**Joseph Torigian**  torigian@american.edu (September 4, 2025)

**EDUCATION** Massachusetts Institute of Technology

 PhD in International Relations Theory and Comparative Politics

 Dissertation: “Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles and the Fate of Three Revolutions”

 Committee: Richard Samuels, Kathleen Thelen, Taylor Fravel, Barry Posen

 Defended August 2016

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (Highest Distinction)

 Major in Political Science (04/2006) and Minor in Asian Studies (04/2006)

 William Jennings Bryan Prize (Departmental Political Science Award for graduating seniors)

**RESEARCH** Authoritarian regimes, grand strategy, qualitative methods, Chinese and Russian politics and history

**EXPERIENCE** American University

School of International Service August 2018–Present

 Assistant and Associate Professor (May 2024)

 Stanford University

 Hoover Institution Fall 2023–August 2025

 Research Fellow

 University of Michigan

 Lieberthal Rogel Center for Chinese Studies March 2023–Present

 Center Associate

 Wilson Center

 History and Public Policy Program October 2018–April 2025

 Global Fellow

 Australian National University

 China in the World Program May 2022–July 2022

 Visiting Fellow

 Council on Foreign Relations

 David Rockefeller Studies Program September 2019–August 2020

 Stanton Fellow

Princeton and Harvard University

China and the World Program September 2017–June 2018

 Conducted research and participated in CWP events

Stanford University

CISAC Visiting Scholar October 2015–June 2017

 Conducted research and participated in CISAC events as Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellow

George Washington University

Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Predoctoral Fellow September 2014–June 2015

Conducted dissertation research and participated in ISCS events

Higher School of Economics, Moscow

IREX Scholar November 2013–July 2014

 Conducted dissertation research in Soviet archives

Fudan University, Shanghai

Fulbright Scholar September 2008–June 2009

 Conducted research on Chinese foreign policy norms and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

 Audited and participated in graduate-level Chinese language courses on Sino-American relations Presented research findings to other scholars

 Council on Foreign Relations

 Research Associate December 2006–June 2008

 Assisted Senior Fellow Adam Segal in research by writing over 100 memos

 Prepared more than $250,000 budget for Dr. Segal’s programs and planned roundtables

 Conducted conference for peers and presented paper on Chinese and Russian foreign policy

**LANGUAGES** Chinese: Fluent reading and speaking

 Russian: Fluent reading and speaking

 *Critical Language Scholarship* (US State Department) June 2010–July 2010

 Spent two months studying Russian in Ufa, Russia

 *Rep. of China Chinese Language Fellowship (FLAS)* September 2004–August 2005

 Spent full year studying Chinese at ICLP at National Taiwan University

**BOOKS** *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles after Stalin and Mao*, Yale University Press, 2022

Reviewed in H-Diplo Forum, *China Journal, Global Asia*, *The Wire*, H-Soz-Kult, *New York Review of Books*, *Andrew Batson’s Blog*, *Engelsberg Ideas*, *Russian Review*, *Slavonic and East European Review, Slavic Review, Political Science Quarterly, China Quarterly,* and *Los Angeles Review of Books.* Named2022 Book of the Year by ChinaTalk, *Engelsberg Ideas*, and CNAS Staff. *New York Times* Ezra Klein Show Book Recommendation.

 *The Party’s Interests Come First: The Life of Xi Zhongxun*, Stanford University Press, 2025

*Economist* Best Book of 2025 So Far. *Financial Times* Book of Summer 2025. ISPI One of Ten Books to Read about Geopolitics. Table Briefings China book recommendations for summer and fall 2025. Albert Mohler Summer Reading List 2025. GZERO Daily “what to read this week.”

Excerpted in *Newsweek* and *China Book Review*.

Featured in *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* in news articles about book’s release.

Reviewed in *Financial Times,* *Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Le Monde, New York Review of Books, Irish Times, Foreign Policy, The New Statesman, Il Giornale, Asian Review of Books*, *Business Standard*, *SDP Noticias*, *Geopolitics Report*, *S.Novice, Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *China Diction*, *States of Play, MoneyWeek, Il Foglio, Cogitations, O Globo, Rmoljatim.* Discussed on television Eco(Iran) and Critical Time (Taiwan)*.*

See below for other media engagements and book talks.

**PEER REV. ART.** “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front” (forthcoming at *Journal of Cold War Studies*)

“‘You Don’t Know Khrushchev Well’: The Ouster of the Soviet Leader as a Challenge to Recent Scholarship on Authoritarian Politics,” in *Journal of Cold War Studies* (2022) 24 (1): 78–115.

