

Haifeng Huang

Department of Political Science
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Academic Appointments

Professor of Political Science, The Ohio State University, May 2025 -

Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, August 2023 - May 2025

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, July 2017 - June 2023

Campbell National Fellow and Susan Louise Dyer Peace Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, September 2018 - August 2019

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, July 2010 - June 2017

Postdoctoral Research Associate (Formal Theory and Quantitative Analysis), Department of Politics, Princeton University, September 2009 - June 2010

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Duke University, 2009

M.A. in Economics, Duke University, 2007

M.P.P., University of California, Berkeley, 2002

B.A., Zhejiang University, China, 1997

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Huang, Haifeng. 2025. "[Reckoning with Reality: Correcting National Overconfidence in a Rising Power.](#)" *International Organization* 79(4): 672-711.

"[Toolbox of Individual-Level Interventions against Online Misinformation.](#)" 2024. (with Anastasia Kozyreva et al.). *Nature Human Behaviour* 8(1044-1052).

Huang, Haifeng, Chanita Intawan, and Stephen Nicholson. 2024. "[Political Trust and Public Support for Propaganda.](#)" *Research & Politics*.

Nicholson, Stephen, and Haifeng Huang. 2023. "[Making the List: Reevaluating Political Trust and Social Desirability in China.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 117(3): 1158-1165.

Huang, Haifeng, Chanita Intawan, and Stephen Nicholson. 2023. "[In Government We Trust: Implicit Political Trust and Regime Support in China.](#)" *Perspectives on Politics* 21(4): 1357-1375.

Huang, Haifeng, and Nicholas Cruz. 2022. "[Propaganda, Presumed Influence, and Collective Protest.](#)" *Political Behavior* 44(4): 1789–1812.

Huang, Haifeng. 2021. "[From 'the Moon Is Rounder Abroad' to 'Bravo, My Country': How China Misperceives the World.](#)" *Studies in Comparative International Development* 56:112–130.

Wang, Chengli, and Haifeng Huang. 2021. "[When 'Fake News' Becomes Real: The Consequences of False Government Denials in an Authoritarian Country.](#)" *Comparative Political Studies* 54(5): 753–778.

Huang, Haifeng, and Yao-Yuan Yeh. 2019. "[Information from Abroad: Foreign Media, Selective Exposure, and Political Support in China.](#)" *British Journal of Political Science* 49(2): 611-636.

Huang, Haifeng, Serra Boranbay, and Ling Huang. 2019. "[Media, Protest Diffusion, and Authoritarian Resilience.](#)" *Political Science Research and Methods* 7(1): 23-42.

Huang, Haifeng. 2018. "[The Pathology of Hard Propaganda.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 80 (3): 1034-1038.

Huang, Haifeng, and Xinsheng Liu. 2018. "[Historical Knowledge and National Identity: Evidence from China.](#)" *Research and Politics* 5(3): 1-8.

Huang, Haifeng. 2017. "[A War of \(Mis\)Information: The Political Effects of Rumors and Rumor Rebuttals in an Authoritarian Country.](#)" *British Journal of Political Science* 47(2): 283-312.

Huang, Haifeng. 2017. "[Who Wants to Leave China?](#)" *Journal of East Asian Studies* 17(2): 191-213.

Huang, Haifeng. 2016. "[Personal Character or Social Expectation: A Formal Analysis of 'Suzhi'.](#)" *Journal of Contemporary China* 25 (102): 908-922.

Huang, Haifeng. 2015. "[International Knowledge and Domestic Evaluations in a Changing Society: The Case of China.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 109 (3): 613–634.

Huang, Haifeng. 2015. "[Propaganda as Signaling.](#)" *Comparative Politics* 47 (4): 419-437.

Huang, Haifeng. 2013. "[Signal Left, Turn Right: Central Rhetoric and Local Reform in China.](#)" *Political Research Quarterly* 66 (2): 292-305.

