

Meilin Li

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science
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Last Updated: April 27, 2026

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, Political Science (Ph.D. expected in May 2026)

Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics

Dissertation title: “The Effect of Leader Visits on Conflict and Peace.”

Committee: Marijke Breuning (chair), Glen Biglaiser, J. Michael Greig, John Ishiyama.

M.A., UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, History, 2021

B.A., BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, Political Science, 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Foreign Policy Analysis, Political Economy, Chinese Politics, Security Studies, Economic Sanction, Foreign Direct Investment, Reputation

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- **Li, Meilin**, Kelan (Lilly) Lu, and Glen Biglaiser. 2026. “The Effect of Sexual Violence on Chinese Foreign Direct Investment.” *Asian Survey*. Forthcoming.
- **Li, Meilin**. 2025. “Understanding the Effect of Madman Leaders on Economic Sanctions.” *International Interactions* 51(2): 320-343.

WORKING PAPERS

- “The Effect of Leader Visits on South China Sea Disputes.”
- “The Effect of Leader Visits on Civil Conflicts.”
- “Leader Visits and Public Opinion.”
- “The Effect of Foreign Capital on Gender Inequality.”
- “The Effect of Female Politicians on the Imposition of Economic Sanctions.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSE INSTRUCTION

- Spring 2026: Political Science Research Methods (University of North Texas)
- Fall 2025: Political Science Research Methods (University of North Texas)
- Spring 2025: International Relations (SPHERE Institute in Thailand, online)

- Guest Lecture: PSCI 3300: Political Science Research Methods – Citations and Plagiarism (September 13, 2024; University of North Texas; Prof. Paul Hensel)
- Guest Lecture: PSCI 4820: Contemporary International Security – Chinese Public Opinion (February 27, 2024; University of North Texas; Prof. J. Michael Greig)
- Guest Lecture: PSCI 2305: US Political Behavior and Policy – US Foreign Policy (December 5, 2023; University of North Texas; Prof. Eddie Meaders)

TEACHING ASSISTANT ASSIGNMENTS

- 2021-25. Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas
 - Political Science Research Methods
 - US Political Behavior and Policy
 - US and Texas Constitutions and Institutions
 - American Legal Systems
- 2021. Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Dallas
 - US History Survey from Civil War

CONFERENCES

- Meilin Li. 2026 (Scheduled). “Leader Visits and Public Opinion.” Paper presentation at the 122nd APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Boston, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2026. “The Effects of Leader Visits on Trade Disputes.” Paper presentation at the 67th International Studies Association Annual Convention, Columbus, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2025. “The Effects of Leader Visits on Interstate Conflicts.” Poster Presentation at the 59th North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International), Florida, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2025. “The Effects of Leader Visits on Civil Conflicts.” Poster Presentation at the University Research Day, University of North Texas.
- Meilin Li. 2025. “The Effect of Sexual Violence on Chinese FDI during Civil Conflict.” Paper presentation at the 66th International Studies Association Annual Convention, Chicago, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2024. “The Effect of Female Politicians on the Imposition of Economic Sanctions.” Paper presentation at the 120th APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2024. “Understanding the Effect of Madman Leaders on Economic Sanctions.” Paper presentation at the 81st Annual MPSA Conference, Chicago, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2022. “Democracy Promotion by China? Chinese FDI and Civil Society.” Paper presentation at the International Studies Association at Midwest, St.Louis, United States.
- Meilin Li. 2019. Washington Model Organization of American States, Washington, D.C., United States.
- Meilin Li. 2018. The Eugene Scassa Mock OAS Program Conferences, St.Marcos, United States.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

- 2023. Research Assistant, University of North Texas (Prof. Marijke Breuning)

HONORS AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- 2025 Steven C. Poe Scholarship (Department of Political Science, \$1,000)
- 2024 C. Neal and Carol Tate Fund (Department of Political Science, \$1,000)
- 2022 COVID-19 Student Success Award (Division of Student Affairs, \$500)

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

- 2019-21 The Robert Plant Armstrong Fellowship (School of Arts and Humanities, \$5,000)
- 2019-21 Graduate Competitive Scholarship

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

- 2016-2019 Baylor Transfer Scholarship (Undergraduate Admission, \$12,000)
- 2017 James Carol Parker Scholarship (College of Arts and Science, \$3,000)

THE EUGENE SCASSA MOCK OAS CONFERENCES

- 2018 Outstanding Delegation
- 2018 Distinguished Team Position Paper

GRANTS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

- 2026 Travel Grant (Department of Political Science, \$400)
- 2025 Travel Grant (Department of Political Science, \$300)
- 2024 Travel Grant (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, \$300)
- 2023, 2024, 2025 Travel Grant (Toulouse Graduate School, \$500)
- 2022, 2024, 2025 Travel Grant (Department of Political Science, \$500)
- 2022, 2026 Travel Grant (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, \$400)
- 2021-22 Tuition Benefit Program (Toulouse Graduate School)

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

- 2025 Travel Grant (International Studies Association, \$600)
- 2022 Travel Grant (International Studies Association, \$250)

RESEARCH SKILLS

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- STATA, R, SPSS, L^AT_EX

LANGUAGES

- English (*Fluent*), Chinese (*Native Speaker*)

JOURNAL REVIEW

- *Conflict Management & Peace Science, International Political Science Review*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 2023-25 Political Science Graduate Student Mentor (University of North Texas)
- 2024-25 Political Science Graduate Student Association, Vice-President of International Student Relations (University of North Texas)
- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Peace Science Society (International)
- Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
- Tau Sigma Honor Society

REFERENCES

- MARIJKE BREUNING, Regents Professor, *University of North Texas*
E-MAIL: Marijke.Breuning@unt.edu
- GLEN BIGLAISER, Regents Professor, *University of North Texas*
E-MAIL: Glen.Biglaiser@unt.edu
- J. MICHAEL GREIG, University Distinguished Teaching Professor, *University of North Texas*
E-MAIL: Michael.Greig@unt.edu
- JOHN ISHIYAMA, University Distinguished Research Professor and Chair, *University of North Texas*
E-MAIL: John.Ishiyama@unt.edu