

Gilbert Junbo Lai (赖钧博)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Great Power Politics, Economic Development, State Building, Nationalism

EDUCATION

Columbia University New York, United States
Ph.D. Political Science with full scholarship Sep 2025-Jun 2027 expected

- Major: International Relations; Minor: Political Economy, Comparative Politics;
 - Dissertation: “Blood Payment in International Relations: Geopolitical Frontline and Economic Growth,” advisors: Jack Snyder, Junyan Jiang;
 - Minor thesis: “Geopolitical Proxy and Capacity Building,” advisors: John Huber, Carlo Prato, Allison Carnegie;
- M.Phil. Political Science* with full scholarship Sep 2024-May 2025
M.A. Political Science with full scholarship Sep 2022-May 2024

The University of Chicago Chicago, United States
M.A. International Relations (Honors) with 1/3 scholarship Sep 2020-Aug 2021

- Concentrations: International Security; Research Methods;
- MA thesis: “Causes of Relative Decline and the Pivot Strategy,” advisor: John Mearsheimer;

Lanzhou University Lanzhou, China
B.A. World History (Outstanding graduate, Outstanding BA thesis) Aug 2016-Jun 2020

- BA thesis: “Origin of the Sino-Vietnamese War: from the Angle of Balance of Threat,” advisor: Yanqing Wang;

WORKING PAPERS

- “Blood Payment in International Relations: Geopolitical Frontline and Economic Growth;”
- “Geopolitical Proxy and Capacity Building;”
- “Statecraft and Geopolitical Alignment” with Sarah Daly, Beenish Riaz, and Abhu Tyagi;
- “Pivoting to Power: How the Causes of Relative Decline Drive Grand Strategy;”
- “Legitimizing Hypocrisy: Changing U.S. Support for Autocratic Partners” with Ana Torres;
- “Revisionist or Status Quo Hegemony: Why the Hegemon Does Not Change the International Order that Facilitates the Rising Power?;”
- “Strategic Implications of The Commitment Problem;”
- “Democratic Peace, Socialist Peace, or Constructed Peace?;”

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant at Columbia University

- *Ending War and Building Peace*, with Prof. Sarah Daly; Sep 2023-Dec 2023
- *Nationalism and Contemporary World Politics*, with Prof. Jack Snyder; Jan 2024-May 2024
- *Conceptual Foundations of International Politics*, with Prof. Lisa Anderson, Hisham Aidi; Sep 2024-Dec 2024
- *Introduction to Human Rights*, with Prof. Andrew Nathan Sep 2025-Dec 2025

Co-coordinator of the Columbia University International Politics Seminar (with Simran Singh)

- Supervisors: Prof. Tamar Mitts, Prof. Calvin Thrall; Sep 2023-May 2024
- Supervisors: Prof. Virginia Page Fortna, Prof. Allison Carnegie; Sep 2023-May 2025

Co-convener of the Gender, Human Rights, and Security Conference (with Ana Torres) Oct 2025 expected

Teaching Fellow of John Quincy Adams Society Summer Conference Jul 2025

Participant of Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft Jul 2025

Participant of The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Jun 2025

Participant of Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy Jul 2024

Participant of the CIS Online Research Program Mar 2019-Jun 2019

- Paper: “Bound to Collapse? The Durability of the Dual Structure in East Asia,” advisor: Prof. Nuno Monteiro;

Research Mentor in the Neoscholar Research Camps July 2022-Present

- Responsible for advising high school and college student’s political science research papers;

Teaching Assistant in the Neoscholar Research Camps

- *International Security*, instructor: Prof. Nuno Monteiro; Jan 2020-Aug 2020
- *Classics of World Politics*, instructor: Prof. Sebastian Rosato; May 2021-Aug 2021, Feb 2022-May 2022
- *International Security*, instructor: Prof. Joseph Parent; Jul 2021-Aug 2021
- *Introduction to Political Concepts, Theories, and Ideologies*, instructor: Dr. Peter Bergamin; Dec 2021-Feb 2022
- *Introduction to Political Economy* at Capital Normal University, instructor: Dr. Peter Bergamin; July 2023
- *The Silk Road in Global History*, instructor: Prof. Richard Payne; Oct 2024-Mar 2025
- *History of the West from American Revolution to Present*, instructor: Prof. James Chappel; Mar 2025-Aug 2025

Author and Presenter in 79th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference Apr 2022

- “Pivoting to Power: How the Causes of Relative Decline Drive Grand Strategy,” revised version of MA thesis;

Intern in Zhejiang Huakang Pharmaceutical CO., LTD. Nov 2021-Mar 2022

- Internship in Securities Department, responsible for releasing information in *Shanghai Stock Exchange*;

Exchange Student at University of California, Berkeley Jul 2019-Aug 2019

- Main Courses: Dictator and Its Discontents (A), Introduction to American Politics (A+);

Co-Author of University-Level Research Project at Lanzhou University Mar 2019-Dec 2019

- “Agricultural Cooperation between China and Russia during the Sino-U.S. Trade War,” advisor: Prof. Jiao Yiqiang;

Participant of Peking University Online Micro-Specialty Program Oct 2018-Oct 2019

- Micro-Specialty: International Organization and Global Governance;

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIP

- Full Scholarship, Columbia University; 2023-2027 expected
- Stephanie G. Neuman Fellowship in Comparative Defense Studies, Saltzman Institute; 2025-2026 expected
- ISERP Graduate Student Conference Grant (with Ana Torres), Columbia University; Dec 2024
- Hans J. Morgenthau Pre-Doctorate Fellowship, Notre Dame International Security Center; 2024-2025
- Andrew W. Cordier Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University; 2024-2025
- Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University; 2022-2023
- Social Science Division Scholarship (1/3), University of Chicago; 2020-2021
- Second-Class Scholarship, Lanzhou University; Dec 2019
- National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the PRC; Nov 2018
- First-Class Scholarship, Lanzhou University; Dec 2017

SKILLS

- Language: Chinese (native), English (professional);
- Math: Game Theory (intermediate), Calculus (intermediate), Statistics (intermediate);
- Programming: R (intermediate), LaTeX (intermediate), Stata (beginner), Python (beginner);
- Standard Test: TOEFL: 106, IELTS: 7.5, Duolingo: 135, GRE: 162+168+4.0.