

# Meilin Li

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
1155 Union Circle, Denton, TX 76203  
EMAIL: [MeilinLi@my.unt.edu](mailto:MeilinLi@my.unt.edu)  
WEBSITE: <https://meilinli.net/github.io/>  
Last Updated: March 13, 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. 2025. “Understanding the Effect of Madman Leaders on Economic Sanctions.” *International Interactions* 51(2): 320-343.

## WORKING PAPERS

---

- “The Effects of Leader Visits on South China Sea Disputes.”
- “The Effects of Leader Visits on Civil Conflicts.”
- “Leader Visits and Public Opinion.”
- “The Effect of Sexual Violence on Chinese Foreign Direct Investment.” with Kelan(Lilly) Lu and Glen Biglaiser (Revise and Resubmit at *Asian Survey*)
- “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 (Scheduled). “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

- 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

### LANGUAGES

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

## JOURNAL REVIEW

---

- *Conflict Management & Peace Science*

## 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