

Ruofan Ma

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, USA

Ph.D., Government2026 (exp.)
Fields of interest: IR (major), CP (minor), Labor Politics (focus)
Dissertation: Global Governance and Labor Rights
Committee: Christina Davis (Chair), Stephen Chaudoin, Kosuke Imai
A.M., Statistics2026 (exp.)
A.M., East Asian Studies2020

University of Oxford, UK

Visiting Ph.D. Student, DPIR2024-2025
Visiting Junior Scholar, Nuffield College

Peking University, China

B.A., Politics and Public Administration (with Honors)2018
Minors: Economics, Philology
Magna cum laude

WORKING PAPERS

1. “International Monitoring and Labor Rights: Third Party Participation Deepens Compliance”, (Job Market Paper, under review at International Organization)
• Recipient of the 2024 ISA IO Section Lawrence Finkelstein Prize for the Best Graduate Student Paper
• Recipient of the 2024 ISA IPE Section Best Graduate Student Paper Award
2. “BIT by BIT: Network Learning and Investment Treaty Proliferation” (with Licheng Liu, prepared for submission)
3. “Domestic Judicialization: Tariffs, Courts, and the Future of International Trade” (with Mengyi Wang, under review at International Organization)
4. “Assumption Smuggling in Intermediate Outcome Tests of Causal Mechanisms” (with Matthew Blackwell and Aleksei Opacic, prepared for submission)
5. “Sanction Spillovers and Trade Diversification” (with Christina L. Davis, prepared for submission)
6. “Uncertain Signals: Partisan Cues and Voters’ Support for Trade Agreements” (with Ethan Miles, prepared for submission)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. “Dynamic Bipartite Stochastic Blockmodel Regression for Network Data: Application to State and Intergovernmental Organization Networks” (with Qi Liu, Santiago Olivella, and Kosuke Imai)
2. Adaption Across International Organizations: Evidence from the ILO and UPR (with Averell Schmidt)
3. Multilateral Labor Standards in Bilateral Labor Agreements

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2023, 2024, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – APSA Comparative Labor Conference, 2024, 2025 International Studies Association Annual Conference, 2024, 2025 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2023 International Political Economy Society, 2024 Political Economy of International Organization, 2024 Society for Political Methodology Annual Conference (PolMeth), 2024, 2025 Political Networks and Computational Social Science Annual Conference (Pol-Net), 2025
GRANTS AND AWARDS	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University 2025 -2026 Traveling Scholar Fellowship, Institute of Humane Studies 2025 Summer Research Fund, Asia Center 2023 Research Grant, IQSS 2021, 2022, 2023 Raymond Vernon Fellowship, Harvard University 2020 - 2022 Summer Language Fund, Weatherhead Center 2020, 2021 Summer Research Fund, Fairbank Center 2019 National Scholarship, Peking University 2016, 2017, 2018
TEACHING	Harvard University Gov2018: Machine Learning Spring 2024 Teaching Fellow with Prof. Najia Liu and Connor Jerzak Gov2002: Quantitative Social Science Methods II Spring 2023 Teaching Fellow with Prof. Matthew Blackwell Gov1740: International Law and Institutions Fall 2022, Fall 2023 Teaching Fellow with Prof. Christoph Mikulaschek
SERVICE	Co-organizer, APSA Comparative Labor Conference 2025 2024 - 2025 International Relations Workshop Coordinator, Harvard University 2022 - 2024 Communication Officer, Harvard Government GSA 2021 - 2022 Diversity Committee Member, Harvard GSC 2021 - 2022
RESEARCH ASSISTANT	Professor Inken von Borzyskowski, University of Oxford 2025 Professor Christoph Mikulaschek, Harvard University 2023 - 2024 Professor Christina Davis, Harvard University 2020 - 2024 Professor Jian Zhang, Peking University 2018 Professor Ling Li, Peking University 2017 - 2018 Professor Yuhua Wang, Harvard University 2016
SKILLS	Technical: R, Stata, Python, L ^A T _E X, ArcGIS Language: Mandarin (Native), English (C2), German (B1), Latin (Advanced)
REFERENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina Davis (Committee Chair): cldavis@harvard.edu Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics, Department of Government, Harvard University. Kosuke Imai: imai@g.harvard.edu Professor, Department of Government and Department of Statistics, Harvard University. Stephen Chaudoin: chaudoin@fas.harvard.edu Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Harvard University.