Shuyan (Michael) Huang

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL *2023 – present*
Fields: International Relations (passed with distinction), Comparative Politics

Master of Arts, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL *2021 – 2023*
Field: South Asian Languages

Master of Theological Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA *2019 – 2021*
Field: South Asian Studies

Bachelor of Arts (Hons.), Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA *2015 – 2019*
Majors: Political Science and Religion

Working Paper

Trust Matters: The Impact of Aid on Parliamentary Incumbent Reelection in Pakistan (Revise & Resubmit at *Review of International Organizations*)
Aid as a Signal: How Institutions Condition Investor Belief Updating in the 1970s Pakistan's Sugar Industry (Revise & Resubmit at *Business and Politics*)
Navigating the Minefield: De-Risking Strategies in Chinese Aid in Response to Security Threats (Under Review)
The Colonial Origins of Uneven Aid Allocation: How Colonial State Integration Affects Contemporary Aid Allocation in Tribal Areas of Pakistan (Under Review)
Colonial Shadows and Development Assistance: Public Perceptions of Foreign Aid from Former Colonial Powers (with Crispin Beyogle & Syeda ShahBano Ijaz)
Legitimacy Through Action: How International Organizations' actions affect the public's support for multilateralism (Under Review; with Gino Pauselli)
Framing Foreign Aid: Chinese Propaganda and Domestic Support for Checkbook Diplomacy (Under Review; with Shuyuan Shen)
Riding with the Norms: The Istanbul Convention and Mothers' Investments in Female Child Health (Under Review; with Fanxi He)
Predicting Repeated Disputes: Resolved Statements in Persistent Conflicts (Under Review; with Tianhong Yin)

Others

"The geopolitics behind Pakistan's $10 billion US request". *DAWN*, 13 Aug 2026. 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/2022541/the-geopolitics-behind-pakistans-10-billion-us-request
"Donors, Colonial Legacies, and Narratives of Aid". *Warfair*, 5 Aug 2026. 2026
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhAbIGG$_s$1o
"Why Pakistan's Panda Bond Matters". *DAWN*, 12 Jul 2026. 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/2014732/economy-why-pakistans-panda-bond-matters
"The shutdown of USAID and the deeper crisis behind it". *DAWN*, 17 Feb 2026. 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/1969900/the-shutdown-of-usaid-and-the-deeper-crisis-behind-it
"A Gift from Peshawar to Mars". *The Peshawar Review*, 28 Jan 2026. 2026
https://thepeshawarreview.substack.com/p/a-gift-from-peshawar-to-mars
"How Ibne Safi taught an entire generation to read". *DAWN*, 7 Jan 2026. 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/1964293/how-ibne-safi-taught-an-entire-generation-to-read
"From Policy to Curiosity: Rethinking People-to-People Ties". *LORD*, 7 Jan 2026. 2026
https://lord.pk/5825/from-policy-to-curiosity-rethinking-people-to-people-ties/
"The Making of the World of Espionage: A Brief Political Economic Analysis of the Popularization of Ibn-e-Safi's jāsūsī Novels in 1950s Karachi". 2023
knowledge.uchicago.edu/record/5775

"The New Constitution: Originally written in Urdu as *Naya Qanoon* by Saadat Hasan Manto and translated by Shuyan (Michael) Huang". *KITAAB*, Nov 2022. 2022

kitaab.org/2022/11/05/short-story-the-new-constitution-translated-by-shuyan-michael-huang/

"Metadata Dataset for Major Literary Works Published in West Pakistan from 1947 to 1961". 2022

knowledge.uchicago.edu/record/5908

Research Experience

Research Assistant, University of Illinois, IL *Dec 2024 – Present*
Data analytics for Prof. Gino Pauselli.

Research Assistant, University of Illinois, IL *Nov 2023 – May 2024*
Analyzed LAS Climate Study Survey data for the Department of Astronomy (Prof. Trina J Wright-Dixon).

Research Assistant, University of Chicago, IL *Dec 2021 – Jun 2022*
Cleaned and categorized Chinese administrative lawsuit data (2014–2018) for Jongyoon Baik.

GIS Research Assistant, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, IL *Dec 2021 – Jun 2022*
Built a working address locator for Minneapolis and its suburbs in 1930 and 1940 (Prof. Milena Almagro).

