

# Joseph Torigian

[torigian@american.edu](mailto:torigian@american.edu) (September 4, 2025)

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## EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
PhD in International Relations Theory and Comparative Politics  
Dissertation: “Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles and the Fate of Three Revolutions”  
Committee: Richard Samuels, Kathleen Thelen, Taylor Fravel, Barry Posen  
Defended August 2016

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (Highest Distinction)  
Major in Political Science (04/2006) and Minor in Asian Studies (04/2006)  
William Jennings Bryan Prize (Departmental Political Science Award for graduating seniors)

## RESEARCH

Authoritarian regimes, grand strategy, qualitative methods, Chinese and Russian politics and history

## EXPERIENCE

American University  
School of International Service August 2018–Present  
Assistant and Associate Professor (May 2024)

Stanford University  
Hoover Institution Fall 2023–August 2025  
Research Fellow

University of Michigan  
Lieberthal Rogel Center for Chinese Studies March 2023–Present  
Center Associate

Wilson Center  
History and Public Policy Program October 2018–April 2025  
Global Fellow

Australian National University  
China in the World Program May 2022–July 2022  
Visiting Fellow

Council on Foreign Relations  
David Rockefeller Studies Program September 2019–August 2020  
Stanton Fellow

Princeton and Harvard University  
China and the World Program September 2017–June 2018  
Conducted research and participated in CWP events

Stanford University  
CISAC Visiting Scholar October 2015–June 2017  
Conducted research and participated in CISAC events as Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellow

George Washington University  
Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Predoctoral Fellow September 2014–June 2015  
Conducted dissertation research and participated in ISCS events

Higher School of Economics, Moscow  
IREX Scholar November 2013–July 2014  
Conducted dissertation research in Soviet archives

Fudan University, Shanghai  
Fulbright Scholar September 2008–June 2009

Conducted research on Chinese foreign policy norms and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization  
Audited and participated in graduate-level Chinese language courses on Sino-American relations  
Presented research findings to other scholars

Council on Foreign Relations

Research Associate

December 2006–June 2008

Assisted Senior Fellow Adam Segal in research by writing over 100 memos  
Prepared more than \$250,000 budget for Dr. Segal's programs and planned roundtables  
Conducted conference for peers and presented paper on Chinese and Russian foreign policy

## LANGUAGES

Chinese: Fluent reading and speaking

Russian: Fluent reading and speaking

*Critical Language Scholarship* (US State Department)

June 2010–July 2010

Spent two months studying Russian in Ufa, Russia

*Rep. of China Chinese Language Fellowship (FLAS)*

September 2004–August 2005

Spent full year studying Chinese at ICLP at National Taiwan University

## BOOKS

*Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles after Stalin and Mao*, Yale University Press, 2022

Reviewed in H-Diplo Forum, *China Journal*, *Global Asia*, *The Wire*, H-Soz-Kult, *New York Review of Books*, *Andrew Batson's Blog*, *Engelsberg Ideas*, *Russian Review*, *Slavonic and East European Review*, *Slavic Review*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *China Quarterly*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. Named 2022 Book of the Year by ChinaTalk, *Engelsberg Ideas*, and CNAS Staff. *New York Times* Ezra Klein Show Book Recommendation.

*The Party's Interests Come First: The Life of Xi Zhongxun*, Stanford University Press, 2025

*Economist* Best Book of 2025 So Far. *Financial Times* Book of Summer 2025. ISPI One of Ten Books to Read about Geopolitics. Table Briefings China book recommendations for summer and fall 2025. Albert Mohler Summer Reading List 2025. GZERO Daily “what to read this week.”

Excerpted in *Newsweek* and *China Book Review*.

Featured in *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* in news articles about book's release.

Reviewed in *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Le Monde*, *New York Review of Books*, *Irish Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Statesman*, *Il Giornale*, *Asian Review of Books*, *Business Standard*, *SDP Noticias*, *Geopolitics Report*, *S.Novice*, *Cba: An Asian Literary Journal*, *China Diction*, *States of Play*, *MoneyWeek*, *Il Foglio*, *Cogitations*, *O Globo*, *Rmoljatim*. Discussed on television Eco (Iran) and Critical Time (Taiwan).

See below for other media engagements and book talks.

## PEER REV. ART.

“Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front” (forthcoming at *Journal of Cold War Studies*)

“You Don't Know Khrushchev Well: The Ouster of the Soviet Leader as a Challenge to Recent Scholarship on Authoritarian Politics,” in *Journal of Cold War Studies* (2022) 24 (1): 78–115.

