

YUNFAN LING

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FIELDS OF INTEREST

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

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University 2024 – present
Ph.D., Political Science
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

“Disempowering Propaganda: State-Agentic Narrative against Democratic Participation under Authoritarian Rule”

“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

ISA Annual Convention 2026

APSA Annual Meeting 2024

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)

Jan 2026 – Present

Teaching Assistant, International Relations (Prof. Boliang Zhu)

Sep 2025 – Dec 2025

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

Jan 2025 – May 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 complaints.

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)