 “A New Case for the Study of Individual Events in Political Science,” in *Global Studies Quarterly*, Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2021

“Historical Legacies and Leaders’ Worldviews: Communist Party History and Xi’s Learned (and Unlearned) Lessons,” in *China Perspectives,* 2018/1–2

**OTHER PUBS.**“Xi and Putin Weaponize WWII's Legacy,” in *ChinaTalk*, September 2, 2025

“Xi Jinping’s Costly Inheritance,” in *Foreign Affairs*, June 23, 2025

“Xi Jinping’s Russian Lessons,” in *Foreign Affairs*, June 24, 2024 (Winner of “Best of 2024” *Foreign Affairs* Editors’ Award)

“What Beijing’s Muted Response to Wagner Mutiny Tells us about China-Russia Relations—and What it Doesn’t,” in *The Conversation*, June 30, 2023

“Xi Jinping and Ideology,” in *Essays on China and US Policy*, Wilson Center, 2021–2022 China Fellowship

“China’s Balancing Act on Russian Invasion of Ukraine Explained,” in *The Conversation*, March 10, 2022

“A Squabble About History Almost Killed Xi Jinping’s Father,” in *Foreign Policy*, November 25, 2021

Review of “The War Scare That Wasn’t: Able Archer 83 and the Myths of the Second Cold War” by Simon Miles in H-Diplo, March 2021

 “China’s Nuclear Program Baffled Soviet Intelligence,” in *Foreign Policy*, October 21, 2020

“Xi Jinping’s Tiananmen Family Lessons,” in *Foreign Policy*, June 4, 2020

Review of *Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy: Religion, Politics, and Strategy* by Dmitry Adamsky in H-Diplo, April 2020

“What Xi Jinping Learned—And Didn’t Learn—From His Father About Xinjiang,” in *The Diplomat*, November 26, 2019

“Chinese Society amid Mao’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution: The Roots and Nature of the Tragedy: Commentary by Joseph Torigian,” in *Journal of Cold War Studies* (Spring 2019), 21 (2): 177–88

“Elite Politics and Foreign Policy in China from Mao to Xi,” in *Revolution or Evolution? Xi Jinping and the Future of China’s Foreign Policy*, Brookings Institution, January 22, 2019.

 “Don’t Count on China to Rein in North Korea. Here’s Why,” in *Washington Post’*s *Monkey Cage*, February 17, 2017

 “The Shadow of Deng Xiaoping on Chinese Elite Politics,” in *War on the Rocks*, January 30, 2017

“Khrushchev’s Fate and China’s Future,” in *The Diplomat*, November 24, 2016

“Mass Atrocity Monday: Tiananmen Square,” in *Justice in Conflict* blog, June 6, 2016

**CONFERENCES**  *Meeting China Anew* (Aspen Strategy Group Summer Workshop) July 2025

Panelist on “China’s Internal Dynamics”

 *Revisiting “Cold War 2.0?”* (UT Austin Clements Center) April 2025

Panelist on “Economic Systems and Their Implications”

 *Chinese Politics, Past and Present* (UPenn) April 2025

 Panelist on “Power Politics and the Party-State in Historical Perspective”

 *The Cold War Archives Research Institute* (Wilson Center) December 2024

 Spoke on a panel about archival research

 *NCUSCR-Schwarzman Seminar*  November 2024

 Panelist on Russia-China relations

 *Canadian Association for Security Intelligence Studies 2024* November 2024

Panelist on “Future of Geopolitics”

 *ORF America-ASPI DC Task Force* October 2024

 Panelist on China’s Strategic Future

 *Hoover History Lab Symposium on China and Russia* (Stanford) June 2024

Organizer, moderator, and panelist

 *2024 SCCEI China Conference* (Stanford) May 2024

 Panelist on “Historical Insights and Lessons for China from the Soviet Union”

 *Hoover Institution History Working Group Symposium* (Stanford) May 2024

 Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

 *Cling Conference 2024* (Georgetown) April 2024

 Panelist on “Domestic Sources of Chinese Policymaking”

 *Bicoastal China Fellows UnConference* (Stanford) August 2024

 Panelist on “The Preservation Profession”

 International Studies Association March 2024

 Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

 “The 1969 Crisis: Confusion, Contingency, and China” (presented by David Logan)

 *Global Trends* (Stanford) January 2024

 Discussant on Chinese power; presenter on Chinese “soft” power

 *Dahrendorf Conference* (Stanford) August 2023

 Panelist on “War in Ukraine”

 International Studies Association March 2023

 Discussant on “Contested Peripheries: High-Stakes International Politics in Frontier Domains”

 Princeton University Center for International Security Studies February 2023

 Panelist on “Lessons from the War in Ukraine”

 University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democr. October 2022

 Panelist on “Flashpoint: 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party”

 *Hoover Institution Summer Workshop on Modern China and Taiwan*August 2022

Presented “Succession Politics and the Xi Family in the 1980s: The ‘Three Types of People,’ ‘Princelings,’ and Center-Provincial Relations in Hebei and Fujian”

 *University of California San Diego China Forum* July 2022

 Presented on panel on Sino-Russian relations

*Emerging Scholars on Emerging Technologies* April 2022

 Discussant for paper

 Presented on panel “The Content of Teaching Emerging Technologies”

 *China-Russia Relations: Peers, Allies, Competitors?* (Georgetown) March 2022

 Panelist

 *The Wilson China Fellowship Conference* February 2022

 Presented “Xi Jinping and Ideology”

 *Colloquium on Thirty Years of Tibet-China Dialogue Engagement* (GW) April 2022

 Discussant

*Toward Xi’s Third Term: China’s 20th Party Congress and Beyond* January 2022

Panelist

International Studies Association April 2021

 Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”

Association for Asian Studies March 2021

 Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”

 *Chinese Archives in Crisis* (Stanford) December 2020

 Presented “The Writing of ‘Biography of Xi Zhongxun’”

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian StudiesNovember 2020

 Presented “Echoes of June 1941 in March 1969: Intelligence and Escalation on the (Far) Eastern Front”