“A New Case for the Study of Individual Events in Political Science,” in *Global Studies Quarterly*, Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2021

“Historical Legacies and Leaders' Worldviews: Communist Party History and Xi's Learned (and Unlearned) Lessons,” in *China Perspectives*, 2018/1–2

## OTHER PUBS.

“Xi and Putin Weaponize WWII's Legacy,” in *ChinaTalk*, September 2, 2025

“Xi Jinping's Costly Inheritance,” in *Foreign Affairs*, June 23, 2025

“Xi Jinping's Russian Lessons,” in *Foreign Affairs*, June 24, 2024 (Winner of “Best of 2024” *Foreign Affairs* Editors' Award)

“What Beijing's Muted Response to Wagner Mutiny Tells us about China-Russia Relations—and What it Doesn't,” in *The Conversation*, June 30, 2023

“Xi Jinping and Ideology,” in *Essays on China and US Policy*, Wilson Center, 2021–2022 China Fellowship

“China’s Balancing Act on Russian Invasion of Ukraine Explained,” in *The Conversation*, March 10, 2022

“A Squabble About History Almost Killed Xi Jinping’s Father,” in *Foreign Policy*, November 25, 2021

Review of “The War Scare That Wasn’t: Able Archer 83 and the Myths of the Second Cold War” by Simon Miles in *H-Diplo*, March 2021

“China’s Nuclear Program Baffled Soviet Intelligence,” in *Foreign Policy*, October 21, 2020

“Xi Jinping’s Tiananmen Family Lessons,” in *Foreign Policy*, June 4, 2020

Review of *Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy: Religion, Politics, and Strategy* by Dmitry Adamsky in *H-Diplo*, April 2020

“What Xi Jinping Learned—And Didn’t Learn—From His Father About Xinjiang,” in *The Diplomat*, November 26, 2019

“Chinese Society amid Mao’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution: The Roots and Nature of the Tragedy: Commentary by Joseph Torigian,” in *Journal of Cold War Studies* (Spring 2019), 21 (2): 177–88

“Elite Politics and Foreign Policy in China from Mao to Xi,” in *Revolution or Evolution? Xi Jinping and the Future of China’s Foreign Policy*, Brookings Institution, January 22, 2019.

“Don’t Count on China to Rein in North Korea. Here’s Why,” in *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage*, February 17, 2017

“The Shadow of Deng Xiaoping on Chinese Elite Politics,” in *War on the Rocks*, January 30, 2017

“Khrushchev’s Fate and China’s Future,” in *The Diplomat*, November 24, 2016

“Mass Atrocity Monday: Tiananmen Square,” in *Justice in Conflict* blog, June 6, 2016

## CONFERENCES

*Meeting China Anew* (Aspen Strategy Group Summer Workshop) July 2025  
 Panelist on “China’s Internal Dynamics”

*Revisiting “Cold War 2.0?”* (UT Austin Clements Center) April 2025  
 Panelist on “Economic Systems and Their Implications”

*Chinese Politics, Past and Present* (UPenn) April 2025  
 Panelist on “Power Politics and the Party-State in Historical Perspective”

*The Cold War Archives Research Institute* (Wilson Center) December 2024  
 Spoke on a panel about archival research

*NCUSCR-Schwarzman Seminar* November 2024  
 Panelist on Russia-China relations

*Canadian Association for Security Intelligence Studies 2024* November 2024  
 Panelist on “Future of Geopolitics”

*ORF America-ASPI DC Task Force* October 2024  
 Panelist on China’s Strategic Future

*Hoover History Lab Symposium on China and Russia* (Stanford) June 2024  
 Organizer, moderator, and panelist

*2024 SCCEI China Conference* (Stanford) May 2024  
 Panelist on “Historical Insights and Lessons for China from the Soviet Union”

*Hoover Institution History Working Group Symposium* (Stanford) May 2024  
Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

*Cling Conference 2024* (Georgetown) April 2024  
Panelist on “Domestic Sources of Chinese Policymaking”

*Bicoastal China Fellows UnConference* (Stanford) August 2024  
Panelist on “The Preservation Profession”

International Studies Association March 2024  
Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”  
“The 1969 Crisis: Confusion, Contingency, and China” (presented by David Logan)

*Global Trends* (Stanford) January 2024  
Discussant on Chinese power; presenter on Chinese “soft” power

*Dabrendorf Conference* (Stanford) August 2023  
Panelist on “War in Ukraine”

International Studies Association March 2023  
Discussant on “Contested Peripheries: High-Stakes International Politics in Frontier Domains”

Princeton University Center for International Security Studies February 2023  
Panelist on “Lessons from the War in Ukraine”

University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democr. October 2022  
Panelist on “Flashpoint: 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party”

*Hoover Institution Summer Workshop on Modern China and Taiwan* August 2022  
Presented “Succession Politics and the Xi Family in the 1980s: The ‘Three Types of People,’ ‘Princelings,’ and Center-Provincial Relations in Hebei and Fujian”

*University of California San Diego China Forum* July 2022  
Presented on panel on Sino-Russian relations

*Emerging Scholars on Emerging Technologies* April 2022  
Discussant for paper  
Presented on panel “The Content of Teaching Emerging Technologies”

*China-Russia Relations: Peers, Allies, Competitors?* (Georgetown) March 2022  
Panelist

*The Wilson China Fellowship Conference* February 2022  
Presented “Xi Jinping and Ideology”

*Colloquium on Thirty Years of Tibet-China Dialogue Engagement* (GW) April 2022  
Discussant

*Toward Xi’s Third Term: China’s 20th Party Congress and Beyond* January 2022  
Panelist

International Studies Association April 2021  
Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”

Association for Asian Studies March 2021  
Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”

*Chinese Archives in Crisis* (Stanford) December 2020

Presented “The Writing of ‘Biography of Xi Zhongxun’”

- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies      November 2020  
Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”
- Penn Center for the Study of Contemporary China      September 2020  
Commentator on panel at (virtual) Conference on the Party at 100
- China and the World: The Road Ahead* (Global Insights)      September 2020  
Panelist
- Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research (SICAR)      August 2020  
Participated in panel on doing research overseas
- Hong Kong and Elsewhere Symposium* (*Hong Kong Studies Journal*)      July 2020  
Presented “Fathers and Sons—Hong Kong and Xi Jinping’s Father Xi Zhongxun”
- CSIS      January 2020  
Delegation to Taiwan following January 2020 elections
- Stanton Foundation      October 2019  
Presented “The 1969 Sino-Soviet Nuclear Crisis”
- International Studies Association      March 2019  
Presented “A State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear (and Rocket) Revolution in the USSR”
- Princeton-Humboldt      March 2019  
Presented on post-Stalin and Mao transitions at Conference “Comparing Dictatorships in Transition”
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University      March 2019  
Presented “China with a Special Focus on the Xi Family”
- Harvard University Weatherhead Center      November 2018  
Participant in Harvard International Security Cluster
- China Since the Cultural Revolution* (Wilson Center)      October 2018  
Presented on Xi Zhongxun at Conference
- APSA      August 2018  
Presented “The Civil-Military Relations of Tiananmen Square”
- The Society of Historians for American Foreign Relations      June 2018  
Presented “Khrushchev and the Bomb”
- Tianwen lianhe xuehui wenge bowuguan chouwei hui (Tianwen Lianhe Society Cultural Revolution Museum Preparatory Committee)      June 2018  
Presented “Did the Gang of Four Have Their Own Ideology?” (In Chinese)
- Association for Asian Studies      March 2018  
Presented “Problems with Factions in Chinese Politics: The Case of Chen Yun”
- Brookings-Carnegie-Tobin      January 2018  
Presented at Workshop on Policy Implications of New Research in Politics and International History
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies      November 2017  
Participated in panel “New Opportunities in the Russian Archives”
- Stanford Dialogue*      August 2016–December 2019

Note-taker for meetings between American, Chinese, and Russian retired military officers on strategic stability

- Tobin Project* March 2017–September 2018  
Participated in Tobin Project on Nuclear Threat Assessment
- Hoover Institution Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes* July 2016  
“Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles and the Fate of Three Revolutions”
- Stanford Nuclear Youth Forum with MEPhI* May 2016  
Participated in conference in Moscow with Russian nuclear experts
- Clements Center, UT Austin July 2015  
Participant in Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft
- International Studies Association March 2015  
Presented “Scientific Realism and Qualitative Methods”
- SICAR Summer 2012  
Spent one week at seminar on archives at George Washington University
- International Studies Association March 2012  
Presented “Chinese Civil-Military Relations and the Roots of Political Change”
- International Studies Association March 2011  
Chaired panel: “Reassessing Power Transitions”  
Presented “The Rhetoric of Rise”
- New Era Foreign Policy Conference* March 2010  
Participated in two day workshop for young scholars interested in policy issues

