

Rongbin Han

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PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Academic Positions

Professor, Dept. of International Affairs, University of Georgia (2025-Present)
Associate Professor, Dept. of International Affairs, University of Georgia (2019- 2025)
Assistant Professor, Dept. of International Affairs, University of Georgia (2013-2019)
Visiting Associate Professor-in-Residence, Dept. of Asian Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa
(Spring 2025)

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (2012)
M.A. in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (2007)
Master of Social Sciences in Political Science, University of Singapore (2006)
Bachelor of Law in International Studies, Peking University, Beijing, China (2003)

SCHOLARSHIP

Books

- Han, Rongbin. Forthcoming. *Make China Great Again: Online Alt-History Fiction and Popular Authoritarianism*. Columbia University Press.
- Gainous, Jason, Rongbin Han, Kevin Wagner, and Andrew MacDonald. 2023. *Directed Digital Dissidence in Autocracies: How China Wins Online*. Oxford University Press.
- Reviewed in *Europe-Asia Studies*, *China Journal*, *China Information*, *China Quarterly*, *China Report*
- Han, Rongbin. 2018. *Contesting Cyberspace in China: Online Expression and Authoritarian Resilience*. Columbia University Press.
- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, *The China Journal*, *China Perspectives*, *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *Mobilization*, *Journal of Cyberspace Studies*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Pacific Affairs*, *East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*, and *South China Morning Post*.

Edited Volumes

- Esarey, Ashley and Rongbin Han. 2024. *The Xi Jinping Effect*. University of Washington Press.
- Reviewed in *Asian Affairs*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Mainland China Studies*, *H-Net Reviews*, *Wilberforce Journal of the Social Sciences*

Journal Special Issues

Esarey, Ashley and Rongbin Han. 2021. The Xi Jinping Effect in China and Beyond. *Journal of Contemporary China*. 30 (131 & 132).

Peer-Reviewed Articles (“*” indicating current or former student)

22. Han, Rongbin. 2025. “Propaganda State 2.0 in China.” *The China Quarterly*, 264: 887-902.
21. Wang, Yuge* and Rongbin Han. 2025. “Authoritarian Elasticity: How Autocracies May Effectively Mobilize for Crisis Management.” *Governance* 38(4): e70074.
20. Han, Rongbin. 2024. “Passing on the Red Genes: Communism Nostalgia in Online Fictions and Ideological Governance in China.” *Regulation & Governance*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/regg.12622>
19. Han, Rongbin. 2024. “From Empowering Internet to Digital Dominance: The Past, Present and Future of Cyber Politics in China.” *Communication and the Public* 9(4): 382-391.
18. Chen, Dan, Rongbin Han, and John Yasuda. 2024. “China on Campus: A Conversation with China Scholars with Asian Heritage.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 57(1): 133-136.
17. Shao, Li*, Juan Du*, Rongbin Han, and Dongshu Liu. 2023. “Racial and Gender Stereotypes in Immigration Attitudes: Evidence from China.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 49(9): 2391-2415.
16. Shao, Li*, Juan Du*, Rongbin Han, and Dongshu Liu. 2023. “How does Marriage Demand Stimulate Support for Immigration in Asia?” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 49(5): 1311-1330.
15. Han, Rongbin, Juan Du*, and Li Shao*. 2023. “Opportunistic Bargaining: Negotiating Distribution in China.” *The China Quarterly*, 253: 141-157.
14. Wang, Yuan* and Rongbin Han, 2023. “Cosmetic Responsiveness: Why and How Local Authorities Respond to Mundane Online Complaints in China.” *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 28(2): 187–207.
13. Han, Rongbin. 2023. “Debating China beyond the Great Firewall: Digital Disenchantment and Authoritarian Resilience.” *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 28(1): 85-103.
12. Han, Rongbin and Li Shao*. 2022. “Scaling Authoritarian Information Control: How China Adjusts the Level of Online Censorship.” *Political Research Quarterly* 75(4): 1345-1359.
11. Du, Juan*, Rongbin Han, and Weixia Lv. 2022. “Defusing Environmental Activism Through Scientific Greening: Government Framing Strategy and Its Effects in China.” *Environmental Policy and Governance* 32(2): 135-148.
10. Miao, Weishan and Rongbin Han. 2022. “Modernization Planner, Authoritarian Paternalist, and Rising Power: Evolving Government Positions in China’s Internet Securitization.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 31(136): 574-591.
 - Reprinted in Suisheng Zhao (ed.) *The Making of China's Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security Policy: Players, Governance, and Global Ambition* (Routledge, 2025), 71-87.
9. Han, Rongbin. 2021. “Cyber Nationalism and Regime Support under Xi Jinping: The Effects of the 2018 Constitutional Revision.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 30(131): 717-733.
8. Han, Rongbin. 2018. “Withering Gongzhi: Cyber Criticism of Chinese Public Intellectuals.” *The International Journal of Communication* 12: 1966-1987.

