

Ketian Vivian Zhang
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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., Political Science (2018)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A. (*Phi Beta Kappa*), Political Science (with distinction) and Sociology (2012)

ACADEMIC POSITION

George Mason University (August 2019-)
Assistant Professor of International Security, The Schar School of Policy and Government

PAST POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Stanford University (October 2018-July 2019)
Postdoctoral research fellow, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center

Harvard Kennedy School (2017-2018)
Pre-doctoral research fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

George Washington University (2016-2017)
Pre-doctoral research fellow, The Institute for Security and Conflict Studies

Tsinghua University (2015-2016)
Visiting student, Department of International Relations

The China National Institute of South China Sea Studies (2016)
Visiting scholar

BOOK PROJECT

[*China's Gambits – Explaining Chinese Coercion*](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, November 2023)

Runner-up and honorable mention in the 2019 Kenneth N. Waltz Prize from the American Political Science Association for best dissertation written in the field of security studies

Second book project: *Economic Interdependence and Rising Power Grand Strategies*

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Signals, Deterrence, and QUAD," *Asia Policy*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (October 2022), pp. 43-48, <https://www.nbr.org/publication/minilateral-deterrence-in-the-indo-pacific/>.

"Chinese Military Coercion in Sino-Indian Border Disputes," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 32, No. 141 (May 2023), pp. 399-416, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2022.2090081>.

"Explaining China's large-scale land reclamation in the South China Sea: Timing and rationale," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Feb 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2022.2040486>.

“Bringing the Economy Back In: Economic Development and China’s Grand Strategy,” *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, January 2022, <https://media.defense.gov/2022/Jan/05/2002917948/-1/-1/1/JIPA%20-%20ZHANG%20-%20JAN%2022.PDF>.

“Strategies, Signals, And Conflict Propensity: Rising States, Declining States, And Contemporary U.S.-China Relations,” *Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 20, Issue 2 (August 2020), pp. 161-172, <https://doi.org/10.1017/jea.2020.20>.

“Cautious Bully: Reputation, Resolve, and Beijing’s Use of Coercion in the South China Sea,” *International Security*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Summer 2019), pp. 117-159, https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00354.

Winner of the 2019 International Studies Association Patricia Weitsman Award for the best graduate student paper in security studies

Reviewed by Audrye Wong at H-Diplo/ISSF:

<https://issforum.org/articlereviews/134-cautious>

Review and Correspondence:

Tongfi Kim, Andrew Taffer and Ketian Zhang, “Correspondence: Is China a Cautious Bully?,” *International Security*, Vol 45, Issue 2 (Fall 2020)

PEER REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Book chapter on Nationalism and China’s anti-foreign protests (*Forthcoming* in Routledge Studies in US Foreign Policy series)

“China’s Military Coercion: Patterns and Rationale,” in James A. Siebens ed., *China’s Use of Armed Coercion: To Win Without Fighting*, Routledge Asian Security Studies Series (London: Routledge, 2023)

Book chapter on China’s grand strategy in *East Asia Grand Strategy* (Under contract with Georgetown University Press)

EDITOR REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTER

“Beijing’s Nonmilitary Coercion – Tactics and Rationale,” in Tarun Chhabra, Rush Doshi, Ryan Hass, and Emilie Kimball eds., *Global China: Assessing China’s Growing Role in the World* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2021)

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

“The PLA As a Part of PRC Strategy in Southeast Asia,” forthcoming with the National Bureau of Asian Research.

“Conflict Scenarios between the United States and China at Sea,” Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy, 2023.

“The Quad and Sino-Indian Relations,” China-India Brief #207, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, July 16, 2022, <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/cag/publications/center-publications/publication-article/detail/the-quad-and-sino-indian-relations>

“The Third Taiwan Strait Crisis, 1995-1996” in “Deterrence in Southern Asia,” Nuclear Learning initiative, *Stimson Center*, www.stratlearning.org, launched on September 15, 2020.

“Chinese Coercion in the South China Sea: Resolve and Costs,” *Policy Brief (International Security)*, Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and

International Affairs, January 2020.

“Cautious Bully: Reputation, Resolve, and Beijing’s Use of Coercion in the South China Sea,” *Ambassador’s Brief*, August 18, 2019.

“A View from the United States,” National Commentaries, *The Asan Forum*, Vol.7, No.3 (May-June 2019).

“China is pushing back against Taiwan for these three reasons,” *Washington Post/Monkey Cage*, April 8, 2019.

“Chinese non-military coercion—Tactics and rationale,” *Brookings Institution*, January 22, 2019.

“Patriots’ with Different Characteristics: Deconstructing the Chinese Anti-Japan Protests in 2012,” *Précis*, *MIT Center for International Relations*, 2015 (Spring).

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

“Just Do it: Characteristics and Effectiveness of Chinese Economic Sanctions.”
(*Revise and Resubmit at Texas National Security Review*)

“Alliances with Chinese Characteristics? The Conceptualization and Effects of China’s Strategic Partnerships” (Invited for a special issue at *International Politics*)

“Evaluating the effectiveness of the PLA in China’s SEA strategy.”

“Third Party Intervention and Alliance Choices in Civil Wars – The Chinese Civil War As a Case.”

“A campaign analysis of PRC submarine blockade against Taiwanese shipping.”

MEDIA COVERAGE/ INTERVIEWS

WSJ, Washington Post, CBS, Financial Times, BBC, BBC Vietnam, Economist, PRI, Politico, RFA, The Hill, The Wire China, USA Today, The Express, Defense One, BloombergQuint-India, The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, India Today, The Philippine Star, El Pais, The Storm Media

“Cautious Bully,” Podcast with Pekingology at CSIS, May 20, 2021,
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/pekingology/id1525445350>

“China’s Maritime Coercion,” Podcast with the China Centre at the University of Oxford, May 12, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu7v9manzeQ>

John Reed and Christian Shepherd, “Manila confronts Beijing’s ‘utter disregard’ for law in South China Sea,” *Financial Times*, April 8, 2021,
<https://www.ft.com/content/1ec532e8-2ed0-44ea-82ce-942b74b9b8d3>

Sea Control 237 – Sansha City in China’s South China Sea Strategy with Zachary Haver & Dr. Ketian Zhang, Center for International Maritime Security’s Sea Control podcast, April 4, 2021, https://sea-control.simplecast.com/episodes/sea-control-237-sansha-city-in-chinas-south-china-sea-strategy-with-zachary-haver-dr-ketian-zhang-ccu_onlR

Jude Blanchette, “Beijing’s visions of American decline,” *POLITICO China Watcher at Politico*, March 11, 2021, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-china-watcher/2021/03/11/beijings-visions-of-american-decline-492064>

“Alumni Profile: Ketian Zhang,” MIT Security Studies Program, March 9, 2021, <https://ssp.mit.edu/news/2021/alumni-profile-ketian-zhang>

Interview with the Young China Watchers, “Voices on China,” January 30, 2021, <https://www.youngchinawatchers.com/interview-ketian-vivian-zhang/>

Interview with *The Express*, “Taiwan showdown: China WILL invade if major red line is crossed - world on brink,” September 26, 2020, <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1340139/taiwan-news-china-news-invasion-red-line-usa-military-drills-pla-rocket-force>

Interview with *BloombergQuint-India*, “Why China Bullies? Expert Decodes Xi Jinping’s Aggressive Moves,” June 25, 2020, <https://www.thequint.com/news/world/why-is-china-a-cautious-bully-expert-decodes-chinas-lac-aggression>

Interview with David Rennie at the *Economist*, later reported here at Chaguan (David Rennie), “Why China bullies,” *The Economist*, June 18, 2020, <https://www.economist.com/china/2020/06/18/why-china-bullies>

Interview with *Radio Free Asia*, May 14, 2020, https://www.rfa.org/english/video?v=1_rmaddyymm#.Xr8EGhwJEik.twitter

Podcast: “Chinese Coercion in the South China Sea,” with Admiral Scott Swift and retired diplomat Susan Thornton, *Belfer Center* at Harvard Kennedy School, November 14, 2019, <https://www.belfercenter.org/offthepage>

Interview with *BBC Newshour*, November 3, 2019, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w172wq50hpbj8w>

Interview with Critical State, *Public Radio International*’s weekly Global Security newsletter, October 28, 2019, <https://prx.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/i/5033BEE881AFE1822540EF23F30FEDED/E37655C451D32BD3948D468F162BC46E>

“Interview with Ketian Zhang - Shorenstein Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Asia, 2018-2019,” [Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center](https://www.shorensteincenter.org/), Stanford University, April 8, 2019.

