

DAVID JANOFF BULMAN

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EMPLOYMENT

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Jill McGovern and Steven Muller Assistant Professor of China Studies	2017-present
The World Bank Development Research Group Economist	2015-2017
Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government <i>Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation</i> China Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellow	2014-2015

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University
School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
PhD, with distinction, China Studies, August 2014
M.A., International Relations and Economics, May 2010

Columbia University
B.A., Economics, May 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Incentivized Development in China: Leaders, Governance, and Growth in China's Counties
(New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Zombie Jamboree: The Politics of (Creatively) Destructive Firm Support in China (under contract with Harvard University Press)

Refereed articles and book chapters

“The Reputational Spillovers of China’s Environmental Stewardship: Experimental Evidence from Public Opinion in the Global South” (with Ning Leng and Kerry Ratigan). *China Quarterly* (forthcoming).

“The Outsiders: Evolving Logics of Cadre Rotation in China’s Counties” *Journal of Chinese Governance* (2025).

“Foreign Borrowing, Sovereignty, and Public Opinion in the Global South: Traditional Lenders or China?” (with Ning Leng and Kerry Ratigan) *Review of International Organizations* (2025).

- First published as AidData Working Paper #134

“Firm’s Source Country or Project Characteristics? Survey Experiments on Preferences for Chinese Investment in the Global South” (with Ning Leng and Kerry Ratigan) *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 18(3) (2025): 267–293.

“When Fear Matters: Varied Foreign Economic Cooperation Preferences in the Face of Conflict” *Review of International Political Economy* 32(2) (2024): 430–454.

“Instinctive Commercial Peace Theorists? Interpreting American Views of the US–China Trade War.” *Business and Politics* 24(4) (2022): 430–462.

“Picking Losers: How Career Incentives Undermine Industrial Policy in Chinese Cities” (with Xun Yan and Qiong Zhang). *Journal of Development Studies* 58(6) (2022): 1102–1123.

“Financial Sustainability of the Belt and Road Initiative Before and After Covid-19,” in David Arase and Pedro Miguel Carvalho (eds.), *The Belt and Road Initiative in Asia, Africa, and Europe* (Routledge, 2022).

“Localism in Retreat? Central-Provincial Relations in the Xi Jinping Era” (with Kyle Jaros). *Journal of Contemporary China* 30(131) (2021): 697–716.

“The Economic Security Dilemma in US-China Relations.” *Asian Perspective* 45(1) (2021): 49–73.

“Loyalists, Localists, and Legibility: The Calibrated Control of Provincial Leadership Teams in China” (with Kyle Jaros). *Politics & Society* 48(2) (2020): 199–234.

“Leninism and Local Interests: How Cities in China Benefit from Concurrent Leadership Appointments” (with Kyle Jaros). *Studies in Comparative International Development* 54 (2019): 233-273.

“Transitioning from Low-Income Growth to High-Income Growth: Is there a Middle Income Trap?” (with Ha Nguyen and Maya Eden). *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* 22(1) (2017): 5-28.

- Republished as Chapter 14 in Bihong Huang, Peter J. Morgan, and Naoyuki Yoshino (eds.), *Avoiding the Middle-Income Trap in Asia: The Role of Trade, Manufacturing, and Finance* (Tokyo: ADB Institute, 2018).

“Good Countries or Good Projects? Comparing Macro and Micro Correlates of World Bank and Asian Development Bank Project Performance” (with Walter Kolkma and Aart Kraay). *Review of International Organizations* 12(3) (2017): 335-363.

“Expanded Privilege, Adjusted Risks: Developing Countries and Renminbi Internationalization,” in Carla Freeman (ed.), *Handbook on China and Developing Countries* (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2015), pp. 226-251.

Work in progress

“How Perceptions of Democratic Backsliding Shape Views of China in the Global South” (with Ning Leng and Kerry Ratigan, under review)

“Capture versus Redistribution: Local Determinants of Pension Fund SOE Share Transfers in China”

Other publications and media

“Review of *Invisible China: How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens China's Rise*.” *Journal of Asian Studies*, August 2023; 82 (3): 466–468.

“Xi Jinping Says He Wants to Spread China’s Wealth More Equitably. How Likely Is That to Actually Happen?” *A ChinaFile Conversation*, March 3, 2023.

“How Security Fears Shape Public Views of the US-China Trade War.” *U.S.-China Perception Monitor*, Carter Center, October 26, 2022.

“China’s Dominance in Global Supply Chains.” *China Global*. Podcast hosted by Bonnie Glaser, German Marshall Fund, September 20, 2022.

“Picking Losers.” *Pekingology: On Chinese Politics*. Podcast hosted by Jude Blanchette, CSIS, August 11, 2022.

“China’s Position in Global Supply Chains: Understanding the Effectiveness of Industrial Policy,” Testimony presented to the U.S-China Economic and Security Review Commission, June 9, 2022.

“‘Common Prosperity’ and China’s State Capitalist Welfare State: Implications for U.S. Policy,” in Lucas Meyers (ed.) *Essays on China and U.S. Policy* (Washington, DC: Wilson Center, 2022), pp. 101-132.

