

Zhihang Ruan

695 Park Ave, Room HW 1705
Hunter College
New York, NY 10065 USA

Email: zr588@hunter.cuny.edu
Phone: (212) 772-5682
Web: www.zhihangruan.com

EMPLOYMENT

Hunter College, The City University of New York Assistant Professor of Political Science, August 2023 –

EDUCATION

Northwestern University
Evanston, IL

Ph.D. in Political Science & M.S. in Statistics, Sept. 2023.
M.A. in Political Science, 2018.

- Fields: Comparative Politics (1st subfield), Methodology, Political Theory (2nd subfields)
- Dissertation Committee: William Hurst (chair), Jeffrey Winters, Monica Prasad, Sirius Bouchat.

The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

M.P.S. in Labor and Global Workers' Rights, 2015.

Sun Yat-sen University
Guangzhou, China

Master's Degree in Politics, 2014.

China Agricultural University
Beijing, China

Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development (with Distinction),
2012.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Political Economy, International Development, Inequality, Labor, Land, Welfare State, China, Vietnam, East and Southeast Asia

DISSERTATION/BOOK PROJECT

Land Regimes and the Welfare of Migrant Workers: A Comparison of China and Vietnam

- **Best Dissertation Award**, Class and Inequality Section, American Political Science Association, 2024.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE

Ruan, Zhihang. “Dualist Land Regime, the Hukou System and the Welfare of Migrant Workers in Chinese Cities.” *The China Quarterly* 260 (2024): 1024–39.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741024000304>.

Truong, Mai, and Zhihang Ruan. “Protecting the Center until It Doesn’t: When Blame Shifting Strategies Are Nullified in Authoritarian Regimes.” *Democratization*, 2026, 1–25.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2026.2659777>.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ruan, Zhihang and Qiyun Luo. “*Jifenzhi ruxue de zhengce zhengyi yu bianqian: yi zhbusanjiao weili* [Policy controversies and changes regarding the points-based admission system: a case study of the Pearl River Delta region].” In *Zhongguo liudong ertong jiaoyu fazhan baogao (2021–2022)* [Annual report on education for migrant children in China: 2021–2022], edited by Han Jialing, 132–50. Beijing: Social Sciences Academic Press, 2023.

Ruan, Zhihang. “Hypothesis Testing.” *Empirical Methods in Political Science: An Introduction*, edited by Jean Clipperton, 44–56. Northwestern University Libraries, 2022.

BOOK REVIEW

Ruan, Zhihang. [Review of *The Idea of Governance and the Spirit of Chinese Neoliberalism*](#) by Quan Li. *Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences* 12, no. 4 (2019): 679–82.

INVITED TALKS

“State-Building and Land Institutions in China and Vietnam.”

- Department of Political Science, Hunter College, CUNY, March 2023.
- Department of Political Science, Marquette University, April 2023.
- Saigon Social Science Hub, May 2025.

“State-Building and Land Ownership in China and Vietnam: The Critical Juncture of Constitution-Making in the 1970s and 1980s.”

- Comparative Historical Social Science Workshop, Department of Sociology and Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, January 2023.
- Comparative Politics Workshop, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, November 2022.

“Land Institutions, Urbanization, and Migrant Workers in China and Vietnam,” Department of Urban Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities - Ho Chi Minh City, August 2022.

“The Right to Strike Without the Freedom of Association: Workers and Unions in Auto Parts Manufacturers in Southern China, 2010–2016,” Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Graduate Lecture Series, Northwestern University, January 2018.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2026: Association for Asian Studies annual conference, American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting (scheduled).
2025: Harvard Urban China Conference, Saigon Social Science Hub, Social Science History Association (SSHA) annual conference.
2024: Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual meeting, APSA.
2023: APSA, MPSA, Urban Affairs Association annual conference, Harvard-MIT-UBC Urban China Conference, Southeast Asia Research Group conference, SSHA.
2022: APSA Asia Pacific Political Science Research and Publication Conference, MPSA, Association of Chinese Political Studies annual conference.
2021: International Studies Association annual convention, MPSA.
2019: MPSA.
2018: World Interdisciplinary Network of Institutional Research annual conference, Association of Chinese Political Studies annual conference.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate courses at Hunter College