“Full steam ahead: naval competition with China,” Podcast, *War On The Rocks*, December 21, 2018.

ACADEMIC BOOK AND ARTICLE REVIEWS

Book review of *War and Peace in the Taiwan Strait* by Scott L. Kastner, *Political Science Quarterly*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1093/psquar/qqad090>

H-Diplo Roundtable XXIII-10 on Lüthi. *Cold Wars: Asia, The Middle East, Europe Positive? Negative? Complicated?* November 8, 2021, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/8889443/h-diplo-roundtable-xxiii-10-%C3%BCthi-cold-wars-asia-middle-east>

Book review of *How China Sees the World: Han-Centrism and the Balance of Power in International Politics* by John M. Friend and Bradley A. Thayer, *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 135, Issue 1 (Spring 2020), pp. 149-150.

H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable 11-19 on *Rebranding China: Contested Status Signaling in the Changing Global Order*, July 10, 2020, <https://issforum.org/roundtables/11-19-pu>

“Europe and China’s sea disputes: between normative politics, power balancing and acquiescence” by Andrew Cottey, *H-Diplo/ISSF*, <https://issforum.org/articlereviews/135-europe>.

SELECT GRANTS,
FELLOWSHIPS, AND
AWARDS

The Charles Koch Foundation Research Grant (\$35,000)

Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards (\$10,000, 2020-2021)

Japanese Studies Fellowship, The Japan Foundation (2020-2021)

Runner-up and honorable mention in the 2019 Kenneth N. Waltz Prize from the American Political Science Association for best dissertation written in the field of security studies

2019 International Studies Association Patricia Weitsman Award for the best graduate student paper in security studies

Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University (2018-2019)

The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2017-2018)

Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School (2017-2018)

Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship, the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (ISCS), George Washington University (2016-2017)

Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship (2016)

INVITED TALKS

NBR and INDOPACOM Annual Conference on the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, June 9-11, 2023

East Asia Seminar Series at the Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto, March 31, 2023

Seminar series on China and the Indo-Pacific, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, February 16, 2023

Georgetown University, November 28, 2022

U.S. State Department, November 3, 2022

U.S. Air War College, October 26, 2022

TedxGeorge Mason, May 3, 2022

University of Washington International Security Colloquium (UWISC) series, March 4, 2022

Harvard University, Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, April 16, 2021

The University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Study of Contemporary China, February 18, 2021

University of Oxford, China Centre, International Relations of China Seminar Series, December 4, 2020

US-China Symposium, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, October 27, 2020

“China Leverage: Carrots and Sticks,” The Canada-China Roundtable Series hosted by the Department of Finance Canada, October 22, 2020

Foreign Correspondents' Club China, June 25, 2020

Centre for Asia and Globalization, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, August 2020

Center for Security Policy Studies, George Mason University, February 21, 2020

Center for Security Policy Studies, George Mason University, September 27, 2019
Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, April 16, 2019

U.S. Naval War College, December 12, 2018

George Mason University, November 30, 2018

The College of New Jersey, November 6, 2018

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, March 8, 2018

Department of Political Science, Brown University, November 1, 2017

LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, October 25, 2017

The Ash Center at the Harvard Kennedy School, September 26, 2016

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meetings (P = paper author & presenter, O = panel organizer, D = discussant, C = Chair)

American Political Science Association: 2021 (P), 2019 (D), 2018 (P, O), 2016 (P), 2015 (P, D)

International Studies Association: 2024 scheduled (P, D), 2022 (P), 2021 (P, O, D, C), 2020 (P, O, D, C), 2019 (P, O, D), 2018 (P), 2016 (P, O)

Peace Science Society (International) Annual Conference: 2019 (P)

Midwest Political Science Association: 2015 (P), 2023 (C, D)

International Security Studies Section of ISA & the International Security and Arms Control Section of APSA (ISSS-ISAC): 2014 (P)

OTHER CONFERENCES/

“Reimagining Alliances” workshop, Virginia Commonwealth University/University

WORKSHOPS
(INVITED
PARTICIPANT)

of Maryland, November 7-8, 2023

The Graduate Research and Development Network on Asian Security (GRADNAS),
Panel Discussion: China and the Region, October 23, 2023

Oxford-UKM Workshop on “Bounding Power in the Island Chains,” September 27-
30, 2022