7. Han, Rongbin and Linan Jia*. 2018. "Governing by the Internet: Local Governance in the Digital Age." *Journal of Chinese Governance* 3(1): 67-85.
 - Reprinted in Jianxing Yu and Sujian Guo (eds.) *The Palgrave Handbook of Local Governance in Contemporary China* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019): 421-440.
6. Han, Rongbin. 2017. "Supervising Authoritarian Rule Online: Citizen Participation and State Responses in China." *The Journal of Comparative Law* 12 (2): 397-416.
 - Reprinted in Hualing Fu, Michael Palmer, and Xianchu Zhang (eds.) *Transparency Challenges Facing China* (Wildy, Simmonds & Hill Publishing, 2019).
5. Yao, Yuan and Rongbin Han. 2016. "Challenging, But Not Trouble-Making: Cultural Elites in China's Heritage Preservation." *Journal of Contemporary China* 25(98): 292-306.
4. Han, Rongbin. 2015. "Defending the Authoritarian Regime Online: China's 'Voluntary Fifty-Cent Army'." *The China Quarterly*, 224: 1006-1025.
3. Wang, Gang, Liyun Wu, and Rongbin Han. 2015. "College Education and Attitudes toward Democracy in China: An Empirical Study." *Asia Pacific Education Review* 16(3): 399-412.
2. Han, Rongbin. 2015. "Manufacturing Consent in Cyberspace: China's 'Fifty-Cent Army'." *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44(2): 105-134.
1. O'Brien, Kevin and Rongbin Han. 2009. "Path to Democracy? Assessing Village Elections in China." *Journal of Contemporary China* 18(60): 359-378.
 - The article receives the 2018 John and Vivian Sabel Award of the best article published in the *Journal of Contemporary China*.
 - Reprinted in Kevin O'Brien and Zhao Suisheng (eds.), *Grassroots Elections in China* (London: Routledge, 2011) and in Anthony Saich (ed.), *Political Governance in China* (Elgar, 2015).
Translated in *国外理论动态* (*Foreign Theoretical Trends*), 7 (2011): 59-70.

Book Chapters (Reprinted articles excluded; "*" indicating current or former students)

6. Shi, Yuyang* and Rongbin Han. Forthcoming. "By Way of *Zimeiti*: How China Enhances Online Propaganda in the Multimedia Age." In Carlos Rojas, Jinying Li, and Yomi Braester (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Digital Media* (Oxford University Press).
5. Wang, Yuan* and Rongbin Han. 2026. "Activism of No Action: The Lying-flat Movement in Chinese Cyberspace," In Jian Xu, Shaohua Guo, and Weiyu Zhang (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Chinese Digital Media and Communication* (Sage).
4. Esarey, Ashley and Rongbin Han. 2024. "The Xi Jinping Effect: An Overview." In Ashley Esarey and Rongbin Han eds. *The Xi Jinping Effect* (University of Washington Press): 1-21.
3. Han, Rongbin. 2019. "Patriotism without state blessing: Chinese cyber nationalists in predicament," in Teresa Wright (ed.) *Handbook of Protest and Resistance in China* (Edward Elgar Publishing): 346-360.
2. Han, Rongbin and Linan Jia*. 2019. "Rescuing Authoritarian Rule: The Anti-Gongzhi Discourse in Chinese Cyberspace." In Chris Shei (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Chinese Discourse Analysis* (Routledge): 415-427.
1. Han, Rongbin. 2015. "Cyber Activism in China: Empowerment, Control, and Beyond." In Axel Bruns, Eli Skogerbo, Christian Christensen, Anders Olof Larsson, and Gunn Sara Enli (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Social Media and Politics* (Routledge): 268-280.