“The longer Trump’s China tariffs are in place, the greater the harm to America,” *The Hill*, February 17, 2022.

The US and China in Asia: Mitigating Tensions and Enhancing Cooperation (editor and contributor). A publication of the Pacific Community Initiative (Washington, DC: 2019).

World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2017) (co-principal author with Edouard Al-Dahdah, Deborah Isser, Marco Larizza, Luis Felipe López-Calva, Ezequiel Molina, Abla Safir, Siddharth Sharma, and Yongmei Zhou).

Citizens as Drivers of Change: How Citizens Practice Human Rights to Engage with the State and Promote Transparency and Accountability. (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2017) (co-principal author with Shaazka Beyerle and Berenike Schott).

“The Governance Game” (with Sheheryar Banuri, Luis F. Lopez-Calva, Ezequiel Molina, Abla Safir, and Siddharth Sharma). World Bank Working Paper No. 112876 (2017).

“Growth in China 1978-2008: Factor Accumulation, Factor Reallocation, and Improvements in Productivity” (with Aart Kraay). World Bank Working Paper No. 92552 (2011).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Scholar Lead, National Committee on US-China Relations, Congressional Staff Study Group on China Economics/Trade, Spring 2023

David J. Bulman

- Fellow, National Committee on US-China Relations, Public Intellectuals Program VII, 2021-2023
- U.S. Director, Pacific Community Initiative, 2017-2022
- Woodrow Wilson Center China Fellow, 2021-2022
- SAIS China Yeung Family Scholar, 2020-2021
- Economist, The World Bank, Development Economics Group (Washington, DC), 2015-2017 (and consultant, 2010-2015; 2018-2020)
- Visiting Scholar, Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, Fall 2012
- New Generation China Scholars Program, University of Chicago & Ford Foundation, 2012-2013
- PhD Fellowship, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2010-2013

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Harvard University, Fairbank Center, February 2026
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2025, Vancouver, Canada, September 2025
- Chinese Politics Research in Progress, January 2025
- Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2025
- Beijing Forum, Peking University, November 2024
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2024, Philadelphia, PA, September 2024
- Georgetown Political Economy Seminar Series, September 2023
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2023, Los Angeles, CA, September 2023
- Association for Asian Studies, Annual Meeting 2023, Boston, MA, March 2023
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2022, Montreal, Canada, September 2022
- U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, June 2022
- Kansas University, Trade War Lab, March 2022
- Princeton University, U.S. China Trade War Workshop, February 2022
- International Political Science Association, Annual Conference, July 2021
- HNC Advisory Council, “The Xi Era: Implications for China's Economy and US-China Relations,” October 2020
- Center for a New American Security Scenario Exercise on Economic Coercion in the U.S.-China Relationship, September 2020
- Harvard University workshop on the “Xi Jinping Effect,” June 2020
- IMF Economics Discussion Group, June 2020

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- Aspen Wye Fellows, “China: What Will the World’s Second Largest Economy Look Like After COVID-19?”, June 2020
- HNC-SAIS China Townhall May 2020
- 9th Annual NYU Conference on the Chinese Economy, New York, NY, December 2019
- Columbus Council on World Affairs, Columbus, OH, October 2019
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2019, Washington, DC, August 2019
- National Committee on American Foreign Policy, “Reflections and Possibilities: Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of U.S.-China Diplomatic Relations,” New York City, July 2019
- University of Alberta workshop on the “Xi Jinping Effect,” Banff, Canada, June 2019
- USITC China Research Program, Washington, DC, May 2019
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting 2019, Denver, CO, March 2019
- Trade on the Hill – Spotlight on China, US Capitol, Washington, DC, May 2018
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2018, Boston, MA, August 2018
- China-US Young Scholars Dialogue 2018, Huaqiao University, Xiamen, China. March 2018
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting 2018, Washington, DC, March 2018
- Duke Center for International Development, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, June 2017
- School of International Development Studies, Dalhousie University, June 2017
- KfW Development Bank, May 2017
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), May 2017
- School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, February 2017
- Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, February 2017
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting 2016, Philadelphia, PA, August 2016
- Asian Development Bank Institute Conference on the Middle-income Trap in Asia and PRC New Economic Normal, Beijing, China, April 2016
- The World Bank Beijing Office, April 2016
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, May 2013

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Doctoral thesis committees

Yun Sun, Paul Lyons, Peter Raymond, Ahmad Syarif, Longfeng Ye, Alice Zhang

Reviewer

American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; China: An International Journal; China Quarterly; Democratization; Economies; International Studies Quarterly; International Studies Review; Journal of Chinese Governance; Journal of Chinese Political Science; Journal of Contemporary China; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of East Asian Studies; Journal of Economic Surveys; Journal of Human Development and Capabilities; Journal of Peace Research; Modern China; Political Research Quarterly; Review of International Political Economy; Studies in Comparative International Development; Urban Affairs Review; World Development;