

# SHAoyu YUAN, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

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Rutgers University, New Jersey	<i>PhD in Global Affairs, with Honors, 2025</i>
Rutgers University, New Jersey	<i>MS in Global Affairs, 2022</i>
Northeastern University, Massachusetts	<i>MS in International Relations, 2019</i>
Centre College, Kentucky	<i>BA in International Studies, 2017</i>

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Yuan, S. \*** (2024). From play to power: China's video games as instruments of soft power. *The Pacific Review*, 1–22.
- Yuan, S. \*** (2024). Goodbye Wolf Warrior: Charting China's Transition to more Accommodating Diplomacy. *International Affairs*, 100 (5): 2217–2232. **[Editor's Choice]**
- Assamah, D. & **Yuan, S. \*** (2024). Greenfield Investment and Job Creation in Ghana: A Sectorial Analysis and Geopolitical Implications of Chinese Investments. *Humanities and Social Science Communications*. 11, 487.
- Yuan, S. \*** (2023). Unmasking the Wolf Warrior: Tracing China's Diplomatic Transition to the Wolf Warrior Diplomacy and its Implications. *Humanities and Social Science Communications*. 10, 837.
- Yuan, S. \*** (2023). Government Legitimacy and International Image: Why Variations Occurred in China's Responses to Covid-19. *Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia*, 22(2): 18-38.
- Yuan, S. \*** (2023). The Health Silk Road: A Double-Edged Sword? Assessing the Implications of China's Health Diplomacy. *World*, 4(2), 333-346.
- Assamah, D. & **Yuan, S. \*** (2022). Can Smaller Powers Have Grand Strategies? The Case of Rwanda. *Insight on Africa*, 15(1), 108–127.
- Yuan, S. \*** (2017). An Analysis of Korean Wave (Hallyu)'s Influence in China [in Chinese]. *Chi xi*, 01(2), 63-65.  
\*Corresponding author

### Books

- Yuan, S.** (2019). Panda Not Dragon: Is the Rise of China a Threat?. *Glasstree Academic Publishing*, Raleigh, N.C.

### Media Publications

- Yuan, S** (2025, January 16). China's Soft Power Play: How Video Games Are Boosting Beijing's Global Influence. *The Diplomat. Com.* <https://thediplomat.com/2025/01/chinas-soft-power-play-how-video-games-are-boosting-beijings-global-influence/>
- Yuan, S** & Xiang, J. (2024, October 26). Black Myth: Wukong – how China's gaming revolution is fueling its tech power. *The Conversation.com.* <https://theconversation.com/black-myth-wukong-how-chinas-gaming-revolution-is-fueling-its-tech-power-239998>
- Yuan, S** (2024, August 21). China leans into using AI – even as the US leads in developing it. *The Conversation.com.* <https://theconversation.com/china-leans-into-using-ai-even-as-the-us-leads-in-developing-it-236557>
- Yuan, S** (2024, August 12). Gold Medal Rivalry: For China and the US, the Olympics Are More Than Just Sport. *The Diplomat.com.* <https://thediplomat.com/2024/08/gold-medal-rivalry-for-china-and-the-us-the-olympics-are-more-than-just-sport/>
- Yuan, S** (2024, July 26). Vance's dangerous China rhetoric won't solve America's problems. *The Hill.* <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4790600-jdvance-china-populist-rhetoric/>
- Yuan, S** (2024, July 10). Tropical Tug-of-War: China and the West's Influence Battle in the Pacific. *The Diplomat.com.* <https://thediplomat.com/2024/07/tropical-tug-of-war-china-and-the-west-s-influence-battle-in-the-pacific/>

- Yuan, S** (2024, June 10). China's AI Gambit: Old Tricks for a New Game. *The Diplomat.com*. <https://thediplomat.com/2024/06/chinas-ai-gambit-old-tricks-for-a-new-game/>
- Yuan, S & Xiang, J.** (2023, Dec 2). Beyond the Battlefield: China's Quiet Bid to Sway Taiwan's 2024 Election (and Future). *The Diplomat.com*. <https://thediplomat.com/2023/12/beyond-the-battlefield-chinas-quiet-bid-to-sway-taiwans-2024-election-and-future>
- Yuan, S** (2023, Sept 13). De-dollarization Dreams: Why the US Dollar Won't Bow Out. *The Diplomat.com*. <https://thediplomat.com/2023/09/de-dollarization-dreams-why-the-us-dollar-wont-bow-out/>
- Yuan, S.** (2022, Feb 11). What can we do to help Asian Americans? *USA Today. Print*. Pg. 7A.
- Assamah, D. & **Yuan, S.** (2020, May 5). Elections in Africa: The Youth Vote and Implications for 2020. *Columbia Journal of International Affairs*. <https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/news/elections-africa-youth-vote-and-implications-2020>
- Yuan, S.** (2020, Feb 20). South China Sea Threat Assessment: Is China really a threat or a paper tiger in the region?, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2020/02/20/south-china-sea-threat-assessment/>
- Yuan, S.** (2020, Feb 2). Rethinking Cambodia: A New Strategic Interest. *The Global Affairs Review*. [https://wp.nyu.edu/schoolofprofessionalstudies\\_ga\\_review/rethinking-cambodia-a-new-strategic-interest/](https://wp.nyu.edu/schoolofprofessionalstudies_ga_review/rethinking-cambodia-a-new-strategic-interest/)