Working Papers (“*” indicating current or former student)

1. Grafstein, Robert, Rongbin Han, and Weiqi Zhang*. 2020. “Political Corruption and Private Investment: The Case of China.” January 13, 2020. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3518489> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3518489>

Book Reviews

10. Han, Rongbin. 2025. Review of *The Chinese Internet: Political Economy and Digital Discourse* by Yuqi Na, *The China Journal* 93 (1), 175-186.
9. Han, Rongbin. 2024. Review of *The Currency of Truth: Newsmaking and the Late-Socialist Imaginaries of China’s Digital Era* by Emily H. C. Chua, *China Quarterly* 257: 274-276.
8. Han, Rongbin. 2023. Review of *The Web of Meaning: The Internet in a Changing Chinese Society* by Elaine J. Yuan, *New Media & Society* 25(3): 672-673.
7. Han, Rongbin. 2021. Review of *Shifting Dynamics of Contention in the Digital Age: Mobile Communication and Politics in China* by Jun Liu, *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 26(3): 595-596.
6. Han, Rongbin. 2019. Review of *Becoming Activist in Global China: Social Movements in the Chinese Diaspora* by Andrew Junker, *Mobilization* 24(4): 527-528.
5. Han, Rongbin. 2019. Review of *China’s Digital Nationalism* by Florian Schneider, *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 24(3): 391-393.
4. Han, Rongbin. 2019. Review of *Media Politics in China: Improvising Power under Authoritarianism* by Maria Repnikova, *Chinese Journal of Communication* 12(2), 244-246.
3. Han, Rongbin. 2018. Review of *Censored: Distraction and Diversion Inside China’s Great Firewall* by Margaret E. Roberts, *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4), 1134-1135.
2. Han, Rongbin. 2016. Review of *China’s Contested Internet*, edited by Guobin Yang, *The China Quarterly* 225: 258-259.
1. Han, Rongbin. 2016. Review of *The Internet, Social Media, and a Changing China*, edited by Jacques deLisle, Avery Goldstein, and Guobin Yang, *The China Quarterly* 228: 1127-1128.

Selected Internet Publications

- Han, Rongbin. 2022. *Chinese Nationalism at A Crossroads*. Italian Institute for International and Political Studies (Jan. 31, 2022). <https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/chinese-nationalism-crossroads-32971>
- Han, Rongbin. 2017. *New (and Not So New) Trends in China’s Online Censorship under Xi Jinping*. China Policy Institute: Analysis (Nov. 7, 2017). <https://cpianalysis.org/2017/11/07/new-and-not-so-new-trends-in-chinas-online-censorship/>
- Han, Rongbin. 2016. *The ‘Voluntary Fifty-Cent Army’ in Chinese Cyberspace*. China Policy Institute: Analysis (Feb. 29, 2016). <https://cpianalysis.org/2016/02/29/the-voluntary-fifty-cent-army-in-chinese-cyberspace/>
- Han, Rongbin. 2015. *China’s Media in Cross Currents: Implications for Critical Journalism*. China Policy Institute: Analysis (Jun. 29, 2015). <https://cpianalysis.org/2015/06/29/chinas-media-in-cross-currents-implications-for-critical-journalism/>

Translation

Jiguang Guo, Rongbin Han, Hengfu Ruan, Yuanyuan Wang, and Dan Li. 2006. Chinese Translation of W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research (6th Edition)* (Prentice Hall Press, 2006). (政治科学研究方法, 上海人民出版社, 2006).

Conference/Workshop Presentations

2026

“Digital Statecraft and Political Economy in China” Conference, Berkeley, May 7-9.

The Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 23-26.

2025

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Sept. 10-14.

The 16th Symposium on Taiwan Affairs--“The 80th Anniversary of Taiwan Restoration and the New Trends of Cross-Strait Relations”, July 28-31.

The Politics of Moral Engineering in China, Vienna, Austria, July 14-15.

2024

Annual meeting of the China Research Center at Atlanta, Sept. 21.

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Sept. 5-8.

The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, Mar. 16, 2024.

Thirty Years of the Internet in China: A Retrospective Workshop, UPenn, Feb. 2 (Invited).

2023

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, August 30.

The Digital Reach of the Chinese State: Emerging Research Fields, Hannover, Germany, Jul. 5-7 (Invited).

The Workshop on “Propaganda and Public Discourse in the People’s Republic,” UBC, Jun. 5-7.

The Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Apr. 13-16.

2022

Workshop for the *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Digital Media*, Aug. 26.

