

Dongshu Liu

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City University of Hong Kong, Tat Chee Ave, Hong Kong

Academic Appointment

Assistant Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, **City University of Hong Kong**, June 2020-

- Deputy Director, Political Analysis Lab, 2023-
- Affiliated Member, Centre for Public Affairs and Law, 2020-

Other Academic Appointment

GLD Fellow, Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg and Cornell University, 2025-2027

Education

Syracuse University, May 2020

- Ph.D., Political Science
- M.A., Political Science, 2017
- Committee: Dimitar Gueorguiev (Chair), Matthew Cleary, Christopher Faricy, Simon Weschle, Yuhua Wang (Harvard)

London School of Economics and Political Science, 2013

- M.Sc., Comparative Politics (Research)

Hong Kong Polytechnic University 2012

- B.B.A, Major in Management and Minor in Applied Mathematics

Research Interests

Political economy of development and state capacity in developing countries; distributive politics, elite accommodation, mass consent, and bureaucratic implementation; China's domestic politics and international development engagement

Publications

Book Manuscript

The Dictator's Tightrope Walk: Power versus People in China's Distributive Politics

(Manuscript completed; book proposal in preparation for submission to university presses)

How do states sustain transformative economic change when reforms upset entrenched distributions of resources and power? In this book, I theorise the strategies through which autocracies sustain reform while preserving ruling coalition cohesion under tight fiscal and political constraints. The book shows how China has continued market-oriented development by mitigating elite resistance, maintaining loyalty through institutionalised side payments, and sequencing welfare expansion to minimise distributive conflict. It extends existing theories by identifying the compensatory and distributional mechanisms that allow autocracies to pursue reform while retaining political control.

Journal Articles

1. Dong, B., **Liu, D.**, and Yu, J., 2026, Persuading the Public: Nationalist Propaganda and Support for Costly Environmental Policies in China, *Environmental Politics*, 35(2), 358-381
2. Dong, B., Walker, E. and **Liu, D.**, 2026, Tolerating Violence: Public Opinions on Anti-Government Protest and State Repression, *Democratization*, 33(2), 222-246
3. Li, Y., **Liu, D.**, and Shao, L., 2025, Propaganda with Subculture: A Resource for Internet Control in China, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 30, 449-473
4. Zhu, X., Qiu, T., and **Liu, D.**, 2025 Curbing Elite Capture or Enhancing Resources: Recentralizing Local Environmental Enforcement in China. *China Quarterly*, 261, 73-92
5. **Liu, D.**, Shao, L., 2024 Nationalist Propaganda and Support for War in an Authoritarian Context: Evidence from China, *Journal of Peace Research*, 61(6), 985-1001
 - Honourable Mention, Nils Petter Gleditsch Article of the Year Award 2024
6. Shao, L., **Liu, D.**, and Wang, F., 2024, Suppression by Mobilization: How Information Control Strategies Contain Political Criticism in Autocracies, *Political Research Quarterly*, 77(3), 729-742
7. Gueorguiev, D., and **Liu, D.**, 2024, Double Standard: Chinese Public Opinion on the Hong Kong Protests, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 41(4), 343-364
8. Liu, D., 2023, Cooptation without Opposition: Government Response in the Authoritarian Legislature in China, *Democratization*, 30(7), 1400-1422
9. Liu, D., 2023, Policy Influence of Delegates in Authoritarian Legislatures: Evidence from China, *Political Research Quarterly*, 76(2), 481-495
10. Shao, L., Du, J., Han, R., and **Liu, D.**, 2023, Racial and Gender Stereotypes in Immigration Attitudes: Evidence from China *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 49(9), 2391-2415
11. Shao, L., Du, J., Han, R., and **Liu, D.**, 2023, How does Marriage Demand Stimulate Support for Immigration in Asia? *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 49(5), 1311-1330
12. Zhu, X., Qiu, T., and **Liu, D.** 2023. Resisting Public Monitoring and Activism in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Local Environmental Litigation in China. *Governance*, 36(2), 459-477
13. **Liu, D.**, Carrington, N., 2022, Minority versus Minority: Partisanship and Inter-Group Competitions among Asian Americans. *American Politics Research*, 50(2), 265-276

14. **Liu, D.**, Shao, L. 2022, Public Opinion Backlash Against China's International Expansion. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 31(135), 366-382
15. Liu, D. 2020, Advocacy Channels and Political Resource Dependence in Authoritarianism: Non-Government Organizations and Environmental Policies in China. *Governance*, 33(2), 323-342
16. Liu, D. 2019, Punishing the Dissidents: The Selective Implementation of Stability Preservation in China. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 28(119), 795-812
17. Shao, L., **Liu, D.** 2019, The Road to Cynicism: The Political Consequences of Online Satire Exposure in China. *Political Studies*, 67(2), 517-536

Book Review

Liu, D., 2023, The Making of a Neo-Propaganda State: China's Social Media under Xi Jinping Titus C. Chen. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2022, *China Quarterly*, 255, 796-797

Under Review

From Pixels to Participation: How Digital Culture Fosters Civic Engagement (with We Gu and Ning Liu, Revise and Resubmit at Public Administration Review)

Blaming the Capital: How does Chinese Government shed responsibilities for governance failure? (with Binzizi Dong and Richard Walker, Revise and Resubmit at Public Administration)