Huang, Haifeng. 2010. "[Electoral Competition When Some Candidates Lie and Others Pander.](#)" *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 22 (3): 333-358.

Book Review (Editor Invited)

[Review](#) of *Propaganda in Autocracies: Institution, Information, and the Politics of Belief* (Erin Baggott Carter and Brett L. Carter. Cambridge University Press, 2023). *Perspectives on Politics*, 2024.

Under Review

“The Sound of Silence: Championing Democracy in an Authoritarian Society” (R&R)

“Signaling Loyalty, Losing Support: Performative Propaganda under Economic Openness” (with Xing Chen)

Working Papers

“Of Rents and Rumors: Regime Competence and Media Freedom in Non-Democracies”

“Learning without Liking: The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Effects of Authoritarian Mega-Events” (with Chaohong Pan)

Selected Work in Progress

“Experiencing America: How Study Abroad Changes Chinese International Students”

“Disaster, Propaganda, and Resistance”

“Cute Propaganda” (with Rex Deng)

“Scalable Walls: A Theory of Information Censorship”

“How Is the East Read?”

Book Project: *The Power of Nonpersuasive Propaganda*

Public Writings

[“How information bubble drives the Chinese public’s views of China’s global standing and fuels grassroots nationalism.”](#) UCSD China Data Lab Blog. December 16, 2020.

[“China is also relying on propaganda to tackle the Covid-19 crisis.”](#) *Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage column). March 11, 2020.

[“Pay for your Facebook posts?”](#) *The Economic Times*. February 13, 2019 (with Chirantan Chatterjee).

[“What a tragic traffic incident says about Chinese social ethics.”](#) *Sixth Tone*. June 16, 2017.

[“In China, rumors are flying about David Dao’s alleged \\$140 million settlement from United Airlines.”](#) *Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage column). May 10, 2017.

Selected Media Interviews and Citations

[New York Times](#) (2, 3, 4, 5), [Washington Post](#), [The Economist](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Asia Society](#), [The Atlantic](#), [Atlantic Council](#), [Carnegie Moscow Center](#) (in Russian), [ChinaFile](#), [Foreign Policy](#) (2, 3, 4), [Maticchon](#) (in Thai), [Monkey Cage](#) (2, 3), [The New Yorker](#), [Politico](#), [Quartz](#) (2), [Sinica Podcast](#), [Sinocism China Newsletter](#) (2), [South China Morning Post](#), [SupChina](#), [UC Merced University News](#), [VOA](#)

Grants and Awards

Mershon Center Associate Professor Grant, Ohio State University, 2023

UC Merced Academic Senate Faculty Research Grants, 2022, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2012, 2011

Extraordinary Reviewer Award, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2020

Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellowship, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2018–19

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholar Grant, 2018

UC Merced Department of Political Science Faculty Grant, 2018

University of California Pacific-Rim Program Faculty Research Grant, 2013

Hellman Fellowship, 2012

Recent Invited Presentations

2026: Aarhus University (keynote speaker, April), University of Michigan (April)

2025: Peking University, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, New York University (Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia Workshop)

2024: University of Hong Kong, Zhejiang University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

2023: Princeton University, Columbia University (Russian/ Authoritarian Media Workshop), Santa Fe Institute (Information Architectures as Socio-technical Competitions Workshop)

2022: University of Washington, Washington University in St. Luis (Comparative Politics Annual Workshop), Princeton University (Psychology of Authoritarian Rule Workshop)

2021: University of Pennsylvania, University of Connecticut, New York University (Quantitative China Studies Workshop); Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (International Conference on Misinformation and Fake News)

2020: Zooming in China Workshop, Ohio State University (Conference on Great Power Competition and Conflict)

2019: UCSD, University of Southern California, Stanford University China Social Sciences Workshop