## Research in Progress

### *Book Project*

- China's Soft Power Play in 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Palgrave Macmillan)

### *Peer-reviewed articles*

- eSports: China's Quest for Global Soft Power, with Xiang, J. (under review)
- Threading Influence: China's Fashion as Soft Power (under review)
- Power transition: A Comparative Analysis of AI Narratives, with Xiang, J. (under review)
- Investing in the Future: Chinese Scholarship and Recruitment of International Students. with Xiang, J., Lee, Y., Han, S. (in preparation)

## INTERVIEWS & COMMENTERIES

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2025 March. Film's DeepSeek moment (and what it means for China's 'soft power'). *AFR*. <https://www.afr.com/world/asia/film-s-deepseek-moment-and-what-it-means-for-china-s-soft-power-20250302-p51g6c>

2025 January. How will Trump and Xi Compete in the AI Race?. *Annahar*. <https://shorturl.at/5yKPk>

2024 June. Xi eyes military supremacy as he reorganises China's armed forces. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/24/xi-eyes-military-supremacy-as-he-reorganises-chinas-armed-forces>

2024 April. Media feel pressure to tell 'positive' China story as party tightens grip. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/4/media-feel-pressure-to-tell-positive-story-as-china-tightens-grip>

2024 January. Money, power and the peril of courting Chinese nationalism. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/3/2/money-power-and-the-peril-of-courting-chinese-nationalism>

2023 December. China looks for the diplomatic 'sweet spot' between panda and wolf. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/26/china-looks-for-the-diplomatic-sweet-spot-between-panda-and-wolf>

2020 April. Den Enes Nederlag, Den Andens Fiasco (The Defeat of the One, The Fiasco of the Other), *Weekendavisen*.

2019 December. China Trade War: An Expert Weighs in on the Complex Issue, *Tropicalthunder*. <https://www.tropicalthunder.com/news/2019/12/03/china-trade-war-expert-weighs-in-on-the-complex-issue>

2019 December. NATO Formally Adds a Rising China to its Focus for the First Time, *CNSnews.com*. <https://www.cnsnews.com/article/international/james-carstensen/nato-formally-adds-rising-china-its-focus-first-time>

## TEACHING & ADVISING

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<b>Dean's Dissertation Fellow at Rutgers University Newark, New Jersey</b>	<b>2024-now</b>
<i>Supervisor: Dean Taja-Nia Y. Henderson &amp; Dean Kinna Perry</i>	
<b>Teaching Assistant at Rutgers University Newark, New Jersey</b>	<b>2020-now</b>
<i>Supervisor: Dr. Jun Xiang, Department of Economics, Division of Global Affairs.</i>	
<i>Courses taught: ECON203: Statistics (2021-2024), DGA506: Quantitative Research Method (2021-2022).</i>	
<b>Research fellow at Rutgers University Newark, New Jersey</b>	<b>2020-2024</b>
<i>Supervisor: Dr. Jun Xiang, Department of Economics, Division of Global Affairs.</i>	
<b>Adjunct Professor, SUNY Westchester Community College</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<i>Course taught: Japanese 110 (Partially)</i>	
<b>Japanese Teaching Assistant at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<i>Supervisor: Dr. Michael Dixon. Courses taught: Japanese 110, Japanese 210, Japanese 220.</i>	
<b>Chinese Teaching Assistant at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
<i>Supervisor: Dr. Kyle Anderson. Produced course materials for students of Chinese language courses and tutored students.</i>	

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Yuan, S. (April 2021). Terrorism in Xinjiang & The Chinese Government's Countermeasures. New York State Political Science Association 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Yuan, S. (November 2020). The Belt and Road Initiative: Assessing China's Soft Power Diplomacy in Developing Countries. A session in the "Colloquium Speaker Series" graduate course at Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University–Newark.
- Yuan, S., Vogel, E. & Beshimov, B. (October 2019). How can the United States adapt to a rising China? Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, & College of Professional Studies, Northeastern University
- Yuan, S. (April 2019) Behind the Conflict of Senkaku Islands, the Pursuit of Asia Hegemony. *New York State Political Science Association 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference*, Wagner College.
- Yuan, S. (March 2017). Analysis of Korean Popular Culture's Influence on China. *Kentucky Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Centre College.

## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

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- Oct 2024 Columbia University (Chinese 'Colonialism,' Capital Accumulation, and BRI)
- Sep 2024 Columbia University (Book Talk: Upstart: How China Became a Great Power)
- Sep 2024 China Institute (China Institute in America and Chinese Cultural Diplomacy)
- Sep 2024 Columbia University (The EU-US Perception of the Rise of China and Taiwan's Resilience)
- Apr 2024 Rutgers University (Global Democratic Decay and the Rule of Law)
- Mar 2024 Harriman Institute (Weak Strongman: The Limits of Power in Putin's Russia)
- Nov 2023 China Institute (The Future Direction of China's Economy)
- Nov 2023 Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers Annual Conference (2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference)
- Nov 2022 Rutgers University (10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gershowitz Conference on Media & Democratic Governance)
- Apr 2020 Rutgers University (Global Politics in the Era of Climate Change)
- Apr 2019 Rutgers University (Security in International Studies: Current Considerations, New Directions)
- Oct 2018 Northeastern University (Democracy and Digital Technology)
- Sep 2017 Harvard University (Artificial Intelligence and The Future of Public Policy)

## HONORS & AWARDS

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### Fellowships

2024-2025 *Dean's Dissertation Fellowship*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2023-2024 *Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2020-2023 *Teaching Assistantship*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2019-2020 *Research Fellowship*, Rutgers Graduate School

### Awards

2024 *Division of Global Affairs Summer Research Grant*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2021 *University Merit Graduate Scholars Award*, Rutgers University School of Arts and Science  
2019-2020 *University Merit Graduate Scholars Award*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2019-2020 *Newark Graduate School Dean's Award*, Rutgers University  
2018-2019 *Academic Excellence Award*, Northeastern University

### Scholarships

2020-2021 *Newark Graduate School Student Scholarship*, Rutgers University  
2019-2020 *Newark Graduate School Scholarship*, Rutgers University  
2017-2018 *Academic Achievement Scholarship*, Northeastern University  
2013-2017 *The Founder's Scholarship*, Centre College

### Grants

2020 *Travel Awards for Conference Presentations*, Rutgers Graduate School  
2018 *Field Research Grant*, Northeastern University  
2016 *Field Research Grant*, Centre College

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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International Studies Association (ISA)  
American Political Science Association (APSA)  
Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA)  
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
New York State Political Science Association (NYPSA)  
American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
Council on Foreign Relations: Young Professional Briefing Series  
Political Studies Association (PSA)

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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### Invited Manuscript Reviews

*Research in Comparative and International Education*  
*Journal of Public Law and Diplomacy*  
*International Affairs*  
*Global Security: Health, Science & Policy*

*China: An International Journal*  
*Humanities and Social Science Communications*  
*Chinese Public Administration Review*  
*East Asia: An International Quarterly*

### Leadership

2020-2024 *Secretary*, Division of Global Affairs Student Association, Rutgers University  
2021- *Firefighter* at Cliffside Park Fire Department, Cliffside Park, New Jersey  
2019-2020 *Graduate Student Representative*, Rutgers University  
2017-2018 *Team leader* at American Red Cross Boston Food Pantry, Boston, Massachusetts 2016-2017 *Student Group Leader* at Kentucky Refugee Ministry, Louisville, Kentucky

## CERTIFICATES

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2022 A Certificate in Hazardous Materials Operations and Awareness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

2022 A Certificate in Operations and Mission-Specific PPE and Product Control, National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications, International Association of Fire Fighters.

2022 A Certificate in IMS-1-100, County of Bergen, Department of Public Safety, Bergen County Police and Fire Academy, New Jersey

2022 A Certificate in Fire Fighter One, County of Bergen, Department of Public Safety, Bergen County Police and Fire Academy, New Jersey

2017 A Certificate in Japanese-Language Proficiency N2, Japan Educational Exchanges and Services

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Deputy Editor-in-Chief at The Global Affairs Magazine, Boston, Massachusetts** **2018–2020**

*Managed and supervised the content produced for publication. Reviewed all content before publication, including articles and photographs, developed strategies and style guidelines.*

**Research Associate at SK Innovation, Seoul South Korea** **2016–2017**

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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### Quantitative Analysis

Python, R

### Qualitative Analysis

NVivo, Dedoose

### Languages

Chinese Mandarin (*native*), English (*native*), Japanese (*proficient*), Korean (*intermediate*)

### Software

Adobe Premier, Adobe Photoshop, Stata, Adobe Lightroom

## REFERENCES

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1. **Professor Jun Xiang**, Professor of Economics and Core Faculty at Global Affairs  
*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*  
Email: [Jun.xiang@rutgers.edu](mailto:Jun.xiang@rutgers.edu)
2. **Professor Carlos Seiglie**, Professor of Economics and Chair of the Economics Department  
*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*  
Email: [seiglie@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:seiglie@newark.rutgers.edu)
3. **Professor Ambassador Friedrich Lohr**, Professor in the Global Studies and International Relations program  
*Northeastern University*  
Fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at *Harvard University*.  
Email: [f.lohr@northeastern.edu](mailto:f.lohr@northeastern.edu)