Chinese Studies in Motion: Local Experiences in Global Perspective—A Conference in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the China Research Center, China Research Center, Atlanta, Dec. 11.

2021

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Sept. 30.

The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Mar. 21-26.

2020

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Sept. 11.

Journal of Contemporary China Special Issue on the Xi Jinping Effect Workshop, Boston, Mar. 23, 2020 (Rescheduled as virtual meeting on Jul. 21-22 due to COVID-19).

The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, Mar. 19 (cancelled due to COVID).

2019

The American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Washington DC, Aug. 30.
The International Conference on the Xi Jinping Effect, Banff, AB, Canada, Jun. 28.
The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, Mar. 24.

2018

China Research Center Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Sept. 22.
The American Political Science Association Chinese Politics Mini-Conference, Boston, Aug. 30.
The American Political Science Association Political Communication Mini-Conference, Boston, Aug. 29.
The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Mar. 22-25.

2017

The 59th Annual Conference of American Association for Chinese Studies, Columbia, SC, Oct. 21.
The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Sept. 1.
The 15th China Internet Research Conference, Texas A&M, Jun. 5-6.
Mediating the Nation: China's Contested National Identity, Georgia State University, Mar. 21.
International Workshop on China and the World, Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program and Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA, Mar. 9.
The International Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, Feb. 24.

2016

The Everyday Politics of Digital Life in China, University of Pittsburgh, Oct. 9.
The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Sept. 2.
Transparency Matters, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Jun. 24-25 (invited).
The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, Mar. 31.

2015

The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Sept. 5.
The 13th China Internet Research Conference, University of Alberta, Canada, May 27-28.
The Midwest Political Science Association 2015 Conference, Chicago, Apr. 16.
The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, Mar. 27.

2014

The AAS-in-Asia Conference, Singapore, Jul. 17-19.
The Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Mar. 28.

2013

Comedy and Satire as Protest in Asia Workshop, University of Louisville, Oct. 18.
The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Sept. 1.
The Ninth Annual Graduate Seminar on China, Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, Jan. 9-12.

2012

The 10th China Internet Research Conference, University of Southern California, May 22.

Placing East Asia: A Graduate Student Conference on Urbanism and the Production of Space, Haas Junior Scholars Program and Institute of East Asian Studies, U.C. Berkeley, Mar. 2.

The Art and Politics of Irony, Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas, McGill, Apr. 13, 2012.

Invited Talks, Roundtables, Symposiums, and Podcast

- Book workshop, University of Michigan, January 9, 2026
- Guest lecture at Emory University on the Xi Jinping Effect, November 5, 2025.
- Guest lecture at Suffolk University on Digital Politics in China, online, October 15, 2025.
- Invited panel discussion on Contemporary China: Demystifying Economic and Social Changes, City University of New York Graduate Center, September 17, 2025.
- Invited talk, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, April 30, 2025.
- Roundtable Discussion on “Digital Politics in China: Governance, Information Control, & Strategic Competition,” University of Hawaii, April 28, 2025.
- Book workshop, Georgia Institute of Technology, April 1, 2025.
- PS: Political Science & Politics Roundtable on China and the Campus, APSA, Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 2024.
- Invited talk, East China Normal University, China, May 28, 2024.
- Invited talks, Zhejiang University, China, May 24 & 27, 2024.
- Invited talk, Hamilton College, Apr. 10, 2024.
- Invited talk, Taipei School of Economics and Political Science, December 21, 2022.
- *Getting China Right: Studying China in the (Post) COVID Era* conference, U. Michigan, Jun. 3-4, 2022.
- Invited talk, US Army War College, May 26, 2022.
- Pekingology Podcast, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Nov. 4, 2021.
- Online symposium “A Centennial Celebration: The Road Ahead for China's Communist Party,” Network 20/20, Jul. 22, 2021.
- Content Governance Roundtable, Georgia Institute of Technology, Jun. 23-25, 2021.
- Invited talk, Reynolds Lake Oconee Cultural Lifestyle Experiences, Aug. 20, 2019.
- Invited talk, International Plotters, Athens, GA Apr. 9, 2019
- Invited talk, Franklin & Marshall College, Apr. 4, 2019.
- Invited panelist, *Digital Media and Press Freedom in the Era of Big Tech: A case Study on China*, Columbia Journalism School, New York, Feb. 1, 2019.
- Invited talk, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, New York, Nov. 26, 2018.
- Invited talk, University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 16, 2018.
- Invited talk, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, Oct. 16, 2018.
- Keynote, the John and Vivian Sabel Best Article Award, Denver University, May 2, 2018.
- Invited talk, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, Oct. 31, 2017.