POLSC 25000 Comparing Countries, *Instructor*

POLSC 25700 Government and Politics of China, *Instructor*

POLSC 37210 China in the World, *Instructor*

POLSC 35500 Comparative Welfare States, *Instructor*

POLSC 32200 Social and Economic Policies in Western Europe and the United States, *Instructor*

Institutions, Rules, & Models in Social Science, Northwestern University (Instructor: Jean Clipperton), *Teaching Assistant*

Introduction to Empirical Methods, Northwestern University (Instructor: Jason Seawright), *Teaching Assistant*

U.S. Foreign Policy, Northwestern University (Instructor: Daniel Krucmaric), *Teaching Assistant*

Introduction to International Relations, Northwestern University (Instructor: Hendrik Spruyt), *Teaching Assistant*

Introduction to Labor Politics, Sun Yat-sen University (Instructor: He Gaochao), *Teaching Assistant*

Graduate courses

Linear Models, Northwestern University (Instructor: Mary McGrath), *Teaching Assistant*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- SUNY/CUNY Southeast Asia Consortium Research Grant 2025
- CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program 2025
- PSC-CUNY Research Award (\$6,000) 2025
- Best Dissertation Award, Class and Inequality Section, APSA 2024
- Hunter College Research Foundation Faculty Travel Award 2023, 2024, 2025

- China at CUNY Initiative Faculty Fellow 2024–
- Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Fellow 2023
- APSA Travel Grant 2023
- Graduate Paper Prize (Honorable Mention), Vietnam Studies Group, AAS 2023
- Global Impacts Graduate Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs,
Northwestern University 2022-2023
- Global Poverty Research Lab China Cluster Award, Northwestern University 2018-2019
- Vietnamese Language Tuition Scholarship, Southeast Asian Studies Summer
Institute (SEASSI), University of Wisconsin-Madison 2018
- Summer Language Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University 2018
- David Minar Memorial Summer Awards, Northwestern University 2018
- Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, Buffett Institute for Global
Studies, Northwestern University 2017
- Outstanding Graduate of Beijing Municipality 2012
- Undergraduate Research and Innovation Project, Ministry of Education, China 2010

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Assistant 2020-2021
Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University
- Graduate Intern Summer 2015
Training and Employment Fund, Local 1199 Service Employees
International Union (SEIU), New York City
- Graduate Assistant 2014-2015
Center for Global Workers' Rights, Pennsylvania State University
- Research and Administrative Assistant 2013-2014
Sun Yat-sen University - UC Berkeley International Center for Joint
Labor Research, Guangzhou, China
- Intern Summer 2011
Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture, China

SERVICE

Elected Board Member and Membership Director, Association of Chinese Political Studies, 2025–2027.

Discussant, “Patronage and Central-Local Relations in China,” MPSA Annual Meeting, 2026.

Committee Member, Best Paper on Class and Inequality Award, American Political Science Association, 2025.

Panel Organizer, “Central-Local and State-Society Relations in China and Vietnam,”

Chair and discussant, “Political Participation and Policy Making in China,”

Discussant, “From Tech to Informality: Challenges to Traditional Urban Governance,” APSA

Annual Meeting, 2024.

Co-Organizer, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations China Town Hall event at Hunter College, 2023 and 2025.

Member of the Policy Committee, Department of Political Science, Hunter College.

Ad hoc reviewer for the University of Michigan Press, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Polity*, *Global Political Economy*, *Global Labour Journal*, *Sociological Forum*, and *International Journal of Communication*.

FIELDWORK ABROAD (last ten years)

Fieldwork in China June to August and December 2017 in Guangdong,
December 2020 to January 2022 in Guangdong and Beijing.

Fieldwork in Vietnam June to December 2019 in Ho Chi Minh City,
May to September 2022 in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi,
May to August 2025 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City,
January 2026 in Hanoi.

LANGUAGES

Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), Vietnamese (Intermediate)

SOFTWARE

R, NVivo, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX