

# Joseph Torigian

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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)  
Provost Associate Professor (March 2026)

Council on Foreign Relations  
David Rockefeller Studies Program October 2025–Present  
Senior Fellow

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*, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 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

*Foreign Affairs* Editors' Pick Best Book of 2025. *Wall Street Journal* "What We Read in 2025" (Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar). *Economist* Best Book of 2025. Top three book of 2025 for James Stravdis' column for *Bloomberg*. *BBC History Magazine* Best Book of 2025. *Marginal Revolution* Best Non-fiction book of 2025. Semafor Best China Book of 2025. China Books Review Best Book on China 2025. *Open Magazine* Best Book of 2025. *New Indian Express* Best Book of 2025. *Financial Times* Book of Summer 2025. *Economist* Best Book of 2025 So Far (mid-year). 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." Aspen Strategy Group Book of the Week. Shortlisted for the Baifang Schell Book Prize. *India's World* recent notable book on China.

Excerpted in *Newsweek*, *China Book Review*, and *Grand Continent*.

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

Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs* (feature), *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Le Monde*, *New York Review of Books*, *Irish Times*, *China Quarterly*, *London Review of Books*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Statesman*, *Il Giornale*, *The China Journal*, *Asian Review of Books*, *Business Standard*, *SDP Noticias*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Geopolitics Report*, *S.Novice*, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *China Diction*, *States of Play*, *Proceedings* (US Naval Institute), *MoneyWeek*, *Il Foglio*, *Cogitations*, *O Globo*, *Rmoljatim*, *El Mundo*, *China Studies International*, *The Federalist*, *China Books Review*, *Mekong Review*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *De Groene Amsterdammer*, NRC (Dutch), *The Philippine Star*, *Expressions – Par Montaigne*, *The Sydney Institute*, *QuestionChine*, *Bitter Winter*, *FD Nieuws*, *Eslite*, *Journalists about Journalism* (Greek), *Vanguardia Dossier*, and *Studies in Intelligence*. Discussed on television *Eco* (Iran), *Voice of America* (Chinese), 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*)

"The Politics of Economic Course Corrections in China and the Soviet Union During the Cold War," part of submitted edited volume *Cold War 2.0? Power and Prudence: Lessons of the Cold War for the 21st Century*

“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.**

“Did Peng Zhen Rebel Against Mao?” in *China Book Review*, February 19, 2026

“Obedience, Ambiguity, and Punishment: The Chinese Military at Tiananmen Revisited,” *War on the Rocks*, January 16, 2026

“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**

US-Mexico Forum (Mexico City)

April 2026

Panelist on “China’s Global Ambitions”

China Governance Lab Graduate Fellow Conference (Toronto) April 2026  
Presented *Party's Interests*

“Turning Tides? – The Future of China–EU Relations” (Johns Hopkins and Bologna University) October 2025  
Panelist on Strategic Dialogue: limited but strategic alignment: Sino-Russian relations. Implications for the EU

Oxford Futures Forum on East Asia September 2025  
Participant

World Knowledge Forum (Seoul) September 2025  
Speaker: “Understanding of Xi Jinping and the Communist Party”

*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 Presented “The 1969 Sino-Soviet Nuclear Crisis”	October 2019
International Studies Association Presented “A State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear (and Rocket) Revolution in the USSR”	March 2019
Princeton-Humboldt Presented on post-Stalin and Mao transitions at Conference “Comparing Dictatorships in Transition”	March 2019
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University Presented “China with a Special Focus on the Xi Family”	March 2019
Harvard University Weatherhead Center Participant in Harvard International Security Cluster	November 2018
<i>China Since the Cultural Revolution</i> (Wilson Center) Presented on Xi Zhongxun at Conference	October 2018
APSA Presented “The Civil-Military Relations of Tiananmen Square”	August 2018
The Society of Historians for American Foreign Relations Presented “Khrushchev and the Bomb”	June 2018
Tianwen lianhe xuehui wenge bowuguan chouwei hui (Tianwen Lianhe Society Cultural Revolution Museum Preparatory Committee) Presented “Did the Gang of Four Have Their Own Ideology?” (In Chinese)	June 2018
Association for Asian Studies Presented “Problems with Factions in Chinese Politics: The Case of Chen Yun”	March 2018
Brookings-Carnegie-Tobin Presented at Workshop on Policy Implications of New Research in Politics and International History	January 2018
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Participated in panel “New Opportunities in the Russian Archives”	November 2017
<i>Stanford Dialogue</i> Note-taker for meetings between American, Chinese, and Russian retired military officers on strategic stability	August 2016–December 2019
<i>Tobin Project</i> Participated in Tobin Project on Nuclear Threat Assessment	March 2017–September 2018
<i>Hoover Institution Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes</i> “Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles and the Fate of Three Revolutions”	July 2016
<i>Stanford Nuclear Youth Forum with MEPHI</i> Participated in conference in Moscow with Russian nuclear experts	May 2016
Clements Center, UT Austin Participant in Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft	July 2015
International Studies Association Presented “Scientific Realism and Qualitative Methods”	March 2015
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