 Penn Center for the Study of Contemporary China September 2020

 Commentator on panel at (virtual) Conference on the Party at 100

*China and the World: The Road Ahead* (Global Insights)September 2020

Panelist

Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research (SICAR) August 2020

Participated in panel on doing research overseas

*Hong Kong and Elsewhere Symposium* (*Hong Kong Studies Journal*) July 2020

 Presented “Fathers and Sons—Hong Kong and Xi Jinping’s Father Xi Zhongxun”

CSIS January 2020

 Delegation to Taiwan following January 2020 elections

Stanton Foundation October 2019

 Presented “The 1969 Sino-Soviet Nuclear Crisis”

International Studies Association March 2019

Presented “A State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear (and Rocket) Revolution in the USSR”

Princeton-HumboldtMarch 2019

 Presented on post-Stalin and Mao transitions at Conference “Comparing Dictatorships in Transition”

 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University March 2019

 Presented “China with a Special Focus on the Xi Family”

Harvard University Weatherhead CenterNovember 2018

Participant in Harvard International Security Cluster

 *China Since the Cultural Revolution* (Wilson Center)October 2018

 Presented on Xi Zhongxun at Conference

APSA August 2018

 Presented “The Civil-Military Relations of Tiananmen Square”

The Society of Historians for American Foreign RelationsJune 2018

Presented “Khrushchev and the Bomb”

Tianwen lianhe xuehui wenge bowuguan chouwei hui (Tianwen Lianhe Society Cultural Revolution Museum Preparatory Committee) June 2018

 Presented “Did the Gang of Four Have Their Own Ideology?” (In Chinese)

Association for Asian Studies March 2018

 Presented “Problems with Factions in Chinese Politics: The Case of Chen Yun”

Brookings-Carnegie-TobinJanuary 2018

 Presented at Workshop on Policy Implications of New Research in Politics and International History

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian StudiesNovember 2017

Participated in panel “New Opportunities in the Russian Archives”

 *Stanford Dialogue* August 2016–December 2019

 Note-taker for meetings between American, Chinese, and Russian retired military officers on strategic stability

*Tobin Project*  March 2017–September 2018

 Participated in Tobin Project on Nuclear Threat Assessment

 *Hoover Institution Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes* July 2016

“Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles and the Fate of Three Revolutions”

*Stanford Nuclear Youth Forum with MEPhI* May 2016

Participated in conference in Moscow with Russian nuclear experts

 Clements Center, UT AustinJuly 2015

Participant in Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft

International Studies Association March 2015

 Presented “Scientific Realism and Qualitative Methods”

 SICARSummer 2012

Spent one week at seminar on archives at George Washington University

 International Studies AssociationMarch 2012

 Presented “Chinese Civil-Military Relations and the Roots of Political Change”

International Studies Association March 2011

 Chaired panel: “Reassessing Power Transitions”

 Presented “The Rhetoric of Rise”

*New Era Foreign Policy Conference*  March 2010

 Participated in two day workshop for young scholars interested in policy issues

**INVITED TALKS** Simon Fraser University June 2025

Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Jifeng Books (DC) June 2025

Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

 Briefing for United States House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party June 2025

 Hoover DC June 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests* (also broadcast on C-SPAN)

 Asia Society (New York) June 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

 Carnegie Endowment June 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Stanford Hoover History Lab and Archives June 2025

Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

 Asia Society, New York June 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Council on Foreign Relations June 2025

 The Party's Interests Comes First: A conversation

 Naval Postgraduate School May 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China May 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

Stanford APARC May 2025

Panelist on “The Eastern Triumvirate: How Russia, China, and North Korea Are Reshaping Global Power”

 Stanford CREEES/Center for East Asian Studies May 2025

 Book talk on *Prestige*

 University of Washington China Studies Program May 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

 World Affairs Council, Seattle May 2025

 Briefing on Chinese politics and Sino-Russian relations

 UCSD 21st Century China Center May 2025

 Book talk on *Party’s Interests*

University College Dublin October 2024

Book chapter on “Princeling Politics” from *The Party’s Interests Come First*

Global Conference on New Sinology (Delhi) September 2024

Keynote: Xi Jinping’s Leadership Psychology

Political Economy Series (National University of Singapore, Hong Kong Baptist University, National Taiwan University, and the China Europe International Business School) September 2024

Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Osaka School of International Public Policy July 2024

 The “New” and “Old” in Xi Jinping as Chinese Leader

 Kyoto University July 2024

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

YCAPS Community Conversation Series (Sasebo) June 2024

 “The Putin-Xi Partnership: Historical Context and Implications for the International Community”

 Keio University June 2024

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

 National Institute for Defense Studies (Tokyo) June 2024

 “The formation of Xi Jinping”

 “Xi Jinping in historic context”

CISAC (Stanford) March 2024

 “The 1969 Crisis: Confusion, Contingency, and China” (with David Logan)

Illinois Global Institute (Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) March 2024

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Emory University March 2024

 “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

 FACES (Stanford) February 2024

 “Chinese elite politics and ideology”

 Social Science Affinity Group (Princeton) February 2024

 “Accessing Information from Countries with Authoritarian Regimes”

 Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China November 2023

 “Decoding Chinese Politics”