- Invited Lecture, UC Berkeley, Apr. 4, 2017.
- Graduate Student Professionalization Workshop, Center for Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley, Apr. 3, 2017.
- Invited talk, Center for Asian Studies, University of Georgia, Sept. 23, 2015.
- Invited talk, Nanjing University, China, Jun. 12, 2014.
- Invited talk, Georgia State University, Apr. 4, 2014.
- Invited talk, Chinese Youth University for Political Sciences, Beijing, China, May 20, 2010.

Grants and Awards

2025-2026	School of Public and International Affairs Additional Research Support (\$2,000)
2025-2026	Department of International Affairs book publication support (<i>Make China Great Again: Online Alt-History Fiction and Popular Authoritarianism</i>) (\$1,200)
2024-2025	SPIA Course Applied History Redesign Grant, funded by the Stanton Foundation (\$8,000)
2024-2025	Department of International Affairs Small Research Grant (\$4,000)
2024	Best Paper Award, The First International Conference on China Policy Studies (with Juan Du, Dongshu Liu and Li Shao)
2023-2024	Department of International Affairs Small Research Grant (\$2,000)
2023-2024	Department of International Affairs book publication fund (<i>The Xi Jinping Effect</i>) (\$2,000)
2022-2023	Department of International Affairs Small Research Grant (\$1,606)
2022-2023	Department of International Affairs Conference Support Fund (\$1,000)
2019	The Department of International Affairs Award for Teaching Excellence
2018	The SPIA Online Course Development Grant (\$5,000)
2018	John and Vivian Sabel Award of the best article published in the <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i> (\$1,000 for the article)
2015-2016	SPIA Seed Grant (with Robert Grafstein): \$4,000
2014	SPIA Internal Research Grant (\$5,000), University of Georgia.
2013-2014	New Faculty Research Grant, University of Georgia
2011-2012	Finishing Fellowship, Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley
2011-2012	Haas Junior Scholars Program Grant
2011	Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley
2010	Elvera Kwang Siam Lim Fellowship in Chinese Studies, Center for Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley
2009-2010	Dean's Normative Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2007-2009	Non-Resident Tuition Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2008	Center for Chinese Studies Summer Research Grant, UC Berkeley
2006-2007	Department Fellowship, Dept. of Political Science, UC Berkeley
2005	National University of Singapore Travel Grant
2003-2005	National University of Singapore Research Scholarship

2004

Asia Research Institute Fieldwork Funding for National University of
Singapore Graduate Students

TEACHING

Courses Regularly Taught at UGA

- INTL 3300 *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Undergraduate)
Spring 2014, 2015; Fall 2016, 2022, 2025.
- INTL 4360 *East Asian Political Systems* (Undergraduate)
Fall 2013-2015, 2017-2021, 2023, 2024; Spring 2016.
- INTL 4361 *Chinese Politics* (Undergraduate)
Spring 2018, 2021, 2023, 2024; Fall 2019.
- INTL 4665 *Global Politics and Digital Media* (Undergraduate)
Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021; Summer 2016; Spring 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024; 2026.
- INTL 4666E *The Politics of Cyber Security* (Undergraduate)
Summer 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024, 2025; Fall 2020; Spring 2021.
- INTL 4875 *Chinese Foreign Policy in Historical Perspective* (Undergraduate)
Spring 2026.
- INTL 8395 *Contemporary Chinese Politics* (Graduate)
Fall 2013, 2022, 2024; Spring 2016, 2018, 2020.
- INTL 8405 *Comparative Politics and Digital Media* (Graduate)
Spring 2015, 2019; Fall 2017, 2023, 2025.

Other Courses Taught

- ASAN 312 *Contemporary Asia* (Undergraduate), ASAN 699 *Digital Media and Asian Politics* (Graduate), and ASAN 688 *Chinese Foreign Policy* (Graduate) at University of Hawaii, Manoa, Spring 2025.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Associate

China Research Center, Atlanta
Center for Asian Studies, University of Georgia
Center for International Trade & Security (CITS), University of Georgia

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent in reading, speaking, and writing.
Mandarin-Chinese: Native speaker