Georgetown University’s Initiative for US-China Dialogue April 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

University of Chicago CEAS Author Talks April 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

El Colegio de Mexico and Mexican Council on Foreign Rel. April 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Asia Society April 2026  
Discussion of *China Book Review* article on Peng Zhen

Wonky China Happy Hour April 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Boston University Center for the Study of Asia March 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Harvard University March 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Brown University March 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

UT Austin Clements Center for National Security March 2026  
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

University of Kansas (CREES and CEAS) March 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs February 2026  
China and the Ukrainian War at Four Years: The Sino-Russian Relationship and the Future of Global Order

University of Arkansas February 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

University of Denver China Forum February 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

US Air Force Academy Institute for Future Conflict February 2026  
Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Princeton IR Relations Colloquium February 2026

Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	
Rutgers Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	February 2026
University of Syracuse Maxwell School Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	February 2026
Duke Program in American Grand Strategy Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	January 2026
Council on Foreign Relations Future Directions in the China-Russia Relationship	January 2026
National Foreign Affairs Training Center Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	January 2026
China-Britain Business Council The Man Behind the Leader: How Xi Zhongxun Shaped Xi and the Party Today	January 2026
Chatham House Panelist: What is China's vision for a new world order?	January 2026
Indiana University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	December 2025
University of Michigan LRCCS Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	December 2025
Hamilton Society Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	December 2025
Great Britain China Centre Fireside chat on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Cambridge University (King's) Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office Briefing on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Riga Stradiņš University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Latvian Foreign Ministry Briefing	November 2025
Lithuanian Institute of History Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Jagiellonian University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
SWPS University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Humboldt University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025

Free University of Berlin Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
MERICCS “Why China’s past matters: Understanding Xi Jinping and the CCP’s tight grip on history”	November 2025
German Foreign Ministry Briefing	November 2025
Corvinus University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
University of Vienna Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Roma Tre Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Luiss University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
University of Basel Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
University of Zurich Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Geneva Graduate Institute Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Sciences Po Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Asia Society France Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Institut Montaigne Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
University of Leiden Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
University of Glasgow Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
The Gilded Acorn (London bookstore) Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
King’s College London Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025

SOAS Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Lancaster University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	October 2025
Chatham House Discussion on Chinese politics and China-Russia relations	September 2025
London School of Economics Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	September 2025
SOAS “The Strength and Nature of the China-Russian Strategic Partnership and its Implications for the World”	September 2025
Oxford University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	September 2025
Great Britain China Centre Fireside chat on <i>Party's Interests</i>	November 2025
Durham University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	September 2025
SKKU (Seoul) Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	September 2025
Seoul National University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	September 2025
KIDA (Seoul) Briefing on China, Russian, and North Korean relations	September 2025
Simon Fraser University Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Jifeng Books (DC) Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Briefing for United States House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party	June 2025
Hoover DC Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i> (also broadcast on C-SPAN)	June 2025
Asia Society (New York) Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Carnegie Endowment Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Stanford Hoover History Lab and Archives Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Asia Society, New York Book talk on <i>Party's Interests</i>	June 2025
Council on Foreign Relations	June 2025

The Party's Interests Comes First: A conversation

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

FACES (Stanford) “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	March 2022
Panelist on “As Far as the Eye Can See: Looking Ahead to Xi’s Third Term” (China Business Conference)	
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 Kruzok	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  
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“Cleaning Up the Revolution: The Rise of Deng Xiaoping 1977–1981”

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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 The Best of 2024 (for “Xi Jinping’s Russian Lessons”)	December 2025
University of Michigan Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies Subvention for Scholarly Work	August 2025
American University School of International Service Outstanding Scholarship, Research, Creative Activity & Other Professional Contributions Award	May 2023
American University Academic Achievement Awards for Outstanding Performance or Innovation in Online Teaching	April 2022
APSIA APSIA Junior Faculty Grant	November 2021
Wilson Center Asia Program China Fellow	March 2021 to March 2022
American University Dean of Academic Affairs International Travel Award Spent one month in China collecting material and conducting interviews	March 2019
Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation Fellow and winner of Goldsmith Research Award (April 2016)	February–June 2016
Massachusetts Institute of Technology International Science and Technology Initiatives China Seed Fund Spent two months in Beijing and Hong Kong interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material	June and July 2013
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant Spent one month in Beijing interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material	June 2012

## 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, <i>American University Magazine</i> , 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 October 2021 to present  
Member of Coordinating Committee

American University June 2021 to present  
Member of Comparative and Regional Studies program

American University October 2020 to present  
Affiliate of Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology

American University September 2020 to Spring 2022  
Head of Political Violence and Security Cluster

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fall 2011 and Fall 2012  
Job Search Committee

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fall 2011 and Spring 2012  
Graduate Student Working Group Coordinator

**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