## INVITED TALKS

- Simon Fraser University June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Jifeng Books (DC) June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Briefing for United States House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party June 2025
- Hoover DC June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests* (also broadcast on C-SPAN)
- Asia Society (New York) June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Carnegie Endowment June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Stanford Hoover History Lab and Archives June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Asia Society, New York June 2025  
Book talk on *Party's Interests*
- Council on Foreign Relations June 2025  
The Party's Interests Comes First: A conversation
- Naval Postgraduate School May 2025

Book talk on *Party's Interests*

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| Foreign Correspondents' Club of China<br>Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>  | May 2025       |
| Stanford APARC<br>Panelist on "The Eastern Triumvirate: How Russia, China, and North Korea Are Reshaping Global Power"  | May 2025       |
| Stanford CREEES/Center for East Asian Studies<br>Book talk on <i>Prestige</i>   | May 2025       |
| University of Washington China Studies Program<br>Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>   | May 2025       |
| World Affairs Council, Seattle<br>Briefing on Chinese politics and Sino-Russian relations   | May 2025       |
| UCSD 21st Century China Center<br>Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>   | May 2025       |
| University College Dublin<br>Book chapter on "Princeling Politics" from <i>The Party's Interests Come First</i>   | October 2024   |
| Global Conference on New Sinology (Delhi)<br>Keynote: Xi Jinping's Leadership Psychology  | September 2024 |
| Political Economy Series (National University of Singapore, Hong Kong Baptist University, National Taiwan University, and the China Europe International Business School)<br>Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i> | September 2024 |
| Osaka School of International Public Policy<br>The "New" and "Old" in Xi Jinping as Chinese Leader  | July 2024      |
| Kyoto University<br>Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>  | July 2024      |
| YCAPS Community Conversation Series (Sasebo)<br>"The Putin-Xi Partnership: Historical Context and Implications for the International Community"   | June 2024      |
| Keio University<br>Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>   | June 2024      |
| National Institute for Defense Studies (Tokyo)<br>"The formation of Xi Jinping"<br>"Xi Jinping in historic context"   | June 2024      |
| CISAC (Stanford)<br>"The 1969 Crisis: Confusion, Contingency, and China" (with David Logan)   | March 2024     |
| Illinois Global Institute (Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)<br>Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>  | March 2024     |
| Emory University<br>"Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests"   | March 2024     |
| FACES (Stanford)<br>"Chinese elite politics and ideology"   | February 2024  |

Social Science Affinity Group (Princeton) “Accessing Information from Countries with Authoritarian Regimes”	February 2024
Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China “Decoding Chinese Politics”	November 2023
Stanford China Social Science Workshop “Xi Zhongxun and June 4”	October 2023
Asia Society (San Francisco) “Drawing Back the Curtain: An Executive Roundtable on the Complexities of Chinese Politics”	October 2023
Council on Foreign Relations Study Group “China-Russia Relations”	October 2023
State Department Foreign Service Institute “History of Chinese Elite Politics”	September 2023
State Department Consultant on Sino-Russian Relations	September 2023
Centre for Contemporary China Studies (Indian Foreign Min.) “Sino-Russian relations”	July 2023
Tibet Policy Institute (Dharamsala) “Chinese Politics under Xi Jinping”	May 2023
Carnegie India “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”	
Centre for Social and Economic Progress (Delhi) “The ‘New’ and ‘Old’ in Xi Jinping as a Chinese Leader”	May 2023
Great Decisions (Vermont) “US-China Relations”	May 2023
Wilson Center Asia Program, Kissinger Institute, and HAPP Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	April 2023
US-China Commission Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	April 2023
Harvard University Fairbank Center “Succession Politics and the Xi Family in the 1980s: The ‘Three Types of People,’ ‘Princelings,’ and Center-Provincial Relations in Hebei and Fujian”	March 2023
George Washington University USCSSO Spring Conference Featured speaker on Xi Jinping and Chinese politics	March 2023
US Consulate in Shanghai Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	February 2023
Rutgers University Center for Chinese Studies Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	February 2023
Philadelphia World Trade Center Briefing on Chinese politics	December 2022

King's College London Centre for Grand Strategy Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	November 2022
University of San Francisco Center for Asia Pacific Studies "Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests"	October 2022
Clements Center, UT Austin Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	October 2022
Council on Foreign Relations Virtual Roundtable: "The Past as a Prelude to Xi Jinping's Next Five Years in Power" (with Victor Shih)	October 2022
Profs and Pints "Understanding China's Leader"	October 2022
Yale MacMillan Center and International Security Studies Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	September 2022
Duke Sanford School Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	September 2022
US State Department Consultant on Russia/Ukraine conflict	September 2022
University of Michigan Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	August 2022
Lowy Institute The Rise and Rise of Xi Jinping	July 2022
University of Melbourne Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	July 2022
Australian DFAT China Seminar Series "What Makes Xi Jinping Tick?"	July 2022
University of Sydney Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	June 2022
Australian National University Seminar Series with four talks: Book talk on <i>Prestige Manipulation and Coercion</i> , "Researching Elite Politics in China," "Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency and Interests," and "The 'New' and 'Old' in Xi Jinping as a Chinese Leader"	June 2022
Asia Society (Sydney) "Holding the Party Line: Xi Jinping and the Limits of Power" (executive briefing)	June 2022
National Foundation for Australia-China Relations "Xi Jinping and Elite Politics in China"	June 2022
Foreign Correspondent's Club of China Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	April 2022
Bush School, Texas A&M Book talk on <i>Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion</i>	April 2022
American Chamber of Commerce in the PRC Panelist on "As Far as the Eye Can See: Looking Ahead to Xi's Third Term" (China Business Conference)	March 2022

State University of New York at Albany	March 2022
Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”	
Wilson Center	June 2021
Commentator for talk by Jeremy Brown on his new book <i>June Fourth: The Tiananmen Protests and Beijing Massacre of 1989</i>	
Global Affairs Canada	February 2021
Presented on hundredth anniversary of Chinese Communist Party on panel with Professor Timothy Cheek	
Paul Tsai China Center, Yale University	November 2020
Presented “Elite Politics in the Chinese Communist Party: Deng Xiaoping, the Xi Family, and the Limits of Collective Leadership”	
<i>SIS Continuity Workshop</i> (American University)	October 2020
Presented on use of digital archives in COVID era	
<i>CSIS China Policy Workshop Series</i>	August 2020
Presented on how to analyze Chinese elite politics	
Faculty of Social Science, Oslo University	December 2019
“The Scholar as Detective”	
“State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear Revolution in the USSR”	
Center for Security Studies, ETH, Zurich	December 2019
“State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear Revolution in the USSR”	
SIS Historical International Studies Faculty Research Cluster	October 2019
“Xi Jinping’s Father Xi Zhongxun and Chinese Communist Party Policies in Tibet and Xinjiang in the 1980s”	
East China Normal University, Shanghai	May 2019
Two talks (in Chinese): “Hua Guofeng” and “Chen Yun in the 1980s”	
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at AU	March 2019
“China with a Special Focus on the Xi Family”	
<i>Comm. of the 30<sup>th</sup> Parinirvana Ann. of 10<sup>th</sup> Panchen Rinpoche</i>	January 2019
“The Relationship between the 10 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama and Xi Zhongxun”	
AU Center for Asian Studies and Complex Gov. Cluster	October 2018
“Xi Jinping’s Father and the Chinese Revolution”	
Asia-Pacific Nuclear History Institute (Wilson Center)	March 2018
“Khrushchev and the Bomb”	
USC Center for International Studies	February 2018
“Explaining North Korean Regime Resiliency: Kim Il-sung and the Partisan Legacy”	
Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program	November 2017
“China’s History of Failed Interventions in North Korean Elite Politics”	
Stanford Russian History Kruzhok	March 2016
“Elite Power Struggles in the Soviet Union: The Cases of Beria and the Anti-Party Group”	
CISAC (Stanford)	February 2016
“Communist Coups: Authoritarianism and the Fate of Three Revolutions”	

SICAR May 2015

“How to Conduct Archival Research”

George Washington University ISCS March 2015

“Cleaning Up the Revolution: The Rise of Deng Xiaoping 1977–1981”

## MEDIA

Quoted in “China's Xi at centre of world stage after days of high-level hobnobbing,” AFP, September 4, 2025

Quoted in “Xi’s Historic Meet With Putin and Kim Showcases Unity Against US,” *Bloomberg*, September 3, 2025

Quoted in “For Xi and Putin, commemorating World War II is more about the present,” *CNN*, September 3, 2025

Quoted in “China’s Xi flaunts his country’s military and diplomatic might,” *Globe and Mail*, September 2, 2025

Interviewed on BBC Newshour (radio), September 3, 2025

Quoted in “Military Parade Casts China as Savior in World War II,” *New York Times*, September 2, 2025

Quoted in “Beneath China’s display of military might, a far-reaching corruption purge,” *Washington Post*, September 2, 2025

Interviewed on CNN One World (television), September 2, 2025

Interviewed on NK News podcast on *Party’s Interests*, August 28, 2025

Quoted in “History, triumph and trauma to take centre stage at China's WW2 military parade,” Reuters, August 21, 2025

Interviewed on RANE Podcast on elite politics, military influence, and strategy in China and Russia, August 21, 2025

Interviewed in *Der Spiegel* about *Party’s Interests* (“Nichts fürchtete Xi Jinping mehr als das Badewasser seines Vaters,”) August 13, 2025

Interviewed in “Xi Looks to Tighten Grip After Scandals Shake China’s Military Elite,” *New York Times*, August 10, 2025

Interviewed on Bloomberg Odd Lots podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 7, 2025

Interviewed on States of Play podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 5, 2025

Interviewed on Keen on America podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 3, 2025

Quoted in “Xi Ties His Legacy and China’s Economy to \$167 Billion Dam,” *Bloomberg*, July 30, 2025

Quoted in “Why Rumors about Chinese Leadership Thrive,” *Wall Street Journal*, July 29, 2025

Interviewed on Hoover Matters of Policy and Politics podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 29, 2025

Interviewed on Drop Site News podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 27, 2025

Interviewed on ChinaTalk about *Party’s Interests*, two episodes, July 11 and 21, 2025

Interviewed on ABC (Australia) Global Roaming about China, Xi, and Australia, July 11, 2025

Interviewed on Faithful Politics podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 7, 2025

Interviewed on I Don’t Know Anything with Paige Harriman podcast about China, July 3, 2025

Interviewed on Hidden Forces podcast about *Party’s Interests*, June 23, 2025

Interviewed on TBN about *Party's Interests*, June 17, 2025

Interviewed on The Bachelor Show on *Party's Interests* (multiple episodes), June 2025

Interviewed on BBC Radio Four on *Party's Interests*, June 7, 2025

Interviewed on CSIS ChinaPower podcast about *Party's Interests*, June 5, 2025

Interviewed on New Books Network podcast about *Party's Interests*, June 5, 2025

Interviewed by The Diplomat about *Party's Interests*, June 4, 2025

Interviewed by China Leadership Monitor about *Party's Interests*, June 1, 2025

Interviewed on Bumingbai podcast about *Party's Interests*, May 31, 2025 (Chinese)

Interviewed on NPR about *Party's Interests*, May 28, 2025

Interviewed on ChinaFile podcast about *Party's Interests*, April 30, 2025

Interviewed on CNN (Kaitlan Collins) about tariff war, April 15, 2025

Quoted in “Steeling China for a Fight, Xi Faces His Biggest Test Since Covid,” *New York Times*, April 11, 2025

Quoted in “China, Anxious about Trump and Putin, Tells Russia It is a ‘True Friend,’” *Washington Post*, February 25, 2025

Quoted in “China’s Unspoken Question: Who Will Succeed Xi Jinping?,” *Financial Times*, February 16, 2025

Interviewed on CNN (Jim Sciutto) about Jimmy Carter’s legacy in Asia, January 9, 2025

Quoted in “Carter Took Pride in Warming US-China Ties,” *Washington Post*, January 6, 2025

Interviewed for documentary “China, the U.S. & the Rise of Xi Jinping,” *PBS Frontline*, November 26, 2024

Quoted in “Chinese State Television Lionises Xi Jinping’s Father in 39-part Serialised Drama,” *The Guardian*, November 7, 2024

Quoted in “In Battle Over its Past, China Wages Courtroom Fight in California,” *NPR* radio, October 1, 2024

Quoted in “Diaries of Mao’s Secretary at the Center of a Legal Battle Over the History of Modern China,” *NBC News*, August 25, 2024

Quoted in “The Diary Beijing Doesn’t Want the Public to Read,” *The World* (radio), August 20, 2024

