

Kainan GAO

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PROFILE

PhD. in political science (comparative politics and international relations track); ex-research intern in Freeman Chair China studies, CSIS. Graduate student specializing in politics with a focus on U.S./China relations. Academic background in the social sciences with research experience using r, JavaScript, STATA

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

University of Maryland, College Park
Department of Government and Politics

College Park, MD

PhD Candidate (Graduated December 2024)

- Primary and secondary fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations
- Methodology courses taken: MLE; Multilevel analysis; Formal Theory; lower-level quantitative methods courses waived
- Dissertation
“Domestic and International Political Logic of Historical Mythmaking in China and Russia”, defended on Nov. 1, 2024
- Work Published
Gao, Kainan, and Margaret M. Pearson. "The role of political networks in anti-corruption investigations." *China Review* 22, no. 2 (2022): 81-111.
- Work in progress
“Chinese politics and Lockdown of Shanghai in 2022”; a discussion on the cause, rationale and political intrigues behind China’s lockdown of Shanghai in 2022, just before the 20th Party Congress
“Lying-flat and birth rate collapse under China’s New Normal”; a discussion of China’s new challenges in economic development, political legitimacy, and social stability in the new era

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park
Department of Government and Politics

College Park, MD

Teaching Assistant

- U.S.-China relations (undergraduate)
 - Multiple semesters
 - Supervised by Professor Scott Kastner
- Introduction to International relations (undergraduate)
 - Fall 2017
 - Supervised by Professor Todd Allee
- Political theory/philosophy (undergraduate)
 - Fall 2018 and Spring 2023
 - Supervised by Professor James Glass and Dr. Sujith Kumar
- Quantitative methods using STATA (undergraduate)
 - Fall 2016
 - Supervised by Professor Lily Mason
- Multilevel analysis (graduate)
 - Spring 2020
 - Supervised by Professor Ernesto Calvo
- Formal theory (graduate)
 - Spring 2018
 - Supervised by Professor Kathleen Cunningham

Guest Instructor

- Political theory/philosophy (undergraduate)
 - Fall 2023
 - Supervised by Dr. Sujith Kumar

- Global Environmental Politics (undergraduate)
 - Fall 2023
 - Supervised by Dr. Conny Kazungu Sigel

PAST EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA
School of International Relations and Pacific Studies Sept.2013-June.2015
Master of Pacific International Affairs (Cumulative GPA: 3.71/4.0)
 • Career track: International Politics; Regional specialization: China
 • Fellowship: Awarded second year funding scholarship

University of Hong Kong Hong Kong
Bachelor of Social Sciences Sept.2009-June. 2012
 • Awarded Zhiyuan Scholarship, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation
 • Courses: Basic Political Science, Political Analysis, China and the World, Political Participation, Fundamentals of Social Psychology, Quantitative Methods in Social Science

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Quantitative Methods I (basic statistics and probability), Quantitative Methods II (linear regression), Quantitative Methods III: Data Analysis and Decision Making (time-series analysis and panel data), Quantitative Methods IV: Evaluating Technological Innovation (causal identification and research design), Managerial Economics, Accounting and Finance, International Security, International Law and Regulation, Political Economy of Authoritarian Regime, Globalization, Chinese Politics, Social and Economic Development of China, Financing Chinese Economic Miracle, US-China Relationship

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Freeman Chair China Studies in CSIS Washington, DC
Research Intern Jul. 2015
 • Quantitative research on Renminbi internationalization with Dr. Scott Kennedy
 • Data analysis on Chinese corporate philanthropy using STATA

University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA
Research Assistant Mar. 2015-Jun. 2015
 • Collect and archive transcripts of significant public speeches of recent Chinese leaders for Prof. Victor Shih
 • Collect front page articles of People's Daily dating back to 1992 and creating a new database

University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA
Teaching Assistant for Quantitative Methods (Statistics) Course Oct. 2014-Dec.2014
 • Graded assignments and exams and held TA sessions and office hours

University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA
Research Assistant June 2014-July.2014
 • Collected material from Chinese resources used to revise Prof. Susan Shirk's book, 'China: Fragile Superpower'
 • Focused on developments in Taiwan (Sun Flower Movement) and Hong Kong (Mainland-Hong Kong interaction)
 • Translated documents from Chinese resources into English

School of Business, University of Hong Kong Hong Kong
Research Assistant I Sept.2012-May 2013
 • Recruited research participants for marketing surveys; oversaw experimental procedures
 • Collected information on advertisements, academic articles and statistical data
 • Reviewed related literature