 Stanford China Social Science Workshop October 2023

 “Xi Zhongxun and June 4”

 Asia Society (San Francisco) October 2023

 “Drawing Back the Curtain: An Executive Roundtable on the Complexities of Chinese Politics”

 Council on Foreign Relations Study Group October 2023

 “China-Russia Relations”

 State Department Foreign Service Institute September 2023

 “History of Chinese Elite Politics”

State Department September 2023

 Consultant on Sino-Russian Relations

 Centre for Contemporary China Studies (Indian Foreign Min.) July 2023

 “Sino-Russian relations”

Tibet Policy Institute (Dharamsala) May 2023

 “Chinese Politics under Xi Jinping”

 Carnegie India

 “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

 Centre for Social and Economic Progress (Delhi) May 2023

 “The ‘New’ and ‘Old’ in Xi Jinping as a Chinese Leader”

 Great Decisions (Vermont) May 2023

 “US-China Relations”

Wilson Center Asia Program, Kissinger Institute, and HAPP April 2023

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

US-China Commission April 2023

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Harvard University Fairbank Center March 2023

“Succession Politics and the Xi Family in the 1980s: The ‘Three Types of People,’ ‘Princelings,’ and Center-Provincial Relations in Hebei and Fujian”

George Washington University USCSSO Spring Conference March 2023

 Featured speaker on Xi Jinping and Chinese politics

 US Consulate in Shanghai February 2023

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Rutgers University Center for Chinese Studies February 2023

Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Philadelphia World Trade Center December 2022

 Briefing on Chinese politics

King’s College London Centre for Grand Strategy November 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

University of San Francisco Center for Asia Pacific Studies October 2022

“Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

 Clements Center, UT Austin October 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

 Council on Foreign Relations October 2022

 Virtual Roundtable: “The Past as a Prelude to Xi Jinping’s Next Five Years in Power” (with Victor Shih)

 Profs and Pints October 2022

 “Understanding China’s Leader”

 Yale MacMillan Center and International Security Studies September 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Duke Sanford School September 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

US State Department September 2022

 Consultant on Russia/Ukraine conflict

University of Michigan August 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Lowy Institute July 2022

The Rise and Rise of Xi Jinping

 University of Melbourne July 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

Australian DFAT China Seminar Series July 2022

 “What Makes Xi Jinping Tick?”

University of Sydney June 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

 Australian National University June 2022

 Seminar Series with four talks: Book talk on *Prestige Manipulation and Coercion*, “Researching Elite Politics in China,” “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency and Interests,” and “The ‘New’ and ‘Old’ in Xi Jinping as a Chinese Leader”

Asia Society (Sydney) June 2022

 “Holding the Party Line: Xi Jinping and the Limits of Power” (executive briefing)

National Foundation for Australia-China Relations June 2022

 “Xi Jinping and Elite Politics in China”

Foreign Correspondent’s Club of China April 2022

Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

 Bush School, Texas A&M April 2022

 Book talk on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*

American Chamber of Commerce in the PRC March 2022

 Panelist on “As Far as the Eye Can See: Looking Ahead to Xi’s Third Term” (China Business Conference)

State University of New York at Albany March 2022

 Presented “Sino-Russian Relations in Historic Context: Ideology, Agency, and Interests”

Wilson Center June 2021

Commentator for talk by Jeremy Brown on his new book *June Fourth: The Tiananmen Protests and Beijing Massacre of 1989*

Global Affairs Canada February 2021

Presented on hundredth anniversary of Chinese Communist Party on panel with Professor Timothy Cheek

Paul Tsai China Center, Yale University November 2020

Presented “Elite Politics in the Chinese Communist Party: Deng Xiaoping, the Xi Family, and the Limits of Collective Leadership”

*SIS Continuity Workshop* (American University) October 2020

Presented on use of digital archives in COVID era

*CSIS China Policy Workshop Series* August 2020

Presented on how to analyze Chinese elite politics

Faculty of Social Science, Oslo University December 2019

“The Scholar as Detective”

 “State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear Revolution in the USSR”

Center for Security Studies, ETH, Zurich December 2019

“State of Fever: The Civil-Military Relations of the Nuclear Revolution in the USSR”

 SIS Historical International Studies Faculty Research Cluster October 2019

 “Xi Jinping’s Father Xi Zhongxun and Chinese Communist Party Policies in Tibet and Xinjiang in the 1980s”

East China Normal University, Shanghai May 2019

Two talks (in Chinese): “Hua Guofeng” and “Chen Yun in the 1980s”

 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at AU March 2019

 “China with a Special Focus on the Xi Family”

*Comm. of the 30th Parinirvana Ann. of 10th Panchen Rinpoche* January 2019

“The Relationship between the 10th Panchen Lama and Xi Zhongxun”

 AU Center for Asian Studies and Complex Gov. Cluster October 2018

“Xi Jinping’s Father and the Chinese Revolution”

 Asia-Pacific Nuclear History Institute (Wilson Center) March 2018

 “Khrushchev and the Bomb”

 USC Center for International Studies February 2018

 “Explaining North Korean Regime Resiliency: Kim Il-sung and the Partisan Legacy”

 Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program November 2017

“China’s History of Failed Interventions in North Korean Elite Politics”

Stanford Russian History Kruzhok March 2016

“Elite Power Struggles in the Soviet Union: The Cases of Beria and the Anti-Party Group”

CISAC (Stanford) February 2016

“Communist Coups: Authoritarianism and the Fate of Three Revolutions”

 SICAR May 2015

 “How to Conduct Archival Research”

 George Washington University ISCS March 2015

 “Cleaning Up the Revolution: The Rise of Deng Xiaoping 1977–1981”

**MEDIA** Quoted in “China's Xi at centre of world stage after days of high-level hobnobbing,” AFP, September 4, 2025

 Quoted in “Xi’s Historic Meet With Putin and Kim Showcases Unity Against US,” *Bloomberg*, September 3, 2025

 Quoted in “For Xi and Putin, commemorating World War II is more about the present,” *CNN*, September 3, 2025

 Quoted in “China’s Xi flaunts his country’s military and diplomatic might,” *Globe and Mail*, September 2, 2025

 Interviewed on BBC Newshour (radio), September 3, 2025

 Quoted in “Military Parade Casts China as Savior in World War II,” *New York Times*, September 2, 2025

 Quoted in “Beneath China’s display of military might, a far-reaching corruption purge,” *Washington Post*, September 2, 2025

 Interviewed on CNN One World (television), September 2, 2025

Interviewed on NK News podcast on *Party’s Interests*, August 28, 2025

 Quoted in “History, triumph and trauma to take centre stage at China's WW2 military parade,” Reuters, August 21, 2025

 Interviewed on RANE Podcast on elite politics, military influence, and strategy in China and Russia, August 21, 2025

 Interviewed in *Der Spiegel* about *Party’s Interests* (“Nichts fürchtete Xi Jinping mehr als das Badewasser seines Vaters,”) August 13, 2025

 Interviewed in “Xi Looks to Tighten Grip After Scandals Shake China’s Military Elite,” *New York Times*, August 10, 2025

 Interviewed on Bloomberg Odd Lots podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 7. 2025

 Interviewed on States of Play podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 5, 2025

 Interviewed on Keen on America podcast about *Party’s Interests*, August 3, 2025

 Quoted in “Xi Ties His Legacy and China’s Economy to $167 Billion Dam,” *Bloomberg*, July 30, 2025

 Quoted in “Why Rumors about Chinese Leadership Thrive,” *Wall Street Journal*, July 29, 2025

 Interviewed on Hoover Matters of Policy and Politics podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 29, 2025

 Interviewed on Drop Site News podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 27, 2025

 Interviewed on ChinaTalk about *Party’s Interests*, two episodes, July 11 and 21, 2025

 Interviewed on ABC (Australia) Global Roaming about China, Xi, and Australia, July 11, 2025

 Interviewed on Faithful Politics podcast about *Party’s Interests*, July 7, 2025

 Interviewed on I Don’t Know Anything with Paige Harriman podcast about China, July 3, 2025

 Interviewed on Hidden Forces podcast about *Party’s Interests*, June 23, 2025

 Interviewed on TBPN about *Party’s Interests*, June 17, 2025

 Interviewed on The Batchelor Show on *Party’s Interests* (multiple episodes), June 2025

 Interviewed on BBC Radio Four on *Party’s Interests*, June 7, 2025

 Interviewed on CSIS ChinaPower podcast about *Party’s Interests*, June 5, 2025

 Interviewed on New Books Network podcast about *Party’s Interests*, June 5, 2025

 Interviewed by The Diplomat about *Party’s Interests*, June 4, 2025

 Interviewed by China Leadership Monitor about *Party’s Interests*, June 1, 2025

 Interviewed on Bumingbai podcast about *Party’s Interests*, May 31, 2025 (Chinese)

 Interviewed on NPR about *Party’s Interests*, May 28, 2025

Interviewed on ChinaFile podcast about *Party’s Interests*, April 30, 2025

 Interviewed on CNN (Kaitlan Collins) about tariff war, April 15, 2025

 Quoted in “Steeling China for a Fight, Xi Faces His Biggest Test Since Covid,” *New York Times*, April 11, 2025

 Quoted in “China, Anxious about Trump and Putin, Tells Russia It is a 'True Friend,'” *Washington Post,* February 25, 2025

 Quoted in “China’s Unspoken Question: Who Will Succeed Xi Jinping?,” *Financial Times*, February 16, 2025

 Interviewed on CNN (Jim Sciutto) about Jimmy Carter’s legacy in Asia, January 9, 2025

 Quoted in “Carter Took Pride in Warming US-China Ties,” *Washington Post*, January 6, 2025

 Interviewed for documentary “China, the U.S. & the Rise of Xi Jinping,” *PBS Frontline*, November 26, 2024

 Quoted in “Chinese State Television Lionises Xi Jinping’s Father in 39-part Serialised Drama,” *The Guardian*, November 7, 2024

 Quoted in “In Battle Over its Past, China Wages Courtroom Fight in California,” *NPR* radio, October 1, 2024

Quoted in “Diaries of Mao's Secretary at the Center of a Legal Battle Over the History of Modern China,” *NBC News*, August 25, 2024

 Quoted in “The Diary Beijing Doesn’t Want the Public to Read,” *The World* (radio), August 20, 2024

 Quoted in “‘Monument to History’ Battle Between US and China Over Future of Mao’s Secretary’s Diary,” *The Guardian*, August 18, 2024

Quoted in “China’s Vanished Foreign Minister Casts a Long Shadow,” *Politico*, June 20, 2024

 Quoted in “35 Years after Tiananmen, China’s Conduct Again Triggers Alarm,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 3, 2024

 Quoted in “Putin Concludes a Trip to China by Emphasizing Its Strategic and Personal Ties to Russia,” AP, May 17, 2024

 Interviewed on BBC World Service (radio) on Sino-Russian relations, May 16, 2024

 Quoted in “Putin Is Putting His Bromance with Xi on Full Display—But China Has Reason to Be Wary,” *Business Insider*, May 16, 2024

Quoted in “How China’s Political Clans Might Determine Its Future,” *The Economist*, April 4, 2024

Quoted in “Xi’s One-Man Rule Over China’s Economy Is Spurring Unrest,” Bloomberg, February 29, 2024

 Interviewed on *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion*, published in Center for Advanced China Research, November 14, 2023

 Quoted in “China’s Xi, in Need of a Win, Appears Ready to Engage with Biden,” *Washington Post*, November 14, 2023

 Quoted in “Xi’s Graft Crackdown Is Set to Snare Record Number of Top Officials,” Bloomberg, November 13, 2023

 Quoted in “Behind Public Assurances, Xi Jinping Has Spread Grim Views on U.S.,” *New York Times*, November 13, 2023

 Quoted in “Reactions to Death of Chinese Ex-Premier Li Keqiang,” Reuters, October 27, 2023

 Quoted in “Xi Faces ‘Delicate Political Moment’ in Handling Grief Over Li,” Bloomberg, October 27, 2023

 Quoted in “Former Chinese Premier Dies Aged 68 from Heart Attack,” *The Times*, October 27, 2023

 Quoted in “Li Keqiang, Chinese Premier Eclipsed by Xi Jinping, Dies at 68,” *New York Times*, October 26, 2023

 Quoted in “Li Keqiang, China’s Former Premier, Dies Suddenly at 68,” *Financial Times*, October 26, 2023

 Quoted in “China Removes Li Shangfu as Defense Minister, Who Was Out of Public Eye for 2 Months,” NPR, October 23, 2023

Interviewed on *Democracy Podcast*, September 5, 2023

 Quoted in “Xi Rebuilt the Military to His Liking. Now a Shake-Up Threatens Its Image,” *New York Times,* August 7, 2023

 Quoted in “After Ousting a Top Official, China Erases Him and Evades Questions,” *New York Times*, July 27, 2023

 Interviewed in “One Good Text,” *Semafor*, July 26, 2023

 Quoted in “A Familiar Face for the US as China’s Wang Returns as Foreign Minister,” Reuters, July 25, 2023

 Quoted in “China Replaces Missing Foreign Minister Qin Gang,” *Financial Times*, July 25, 2023

 Quoted in “China Replaces Foreign Minister after Mysterious Absence,” Bloomberg, July 25, 2023

 Interviewed in “Three Minutes With,” *Politico*, July 6, 2023

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 Quoted in “Xi Jinping’s Quest for Control Over China Targets Even Old Friends,” *Wall Street Journal*, October 16, 2022

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 Quoted in “China’s Xi Looks to 3rd 5-Year Term as Communist Party Meets,” AP, October 14, 2022

 Quoted in “Chinese Museum Celebrates History of Communist Party Founding,” *The World*, October 13, 2022

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 Quoted in “Analysis: How China’s Xi Accumulated Power, and Why It Matters in a Third Term,” Reuters, October 11, 2022

 Quoted in “Who Is China’s President Xi Jinping?,” *RFI*, October 7, 2022

 Quoted in “Xi Jinping’s Quest for Total Control of China Is Just Getting Started,” *Washington Post*, October 5, 2022

 Interviewed on *Mingjing* (Chinese language internet television), October 1, 2022

 Quoted throughout “The Prince,” *The* *Economist* podcast series, September 28, 2022

 Quoted in “The Unravelling of Vladimir Putin,” *New Statesman*, September 28, 2022

 Quoted in “Chinese Politics Has Become Even More of a Black Box under Xi Jinping,” *Globe and Mail*, September 26, 2022

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 Interview on *Departures* podcast, September 19, 2022

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Quoted in “China and Russia: Exploring Ties Between Two Authoritarian Powers,” CFR Backgrounder, June 14, 2022

 Quoted in “Is China Slowly Turning Its Back to Russia?,” *Newsweek*, June 9, 2022

 Quoted in “Beijing Sticks to Xi’s Covid-19 Stance While Endorsing Premier as Economic Fixer,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 3, 2022

 Quoted in “‘All the Power Is in His Hands’: Why Xi Jinping Remains Supreme,” *Financial Times*, June 2, 2022

 Interviewed on “How to Win a Power Struggle,” *Historically Thinking* podcast, May 23, 2022

 Quoted in “In Xi’s Big Year, Political Price of China’s Pandemic Policy Climbs,” AFP, May 22, 2022

Quoted in “Political Stakes High as Beijing Responds to Virus Outbreak,” AP, April 29, 2022

 Interviewed on “Elite Purges in Marxist-Leninist Regimes,” *Pekingology* podcast,CSIS, April 20222