Quoted in “‘Monument to History’ Battle Between US and China Over Future of Mao’s Secretary’s Diary,” *The Guardian*, August 18, 2024

Quoted in “China’s Vanished Foreign Minister Casts a Long Shadow,” *Politico*, June 20, 2024

Quoted in “35 Years after Tiananmen, China’s Conduct Again Triggers Alarm,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 3, 2024

Quoted in “Putin Concludes a Trip to China by Emphasizing Its Strategic and Personal Ties to Russia,” AP, May 17, 2024

Interviewed on BBC World Service (radio) on Sino-Russian relations, May 16, 2024

Quoted in “Putin Is Putting His Bromance with Xi on Full Display—But China Has Reason to Be Wary,” *Business Insider*, May 16, 2024

Quoted in “How China’s Political Clans Might Determine Its Future,” *The Economist*, April 4, 2024

Quoted in “Xi’s One-Man Rule Over China’s Economy Is Spurring Unrest,” Bloomberg, February 29, 2024

Interviewed on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*, published in Center for Advanced China Research, November 14, 2023

Quoted in “China’s Xi, in Need of a Win, Appears Ready to Engage with Biden,” *Washington Post*, November 14, 2023

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Quoted in “Analysis: How China’s Xi Accumulated Power, and Why It Matters in a Third Term,” *Reuters*, October 11, 2022

Quoted in “Who Is China’s President Xi Jinping?,” *RFI*, October 7, 2022

Quoted in “Xi Jinping’s Quest for Total Control of China Is Just Getting Started,” *Washington Post*, October 5, 2022

Interviewed on *Mingjing* (Chinese language internet television), October 1, 2022

Quoted throughout “The Prince,” *The Economist* podcast series, September 28, 2022

Quoted in “The Unravelling of Vladimir Putin,” *New Statesman*, September 28, 2022

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Interview on *The Attitude with Arnie Arnesen*, April 29, 2022

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Interviewed on “The History Behind Growing China-Russia Relations: A Conversation with Dr. Joseph Torigian,” *ChinaPower* podcast, CSIS, February 2022

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Quoted in “The Memo: China’s Olympics Get Underway Beneath Shadow of Abuses,” *The Hill*, February 4, 2022

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Interview in *Il Manifesto* (Il Senso di Xi Jinping per la Predestinazione) for special issue on centenary of CCP, July 14, 2021

Interview on *Overnights* with Trevor Chappell, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, July 6, 2021

Quote included in “De Mao à Xi, la Chine Célèbre son Siècle de Parti Communiste,” *Le Devoir* (AFP), June 28, 2021

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Quote included in “Episode 3: Wolf Warrior,” *China Rising* podcast, Global News (Canada), June 11, 2021

Quote included in “China Brazenly Boasts of ‘Aborted’ Revolution to Mark 32 Years Since Tiananmen Square Massacre,” *US News and World Report*, June 4, 2021

Interview on June 4, 1989, Voice of America (in Chinese), June 3, 2021

Quote included on “Episode 1,” *China, If You’re Listening* podcast, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, May 31, 2021

Quote included in “Huawei Calls on an Old Friend, Russia, as U.S. Sanctions Bite Down,” *Washington Post*, May 28, 2021

Research referred to in “Ai Weiwei y Xi Jinping: cara y ceca de la China contemporánea,” *Libertad Digital*, March 19, 2021

Quote included in “Why Are There No Biographies of Xi Jinping?,” *The Atlantic*, January 30, 2021

Quote included in “The Red Capitalist,” *The Wire: China*, January 10, 2021

Quote included in “How the U.S. Misread China’s Xi: Hoping for a Globalist, It Got an Autocrat,” *Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 2020

Interview on “Xi Dada and Daddy: Power, the Party and the President,” *The Little Red Podcast*, November 1, 2020

Quote included in “Zhongguo renyi jubu weixie ri zeng haiwai meiguo gongmin fenfen huiguo bi xian,” Voice of America (in Chinese), October 23, 2020

Quote included in “Dreams of a Red Emperor: The Relentless Rise of Xi Jinping,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 22, 2020

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Quote included in “China’s Xi Lays Out Plan to Build Shenzhen into Global Rival to Troubled Hong Kong,” *Washington Post*, October 14, 2020

Quote included in “China’s Mealtimes Appeal Amid Food Supply Worries: Don’t Take More Than You Can Eat,” *Washington Post*, October 5, 2020

Interview on Hong Kong, Voice of America (in Chinese), July 2, 2020

Quote included in “In China-U.S. Showdown, Beijing’s Steely Propagandist Sharpens Her Attack,” *Washington Post*, May 21, 2020

Quote included in “In China’s Crisis, Xi Sees a Crucible to Strengthen His Rule,” *New York Times*, May 20, 2020

Quote included in “China Investigates Property Tycoon Who Criticised Government Over Coronavirus Outbreak,” *The Telegraph*, April 8, 2020

Quote included in “Chinese Mogul Faces Probe for Essay Critical of President Xi’s Coronavirus Handling,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 7, 2020

Interview on Xi Jinping’s father, Mingjing television (in Chinese), February 28, 2020

Interview on Deng Xiaoping, Mingjing television (in Chinese), February 27, 2020

Interview on Xi Jinping’s father and Xinjiang, Mingjing television (in Chinese), December 4, 2019

Quote included in “For China’s Xi, the Hong Kong Crisis Is Personal,” *Wall Street Journal*, September 27, 2019

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Research referenced in “As Protests Rock Hong Kong, Xi Jinping’s View of History Shows He Will Dig In,” *New York Times*, July 3, 2019

Interviewed on *The Little Red Podcast*, June 2, 2019

Quote included in “Deng Xiaoping’s Son Urges China to ‘Know Its Place’ in Counterpoint to Xi’s Expansionist Foreign Policy,” *The Telegraph*, October 30, 2018

## AWARDS

Foreign Affairs December 2025  
The Best of 2024 (for “Xi Jinping’s Russian Lessons”)

University of Michigan August 2025  
Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies Subvention for Scholarly Work

American University May 2023  
School of International Service Outstanding Scholarship, Research, Creative Activity & Other Professional Contributions Award

American University April 2022  
Academic Achievement Awards for Outstanding Performance or Innovation in Online Teaching

APSIA November 2021  
APSIA Junior Faculty Grant

Wilson Center Asia Program March 2021 to March 2022  
China Fellow

American University March 2019  
Dean of Academic Affairs International Travel Award  
Spent one month in China collecting material and conducting interviews

Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation February–June 2016  
Fellow and winner of Goldsmith Research Award (April 2016)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology June and July 2013  
International Science and Technology Initiatives China Seed Fund  
Spent two months in Beijing and Hong Kong interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material

Massachusetts Institute of Technology June 2012  
Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant  
Spent one month in Beijing interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material

## TEACHING

Advisor to masters student writing Substantial Research Paper Fall 2021, Summer 2022

SIS “Teaching Triangle”

Spring 2021

Teaching featured in “How Graphic Novels Can Inform Military Readiness,” Kelly Gardner, School of International Service News, August 22, 2019

Teaching featured in “Sources Say,” Andrew Erickson, *American University Magazine*, March 2019

School of International Service, American University (as instructor)

“The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy” (juniors and seniors)

“The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy” (masters students)

“The Scholar as Detective: How to Find and Analyze the Best Sources” (sophomore methods course)

“Conflict and the Graphic Novel” (first year seminar)

“Qualitative Methods” (PhD students)

Stanford University (as instructor)

Spring 2025

The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy

Stanford University (as Hoover History Lab teaching assistant) Winter 2024

Global Futures: History, Statecraft, Systems (Stephen Kotkin and Condoleezza Rice)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fall 2012

Teaching assistant for “American Foreign Policy”

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Spring 2013

Teaching assistant for “Graphic Novels and Political Violence”

#### UNIV. SERVICE

American University

Fall 2022

Search committee for two Changemaker postdocs

American University

PhD Committee

Fall 2022 to present

American University

Member of Coordinating Committee

October 2021 to present

American University

Member of Comparative and Regional Studies program

June 2021 to present

American University

Affiliate of Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology

October 2020 to present

American University

Head of Political Violence and Security Cluster

September 2020 to Spring 2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Job Search Committee

Fall 2011 and Fall 2012

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Graduate Student Working Group Coordinator

Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

#### PROF. SERVICE

*Journal of Cold War Studies, International Security, Journal of Historical Sociology, China Review, Security Studies, Journal of Strategic Studies, History of Political Thought, Journal of Contemporary China, Diplomacy & Statecraft, Texas National Security Review, Problems of Post-Communism*

Reviewer