Courses Taught

- Politics of Information (Ph.D., OSU)
- Authoritarian Politics (Ph.D., OSU and UC Merced)
- Introduction to Game Theory/Formal Theories of Politics I (Ph.D., OSU and UC Merced)
- Formal Political Analysis/Formal Theories of Politics II (Ph.D., UC Merced)
- Comparative Political Institutions (Ph.D., UC Merced)
- Theoretical Models of Politics/Game Theory for Political Scientists (undergraduate, OSU)

- and UC Merced)
- Chinese Politics (undergraduate, UC Merced)
- Politics of Information and Public Opinion (undergraduate, OSU and UC Merced)

Advising

As primary advisor (dissertation committee chair):

- Timothy Yin (OSU)
- Chaohong Pan (UC Merced)
- Jun Hyeok Jang (UC Merced)
- Nicholas Cruz (UC Merced)

As dissertation committee member:

- Christy Oh (OSU)
- Tony Yang (Washington University in St. Louis)
- Rex Deng (Washington University in St. Louis)
- Ae-Sil Woo (UC Merced)
- Peter Carey (UC Merced)
- Jay Chieh Kao (University of Texas at Austin)
- Jianjun Yu (University of Iowa)

Service to the Profession

Manuscript reviewer:

- *American Economic Review: Insights, American Political Science Review, Journal of Political Economy, American Journal of Political Science, American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Political Science, China Quarterly, China Journal, Chinese Journal of Sociology, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Democratization, Economics and Politics, Environmental Politics, European Political Science Review, Frontiers in Political Science, International Journal of Communication, International Journal of Press/Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, Issues and Studies, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Japanese Political Science, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Mass Communication and Society, Modern China, Perspective on Politics, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research and Methods, Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, Public Choice, Public Opinion Quarterly, Research & Politics, Social Choice and Welfare, Sociological Methods and Research, Social Science Quarterly, Social Science Research, World Development, World Politics*
- Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Michigan Press

Editorial board: *Political Communication* (January 2024 -)

Conference Section Chair: MPSA 2017, Section on the Politics of East Asia and China

University and Department Service

Ohio State University (Department of Political Science unless otherwise noted)

- Comparative Politics Subfield Coordinator, 2025-26
- Graduate Placement Director, 2024-25
- Speaker Series Committee Chair, 2024-25
- Admissions and Recruitment Committee Member, 2023-25
- Graduate Studies Committee Member, 2023-24, 2025-26

University of California:

- Steering Committee Member, Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, 2012-14
- Academic Council Member, Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China, 2012-13

University of California, Merced

- Founding Faculty Member, Institute for Research in Innovation, Sustainability & Entrepreneurship (iRise)
- Academic Senate Committee on Rules and Elections, 2017-18
- Curriculum Committee, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, 2017-18, Spring 2022
- Graduate Fellowship Reviewer, 2019-20

Department of Political Science, University of California at Merced:

- Undergraduate Program Chair, Spring 2022, 2017-18
- Graduate Group Vice Chair, 2022-23
- Faculty Search Committee, 2022-2023 (chair), 2016-17, 2012-13
- Speaker Series Committee, 2020-21 (chair), 2016-17, 2014-15
- Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Committee (the Political Institutions and Political Economy Track), 2022-23 (chair), 2019-20 (chair), 2016-17 (chair), 2021-22, 2017-18, 2014-15
- Lab Committee Chair, 2021-22
- Political Science Major Program Review Vice-Chair, 2016-17
- Website/Social Media Manager, 2015-17
- Lecturer Search Committee, Spring 2018 (chair), Spring 2016, Spring 2014
- Department Representative to the Executive Committee of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Spring 2020
- WASC Program Assessment Committee, 2019-20, 2014-15, 2010-12
- First Year Ph.D. Exam Committee, 2019-20
- Graduate Math Course Committee, Spring 2015,
- Methods Sequence Subcommittee, Spring 2020
- M.A. Comprehensive Exam Committee, Spring 2014
- Admissions and Awards Committee, 2022-23 (chair), 2020-22, 2015-16, 2010-11