Field Experience

Pakistan: Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi (Jul–Aug 2026); Islamabad, Lahore (Dec 2025); Islamabad, Lahore (Jun–Jul 2024); Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Swat (Jun–Jul 2023).
India: Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Shimla, Amritsar (Jun–Aug 2022).
China: Deqin County, Gongshan Derung and Nu Autonomous County, Yanjin County, Lhasa, Ngari (Jun–Aug 2018).

Fellowships

Schroeder Fellowship ($7,000), Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, University of Illinois (Summer 2026)
Kneier Fellowship, University of Illinois (Fall 2023).
COSAS Summer Research and Travel Fellowship ($7,500), University of Chicago (Summer 2023).

Scholarships & Awards

Travel Grant for Workshop on Development and Geoeconomics, Dublin ($400), International Political Science Association (2026).
APSA Travel Grant ($500), American Political Science Association (2026).
Skalnik Conference Travel Award ($500), Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois (2026).
ASREC 2026 Graduate Workshop Award ($1,100), Chapman University (2026).
Conference Travel Grant ($200), Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies, University of Illinois (2026).
Conference Travel Grant ($500), Dept. of Political Science, University of Illinois (2026).
Dissertation Travel Grant ($1,500), Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies, University of Illinois (2025).
Research Grant ($500), Dept. of Political Science, University of Illinois (2025).
Conference Travel Grant ($350), Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies, University of Illinois (2024).
Short-Term Research Grants to Pakistan ($3,000), American Institute of Pakistan Studies (2024).
Dean S. Dorman Scholarship ($800), University of Illinois (2024).
TLO Academic Year Scholarship (90% tuition), University of Chicago (2022).
TLO Summer Language Training Scholarship, Chandigarh, India (Punjabi) ($5,000), University of Chicago (2022).
MAPH Scholarship ($21,000), University of Chicago (2021).
Asian Center Graduate Summer Language Grant, Lucknow, India (Urdu) ($8,000), Harvard University (2020).
Ivor and Maria Wayne Scholarship ($20,000), Harvard University (2019).
The Charles Mortimer Griffin Prize in Religion, Dickinson College (2019).

Phi Sigma Alpha (National Political Science Honor Society), Dickinson College (2018).
Theta Alpha Kappa (National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology), Dickinson College (2018).

Conferences

The International Political Economy Society Annual Meeting (2026).
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2026).
Workshop on Development and Geoeconomics, Dublin (2026).
The Political Economy of Aid and Development Society Annual Meeting (2026).
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2026).
International Studies Association Annual Meeting (2025, 2026).
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2025, 2026).
International Studies Association Midwest Annual Meeting (2024, 2025).

Skills

Languages: Urdu (Advanced), Hindi (Advanced), Punjabi (Intermediate), Mandarin (Native), Cantonese (Fluent)

Programming Languages: Python, PyTorch, R

Software: QGIS, ArcGIS Pro, LaTeX

Teaching

Grader, PS488: International Human Rights Law, University of Illinois (Fall 2025).
Teaching Assistant (Ranked as Excellent), PS231: Strategic Models, University of Illinois (Spring 2025).
Teaching Assistant (Ranked as Excellent), PS270: Intro to Political Theory, University of Illinois (Fall 2024).
Teaching Assistant, PS283: Intro to International Security, University of Illinois (Spring 2024).
Instructor, Text-as-Data Workshop, University of Illinois (Fall 2023).
Teaching Assistant, RLST28511: Star Wars and Religion, University of Chicago (Spring 2023).

Service

Referee: *Comparative Political Studies* (x1); *International Interactions* (x1)
Organizer, Junior IO Scholars Workshop (Fall 2025 –).
Treasurer, Political Science Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois (Fall 2024 – Spring 2025).
Math Camp Committee, Political Science Department, University of Illinois (Fall 2024 –).

Referees

Dr. Matthew Winters
Professor, Department of Political Science; Director, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies
University of Illinois
mwinters@illinois.edu

Dr. Xinyuan Dai
Professor, Department of Political Science
University of Illinois
xdai@illinois.edu

Dr. Gino Pauselli
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
University of Illinois
pauselli@illinois.edu