China, Chinese University of Hong Kong	2015

Professional Service

Conference/Panel Organizer

Chinese Politics Mini-Conference, APSA Annual Meeting	2022
Paper Panel, "Political Recruitment and State Capacity in China," APSA Annual Meeting	2022
Paper Panel, "Women in Chinese Politics," APSA Annual Meeting	2021

Chair/Discussant

APSA; MPSA; SPSA; Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes; Fudan-UC Young Scholar Conference, UC San Diego; Workshop on Political Communication, Sun Yat-Sen University.

Reviewer

American Political Science Review, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Political Psychology*, *China Quarterly*, *Journal of East Asia Studies*, *Research & Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Political Studies Review*, *Economics Letters*, *International Interactions*

Teaching Experience

Florida State University

Politics of China	FA 2026
Authoritarian Regimes	FA 2025, SP 2026

Pitzer College

Introduction to Comparative Politics	FA 2019, SP 2022
Chinese Politics	FA 2019, FA 2020, FA 2022, FA 2024
Authoritarian Politics	SP 2020, SP 2021
Who Enters the Political Class	FA 2021, FA2024
First Year Seminar: Living with Unfreedom	FA 2020, FA 2024
Statistics and Data Analysis for Politics	SP 2020, SP 2022, FA 2022
Research Methods for Political Studies	SP 2021, SP 2025

Skills & Training

Research Methods

Causal Inference, Survey Methods, Experiments, Applied Game Theory, Computational Text Analysis, Applied Machine Learning

Summer Training

Summer Institute of Computational Social Science (2020)

Programming & Software

R, Stata, Python, Qualtrics, ArcGIS, MTurk, LaTeX, HTML

Languages

Mandarin Chinese: Native

— Last updated: September 9, 2026 —