Quoted in “Warum China als Friedensmakler ausfällt,” *Der Spiegel*, April 14, 2022

 Quoted in “Bristling Against the West, China Rallies Domestic Sympathy for Russia,” *New York Times*, April 4, 2022

Quoted in “China’s Ukraine Calculus: Understanding China’s Position in the Ukraine War,” *The Wire*, March 27, 2022

 Quoted in “Personal Ties That Bind: How Xi-Putin Relationship Has Evolved,” *Aljazeera*, March 18, 2022

 Interview on *The Attitude with Arnie Arnesen*, April 29, 2022

 Quoted in “Xi Risks Leaving China Isolated by Backing Putin to Counter US,” Bloomberg*,* March 21, 2002

 Quoted in “La moderata ambiguità di Xi Jinping sulla Guerra,” *Il Manifesto*, March 16, 2022

 Quoted in “China’s Goal with Putin Is to Resist U.S. Without Economic Pain,” Bloomberg, March 15, 2022

 Quoted in “Xi Jinping Isn’t Siding with Putin over Ukraine,” *Business Insider,* March 10, 2022

 Interview on KCBS Radio, March 9, 2022

 Quoted in “The Battle for Ukraine Could Test the Limits of Closer Ties Between China and Russia,” NPR, March 4, 2022

 Quoted in “Ukraine Invasion Tests the Ties That Bind Putin and Xi,” *New York Times*, February 28, 2022

 Quoted in “Dilemmat: Hur länge vågar Kina stötta Putin?,” *Svenska Dagbladet*, February 27, 2022

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 Interviewed on “The History Behind Growing China-Russia Relations: A Conversation with Dr. Joseph Torigian,” *ChinaPower* podcast, CSIS, February 2022

 Conducted interview of Chinese historian in “Lin Biao: What Really Happened?,” *ChinaTalk* podcast, February 10, 2022

 Quoted in “The Memo: China’s Olympics Get Underway Beneath Shadow of Abuses,” *The Hill*, February 4, 2022

 Quoted in “As Putin Heads to Beijing, Russia and China’s Stronger Ties Are a Headache for the U.S.,” *Washington Post*, February 1, 2022

 Quoted in “Peu cultivé, arrogant et brutal: qui est vraiment Xi Jinping, le nouveau Mao qui tient la Chine sous sa coupe?,” *L’Obs*, January 29, 2022

 Quoted in “How Collapse of the Soviet Union Still Weighs on Chinese Leaders’ Minds 30 Years On,” *South China Morning Post*, January 1, 2022

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 Interview published on SIS News, December 3, 2021 (on article “A New Case for the Study of Individual Events in Political Science”)

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 Quoted in “How Xi Jinping Is Rewriting China’s History to Put Himself at the Center,” *Wall Street Journal*, November 17, 2021

 Quoted in “To Steer China’s Future, Xi Is Rewriting Its Past,” *New York Times*, November 7, 2021

 Quoted in “The Diary Duel,” *The Wire: China*, September 26, 2021

Quoted in “Rescuing China’s Muzzled Past, One Footnote at a Time (There Are 2,421),” *New York Times*, July 26, 2021

 Quoted in “Chinese Tourists Throng ‘Red Tourism’ Sites To Mark Communist Party Centennial,” NPR, July 21, 2021

Interview in *Il Manifesto* (Il Senso di Xi Jinping per la Predestinazione) for special issue on centenary of CCP, July 14, 2021

Interview on *Overnights* with Trevor Chappell, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, July 6, 2021

 Quote included in “De Mao à Xi, la Chine Célèbre son Siècle de Parti Communiste,” *Le Devoir* (AFP), June 28, 2021

 Quote included in “Tourist Mao: Chinese Flock to Communist Party Historic Sites as Country Prepares to Celebrate 100th Anniversary,” *The Telegraph*, June 27, 2021

 Quote included in “Xi Jinping’s Father and His Trip to Australia Had a Hand in the Birth of China’s Tech Giants,” Australian Broadcasting Corporation, June 23, 2021

 Quote included in “Episode 3: Wolf Warrior,” *China Rising* podcast, Global News (Canada), June 11, 2021

 Quote included in “China Brazenly Boasts of ‘Aborted’ Revolution to Mark 32 Years Since Tiananmen Square Massacre,” *US News and World Report*, June 4, 2021

 Interview on June 4, 1989, Voice of America (in Chinese), June 3, 2021

 Quote included on “Episode 1,” *China, If You’re Listening* podcast, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, May 31, 2021

 Quote included in “Huawei Calls on an Old Friend, Russia, as U.S. Sanctions Bite Down,” *Washington Post*, May 28, 2021

Research referred to in “Ai Weiwei y Xi Jinping: cara y ceca de la China contemporánea,” *Libertad Digital*, March 19, 2021

Quote included in “Why Are There No Biographies of Xi Jinping?,” *The Atlantic*, January 30, 2021

Quote included in “The Red Capitalist,” *The Wire: China*, January 10, 2021

Quote included in “How the U.S. Misread China’s Xi: Hoping for a Globalist, It Got an Autocrat,” *Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 2020

Interview on “Xi Dada and Daddy: Power, the Party and the President,” *The Little Red Podcast*, November 1, 2020

Quote included in “Zhongguo renyi jubu weixie ri zeng haiwai meiguo gongmin fenfen huiguo bi xian,” Voice of America (in Chinese), October 23, 2020