Backlash against "Naming and Shaming" (with Claudia J. Kim, Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Peace Research)

Navigating Social Inequality: Passive Resistance and Politics of Blame in Contemporary Chinese Society (With Junhao Yu)

Putnam's Puzzle in the People's Republic: How Immigrants' Civic Engagement Erodes Immigration Approval in China (with Li Shao, Rongbin Han, Juan Du)

Teaching Experience

City University of Hong Kong

- PIA8621 Quantitative Method (Ph.D. level)
- PIA8616 Political Science and Philosophy (Ph.D. level)
- PIA3127 Political Institutions and Behavior (Undergraduate Level)
- POL3108 International Relation (Undergraduate Level)
- POL3607 Advanced Research Method (Undergraduate Level)
- POL2603 Social Science Research Methods (Undergraduate Level)
- POL6603 Research Methods in Public Policy and Management (Master's Level)
- POL5705 Social Change and Urbanization in Contemporary China (Master's Level)
- POL5707 Chinese Foreign Policy (Master's Level)

Syracuse University:

- PSC300: Authoritarian Regimes in the Contemporary World

Conferences and Invited Talks

- 2026 APSA (Scheduled), The International Conference on Studying China (Scheduled)
GLD Annual Conference (Scheduled)
- 2025 APSA, WPSA, IPSA, EPSinHK, Governance and Local Development Institute
Annual Conference (Accepted but cancelled), SOAS University of London
- 2024 University of Hong Kong, ESSinHK, APSA, National Chengchi University
University of Macau, University of Melbourne, Tsinghua University (Online)
- 2023 University of Alabama, MPSA, EPSA, PMRC, German Institute for Global and Area Studies
University of Temple Japan, EPSinHK, UCSD Young Scholar Conference, APSA
- 2022 UCSD Young Scholar Conference, APSA Asia, APSA
- 2021 Pacific International Politics Conferences, APSA, Empirical Political Science Research Workshop,
MPSA
- 2020 Hong Kong Political Science Association Annual Meeting, APSA Asia Workshop, WPSA,
AAS (canceled), SPSA
- 2019 Zhejiang University, University of Macau, APSA, Chinese Internet Research Conference, MPSA,
Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Conference, Graduate Seminar on China (CUHK)
- 2018 MPSA

Grants and Scholarship

- APSA Centennial Center Research Fund, Principal Investigator, 2025-2026
- Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund, Ministry of Education of China, Co-Investigator,
2022-2024
- Grant for Computational Social Science and Law Lab, City University of Hong Kong, Co-Investigator,
2021-2024
- Grant for Sustainable Development Lab, City University of Hong Kong, Co-Investigator, 2021-2024
- Early Career Scheme, Principal Investigator, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong, 2021-2025 (HKD
638,408, USD82,270)
- APSA Asia Workshop Scholarship, 2020-2021
- Start-up Grant, City University of Hong Kong, 2020-2022 (HKD 300,000)
- East Asia Summer Research Grant, Syracuse University, 2019
- Roscoe Martin Scholarship, Syracuse University, 2019, 2018, 2017
- Graduate Student Scholarship, Syracuse University, 2015-2020

Awards and Fellowship

- GLD Fellowship 2025-2027, Governance and Local Development Institute, Cornell University and
University of Gothenburg
- Honourable Mention, Nils Petter Gleditsch Article of the Year Award 2024, Journal of Peace Re-
search
- Best Paper Award, International Conference on China Policy Studies, 2024
- Syracuse University Graduate School Summer Dissertation Fellowship, 2019

Service

City University of Hong Kong

- Departmental Undergraduate Internship Coordinator, 2022-
- Departmental Research Education Committee, 2020-
 - Acting Chair, Fall 2024
- Departmental Undergraduate Scholarship Coordinator, 2021 - 2022
- Departmental Undergraduate Admission Committee, 2021 - 2023

Syracuse University

- University Internationalization Council, Syracuse University, 2018-2019
- University Academic Integrity Panel Member, Syracuse University, 2018-2020

Professional

- Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Asian Survey*, *China Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Governance*, *International Journal of Communication*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Journal of Information, Technology & Politics*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *New Media & Society*, *Policy Sciences*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Administration & Policy*, *Public Administration Review*, *Public Management Review*, *Quality & Quantity*, *Regulation and Governance*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Social Science Journal*, *Urban Studies Review*
- Conference Chair and Discussant: IPSA2025 (Discussant), APSA Mini-Conference on Chinese Politics 2023 (Organizing Committee), MPSA 2021 (Panel chair and discussant), SPSA 2020 (Panel chair and discussant)
- CNPolitics (2014-), Chinese-language platform introducing social science research for general audiences in China
- Media Interview: Aftenposten (Norway), The Atlantic, Australian Financial Review, Bloomberg, CNA (Singapore), CNN, EFE Spanish News Agency, The Economist, El Mercurio (Chile), Japan Times, National Public Radio, New York Times, RTHK, Rzeczpospolita (Poland), the Strait Times, Swedish Radio, Thanh Niên (Vietnam), Weekendavisen (Danmark)

Language & Skills

- Chinese (Native), English (Proficient)
- Stata, SPSS, R, \LaTeX , Qualtrics, Nvivo