Yuxing (Nemo) Chen

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Contact Information

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Education

Harvard University
Ph.D., Government (Political Science) *Sept. 2026 - May. 2031*

- State Capacity · Development · Bureaucratic Reform · Historical Political Economy

University of Michigan
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Political Science and Minor in Statistics *Dec. 2025*

- Thesis: "Bureaucratic Interests: Does Fiscal Decentralization Impede Efficient Governance?"
- Committee: Mark Dincecco (Chair), Jonathan Hanson, Nancy Burns, Anne Pitcher, Tyler Chen
- Winner of the Marshall Sahlins Award for the Best Thesis in Social Sciences
- Winner of the Frank Grace Award for the Best Thesis in Political Science
- GPA: 3.968 — GRE: 339-V169-Q170 — Highest Distinction

Publications

Chen, Y. (2026). Bureaucratic Interests: Does Fiscal Decentralization Impede Efficient Governance?. *Politics & Policy*, 54(5).

- Applied two-way fixed-effects models to examine the impact of fiscal decentralization on administrative division reform, finding that decentralization strengthens bureaucratic interests and constrains unit reduction.
- This paper was presented at the APSA, IPSA, WPSA, and MPSA annual meetings. This paper also won the Marshall Sahlins Award for the best thesis in the social sciences, and the Frank Grace Award for the best thesis in political science.

Working Papers

"**More is not Necessarily Better: Rethinking Colonial Education and Long-term Development**", With Dongzhu Xu (SOAS University of London) (*Under Review*)

- Conducted historical institutional analysis of colonial and pre-colonial education in Manchuria using a geographic regression discontinuity design based on historical provincial borders.
- Compiled and analyzed archival education data (1910s–1945) and long-term outcomes (1980–2010), finding that pre-colonial state-led education had stronger effects on literacy and higher education enrollment than colonial initiatives.

Work in Progress

"**Is Agricultural Aid Effective in Promoting Agricultural Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa? A Causal Analysis Based on Remotely Sensed Data**", With Qingqian He (China University of Political Science and Law)

- Conducted a 20-year study of farmland expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa using remote sensing and GIS, and mapped regional agricultural assistance projects over the same period.

"**Road to Dispossession? Infrastructure Expansion and Land Grabbing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**", With Dongzhu Xu (SOAS University of London)

- Conducted preliminary fieldwork across 19 villages in the DRC; developing a two-dimensional spatial regression discontinuity design and a 600-household survey to identify the causal effects of road paving on land dispossession.

Research Experiences

"**Cities, States, Borders, & Conflict**" *May. 2025 - August. 2026*

Stamps Research Fellow at University of Michigan with Mark Dincecco and Anil Menon

- Building a database that consists of 2000 years of wars. Coded 1,000+ wars by war categories. Ran GIS and basic data analysis.

"**World Value Survey Wave 8, China Division**" *Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025*

Shanghai and Hangzhou Team Leader at Zhejiang University

- Developed a research program for the two cities. Trained interviewers to conduct household visits and gain the trust of residents. Led 20 interviewers to complete over 200 questionnaires in eastern China. Completed basic questionnaire validation.
- Negotiated with the grassroots government to gain the support and cooperation of staff in conducting our household survey. Developed a high-response-rate household survey method that involves grassroots government cooperation and community mobilization for gift-giving.

"**Political Elites and Intellectuals In China**" *Nov. 2024 - May. 2025*

Research Assistant at Harvard University with Yuhua Wang and Hanning Luo

- Coded 500+ articles for indicators of patriotism, xenophobia, and political, economic, and cultural ideology across the ideological spectrum.

"**Economic Opportunities and the Remaking of Identities**" *May. 2024 - Nov. 2024*

Research Assistant at University of Michigan with Jun Fang

- Compiled historical sales data from Chinese live-streaming e-commerce influencers (100+ followers) to analyze economic and identity trends.

"**The Effect of Nation-Building on the Salience of Ethnicity: Experimental Evidence from Southwest China** " *Sept. 2023 - May. 2024*

Research Assistant at University of Michigan with Jean Hong

- Cleaned and coded 3000+ pieces of questionnaire data, ensuring accuracy and reliability of information.
- Utilized GIS technology to map respondent coordinates and calculate distances to Lugu Lake, enabling precise spatial analysis.

"**The New Trend of Right-Wing Populism in Europe and China's Response to the New Coronary Pneumonia Epidemic Based on Big Data (Chinese National Social Science Youth Fund Project 21CGJ025)**" *Jun. 2022 - Aug. 2023*

Research Assistant & at China University of Political Science and Law with Qingqian He

- Collected 200,000 tweets (2020–2022) from European right-wing parties and leaders, along with profile data of 1.97 million interacting users, using Python-based web scraping.
- Applied LDA topic modeling in R to analyze tweets referencing China, examining continuity and change in European right-wing parties' attitudes during the COVID-19 period.

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

121st APSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, September 2025

International Political Science Association 28th World Congress, Seoul, July 2025

Peking University-Fudan University "In-depth Forum on State Governance", (2025, 2026)

Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference, Chicago, April 2025

Western Political Science Association 2025 Annual Meeting, Seattle, April 2025

The Japanese Political and Legal Studies Association 14th Annual Meeting, Yamanashi Gakuin University, November 2024

China Annual Conference on Political Science and International Relations, Beijing, July 2024

International Forum of Young Scholars on Governance Modernization, Central China Normal University, June 2024

Honors & Awards

Marshall Sahlins Award for Best Thesis in Social Science, awarded by University of Michigan, $2,000, 2025

Frank Grace Award for Best Thesis in Political Science, awarded by the Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, $1,500, 2025

Stamps Scholar Research Fellowship, awarded by University of Michigan, $10,400, 2025

James B. Angell Scholar for Academic Excellence, awarded by University of Michigan, (2025)

Gerstein Family Research Stipend, awarded by the Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, $3,887, 2024

University Honors, awarded by University of Michigan, (2023, 2024, 2025)

1st "JD Cup" Entrepreneurship Competition, awarded by JD.com (Fortune Global 500), $25,000, 2023

iCenter Entrepreneurial Star, awarded by Tsinghua University, $2,000, 2023

1st Place in Beijing, The 8th China International College Students' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, awarded by the Ministry of Education of China and National Development and Reform Commission of China, $50,000, 2022

Outstanding Award, National College Students' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program, awarded by the Ministry of Education of China, $20,000, 2022

Work Experiences

Forever Technology Company *Beijing, China*

Co-Founder & COO *Dec. 2021 - Aug. 2024*

- Chaired for Government Relationship, Public Relationship, Journalism Relationship, Marketing, and Financing affairs.
- Raised $300,000 of seed investment from China's Top VC, endorsement from China Association of Geriatric Healthcare.

Taihill Venture *Boston, MA, US*

Investor Relations Intern *May. 2024 - Aug. 2024*

Y Combinator China (MiraclePlus) *Beijing, China*

Investment Assistant *Mar. 2023 - Jun. 2023*

ALLBright Law Offices *Shanghai, China*

Legal Intern *Dec. 2022 - Mar. 2023*

Guangming Daily *Beijing, China*

Trainee Reporter *May. 2022 - Nov. 2022*

Skills

Technical Skills: Microsoft Office (Master), R (Master), Latex (Master), ArcGIS (Master), Python (Advanced), X-Mind (Advanced)
Languages: Native speaker of Mandarin and Cantonese, Fluent in English, Beginner in Italian