YUNFAN LING

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FIELDS OF INTEREST

Comparative Politics • Computational Social Science • Political Communication • Authoritarian Politics

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University 2024 – present
Ph.D., Political Science and Social Data Analytics
Major Field: Comparative Politics

Columbia University 2021 – 2023
M.S., Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences
Major Field: Data Science

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen 2017 – 2021
B.B.A., Economics

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Research in Democracy Support Grant, Pennsylvania State University 2026
Summer Funding Award, Pennsylvania State University 2025, 2026

WORKING PAPERS

"Redirecting Participation: How State-Agentic Narratives in Government Short-Videos Reshape Participatory Norms in China"

"The Social Media Bureaucracy: Internal Regime Politics of Digital Propaganda in China"

"Perception-Driven Affective Polarization among Party Elites: Evidence from a Survey Experiment with American State Legislators"

"Connected to Comply: Corporate Political Connections and Business Response to Government Policy Initiatives"

"Born under the Red Flag: Communist Legacy and Political Attitudes in China"

"From Political Taboo to the State's Grand Strategy: Computational Analysis of the Discursive Trends of China's "Rule of Law" Ideology."

Chike Feng, Yunfan Ling, Yulin Tan. "The Cultural Revolution's Impact on China's Educational Attainment"

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

SPSA Annual Meeting 2027
2026 ICDS Symposium (Poster Competition), Pennsylvania State University 2026
ISA Annual Convention 2026
The Ninth Annual Meeting on Quantitative History 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Princeton University May 2025 – Feb 2026
School of Public and International Affairs • Supervisor: Prof. Xu Xu, Prof. Yingdan Lu

- Designed a survey experiment to evaluate the effects of propagandistic TikTok videos; administered the online survey on Qualtrics with 300+ Chinese internet users.
- Conducted regression analysis on survey data, wrote literature review, and communicated research findings with the research team.

Research Assistant, Pennsylvania State University Aug 2024 – May 2025
Department of Political Science • Supervisor: Prof. Xun Cao

- Assisted in building a dataset of climate disasters in China using web scraping and qualitative coding from newspaper reports.
- Wrote literature review on environmental politics and central-local relations in China.

Research Assistant, Columbia University Nov 2021 – May 2022

Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy • Supervisor: Prof. Rosalind C. Morris

- Analyzed South Africa's census datasets (200M+ rows) to assess racial segregation patterns in post-apartheid South Africa using Python, R, and Tableau.

Research Assistant, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen Jan 2019 – Jun 2019

Supervisor: Prof. Zhuang Liu

- Drafted literature review on state-business relations and corporate governance in non-democratic contexts.
- Gathered and cleaned SOE data from Wind database; performed exploratory data analysis.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Careers in Political Science (Prof. David Bracken) Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant, International Relations (Prof. Boliang Zhu) Fall 2025, Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant, Comparative Politics around the Globe (Prof. Matt Golder) Spring 2025

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, China Labor Watch Mar 2023 – Jun 2023

- Conducted ethnographic research on TikTok and Kuaishou; interviewed 4 Chinese workers remotely; wrote fact sheets and reports (20+ pages) documenting labor conditions.
- Managed and maintained a blog website for overseas Chinese workers, responding to their conplaints.

Quantitative Research Intern, American Immigration Council Aug 2022 – Jan 2023

- Collaborated on 5 quantitative research projects on immigration in the US; created data interactives with D3.js; processed datasets of 10M+ rows with STATA, Python, and Snowflake.
- Drafted data findings, policy recommendations, and literature reviews.

Data Science Intern, Public Good Consulting LLC May 2022 – Jul 2022

- Built a Python ETL pipeline for the NYC high school directory and performed feature engineering.
- Developed an R Shiny web application for exploring NYC high school programs, achieving 400+ pageviews in beta testing.

Research Intern, Shenzhen Outbound Alliance Jun 2020 – Jul 2020

- Conducted field investigations of four firms in Shenzhen; wrote three industry reports with quantitative analysis on emerging high-tech industries for local policymaking.

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Technical: R, Python, SQL, STATA, Qualtrics, SPSS, SQL, Tableau, QGIS, Azure, Power BI

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)