Quote included in “Dreams of a Red Emperor: The Relentless Rise of Xi Jinping,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 22, 2020

Quote included in “In City Where China Welcomed the World, Xi Prepares for a Colder One,” *New York Times*, October 14, 2020

Quote included in “China’s Xi Lays Out Plan to Build Shenzhen into Global Rival to Troubled Hong Kong,” *Washington Post,* October 14, 2020

Quote included in “China’s Mealtime Appeal Amid Food Supply Worries: Don’t Take More Than You Can Eat,” *Washington Post,* October 5, 2020

Interview on Hong Kong, Voice of America (in Chinese), July 2, 2020

Quote included in “In China-U.S. Showdown, Beijing’s Steely Propagandist Sharpens Her Attack,” *Washington Post*, May 21, 2020

Quote included in “In China’s Crisis, Xi Sees a Crucible to Strengthen His Rule,” *New York Times*, May 20, 2020

Quote included in “China Investigates Property Tycoon Who Criticised Government Over Coronavirus Outbreak,” *The Telegraph*, April 8, 2020

Quote included in “Chinese Mogul Faces Probe for Essay Critical of President Xi’s Coronavirus Handling,” *Wall Street Journal,* April 7, 2020

 Interview on Xi Jinping’s father, Mingjing television (in Chinese), February 28, 2020

Interview on Deng Xiaoping, Mingjing television (in Chinese), February 27, 2020

Interview on Xi Jinping’s father and Xinjiang, Mingjing television (in Chinese), December 4, 2019

Quote included in “For China’s Xi, the Hong Kong Crisis Is Personal,” *Wall Street Journal*, September 27, 2019

 Quote included in “Why Taiwan Is Unfinished Business for Xi Jinping,” *Financial Times*, September 22, 2019

Research referenced in “As Protests Rock Hong Kong, Xi Jinping’s View of History Shows He Will Dig In,” *New York Times,* July 3, 2019

 Interviewed on *The Little Red Podcast*, June 2, 2019

 Quote included in “Deng Xiaoping’s Son Urges China to ‘Know Its Place’ in Counterpoint to Xi’s Expansionist Foreign Policy,” *The Telegraph*, October 30, 2018

**AWARDS** Foreign Affairs December 2025

 The Best of 2024 (for “Xi Jinping’s Russian Lessons”)

University of Michigan August 2025

 Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies Subvention for Scholarly Work

American University May 2023

School of International Service Outstanding Scholarship, Research, Creative Activity & Other Professional Contributions Award

American University April 2022

 Academic Achievement Awards for Outstanding Performance or Innovation in Online Teaching

APSIA November 2021

 APSIA Junior Faculty Grant

Wilson Center Asia Program March 2021 to March 2022

 China Fellow

American UniversityMarch 2019

Dean of Academic Affairs International Travel Award

Spent one month in China collecting material and conducting interviews

Stanford Center on International Conflict and NegotiationFebruary–June 2016

 Fellow and winner of Goldsmith Research Award (April 2016)

Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyJune and July 2013

International Science and Technology Initiatives China Seed Fund

Spent two months in Beijing and Hong Kong interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material

Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyJune 2012

Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant

 Spent one month in Beijing interviewing party historians and collecting dissertation material

**TEACHING**  Advisor to masters student writing Substantial Research Paper Fall 2021, Summer 2022

 SIS “Teaching Triangle” Spring 2021

 Teaching featured in “How Graphic Novels Can Inform Military Readiness,” Kelly Gardner, School of International Service News, August 22, 2019

 Teaching featured in “Sources Say,” Andrew Erickson, *American University Magazine*, March 2019

 School of International Service, American University(as instructor)

 “The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy” (juniors and seniors)

 “The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy” (masters students)

 “The Scholar as Detective: How to Find and Analyze the Best Sources” (sophomore methods course

 “Conflict and the Graphic Novel” (first year seminar)

 “Qualitative Methods” (PhD students)

 Stanford University (as instructor) Spring 2025

 The Revisionists: Chinese and Russian Politics and Foreign Policy

 Stanford University(as Hoover History Lab teaching assistant) Winter 2024

 Global Futures: History, Statecraft, Systems (Stephen Kotkin and Condoleezza Rice)

 Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyFall 2012

 Teaching assistant for “American Foreign Policy”

 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Spring 2013

 Teaching assistant for “Graphic Novels and Political Violence”

**UNIV. SERVICE** American University Fall 2022

 Search committee for two Changemaker postdocs

 American University

PhD Committee Fall 2022 to present

American University October 2021 to present

 Member of Coordinating Committee

 American University June 2021 to present

 Member of Comparative and Regional Studies program

 American University October 2020 to present

 Affiliate of Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology

American University September 2020 to Spring 2022

 Head of Political Violence and Security Cluster

Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyFall 2011 and Fall 2012

Job Search Committee

 Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyFall 2011 and Spring 2012

Graduate Student Working Group Coordinator

**PROF. SERVICE** *Journal of Cold War Studies, International Security, Journal of Historical Sociology, China Review, Security Studies, Journal of Strategic Studies, History of Political Thought, Journal of Contemporary China*, *Diplomacy & Statecraft, Texas National Security Review, Problems of Post-Communism*

Reviewer