“Coercion and Crisis Management in the Taiwan Strait,” Stimson Center, September
20, 2022

“Restoring Deterrence: Coercion and Crises in Southern Asia,” Stimson Center,
August 3, 2022

“The Future of U.S.-China Relations,” MIT Starr Forum, February 24, 2022

“Minilateral deterrence in the Indo-Pacific virtual workshop,” Australian National
University and Stanford University, February 10, 2022

“U.S. & China: At the Brink?”, Hayden Center at George Mason University, November
23, 2021

Center for Security and Policy Studies at George Mason University, November 2021

“IR Theory and China-India Relations” Conference, University of Denver/National
University of Singapore, November 19-21, 2021

“Rising Powers: History and Strategy” Conference, Virginia Military Institute,
November 15, 2021

Workshop on the Future of Alliances in Asia, School of Diplomacy and International
Relations, Seton Hall University, October 30, 2020

Social Science Reading Group, CISAC, Stanford University, May 23, 2019

China Social Science Workshop, Stanford University, February 20, 2019

Yale Brady-Johnson International Security Studies Research Workshop, Yale
University, September 21-22, 2018

Bridging the Gap New Era Foreign Policy Workshop, American University, March
2018

Boston International Security Graduate Conference, February 23, 2018

Harvard International Security Conference, October 14, 2017

Harvard-MIT-BU Chinese Politics Workshop (CCPRW), October 4, 2017

Emerging Scholars in Grand Strategy Conference, Notre Dame
University International Security Center, May 26, 2017

Research in Progress Workshop at the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies,
the George Washington University, February 6, 2017

China and International Relations Graduate Research Workshop, Center for the

Study of Contemporary China at the University of Pennsylvania, November 5, 2016

The National Institute for South China Sea Studies of China, April 7, 2016

China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies of Wuhan University, April 20, 2016

The Department of International Relations at Tsinghua University of China,
September 24, 2015

TEACHING, SERVICE,
AND ADVISING

Professor, George Mason University, *Grand Strategy* (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023); *Chinese Foreign Policy* (Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

Ph.D. dissertation committee member:

- Defended: Hyun Jung (Henry) Kim; Matt Fay
- In progress: Brian Davis, Connor Monie

Faculty mentor for Ph.D. students:

- Matt Kuhlman

Faculty mentor for undergraduate honors program, URAP, and OSCAR:

- Completed: Jenna Pan, Yulin Wu, Noah Schwartz, Abdallah Ali, Pearl Matibe, Kevin Lightner, Tenzin Tsering, Yara Hussein, Anthony Guzman, Remmy Salinas Calderon, Luke Smith, Kayla Repuyan, Declan Holmes, Lesley Chen, and Ninya Khabush
- In progress: Lesley Chen (independent study)

Schar School Ph.D. students IR comprehensive exam committee member: Spring 2022; Summer 2022; Spring 2023

Member of the Schar School search committee for the tenure-track position on international security and law, fall 2022

The MIT Kaufman Teaching Certificate (awarded June 2015)

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Reviewer, *International Security* (outstanding reviewer for 2017-2018), *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Affairs*, *Security Studies*, *Asian Survey*, *Asian Security*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *Issues & Studies*, *The Singapore Economic Review*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Contexto Internacional*, *Pacific Review*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *China: An International Journal*, *Third World Quarterly*

Coordinator, Harvard-MIT-BU Chinese Politics Workshop, 2013-2015

MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association; International Studies Association

RESEARCH SKILLS AND
TRAINING

Chinese: native
English: proficient
Japanese: beginner

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University,
June 2015

Completion of the Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program (KTCP) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2015 Spring)

2018 RAND Nuclear Strategic Stability Boot Camp, August 2018

Fieldwork conducted: Summer 2013 (2 months, China); Winter 2014 (1 month, China); Summer 2014 (6 weeks, China); Winter 2014 (1 month, China); July 2015 to July 2016 (12 months, China); August 2016 to May 2017 (9 months, Washington D.C.); Winter 2017 (1 month, China), Summer 2017 (2 months, China), Winter 2018 (1 month, China), Spring 2018 (2 weeks, China), Winter 2019-2020 (2 months, China), Spring 2023 (1 week)

REFERENCES

M. Taylor Fravel
Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political
Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Richard Samuels
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