

HANLEI (Kiara) CHEN

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EDUCATION

Arizona State University

Ph. D in Political Science

- Major: Comparative Politics; Minor: American Politics

Phoenix

Aug 2024-now

Sun Yat-Sen University

Master of Laws in Political Science

Guangzhou

Sep 2021-Jul 2024

Jilin University

Bachelor of Laws in Political Science and Administration;

B.A in Spanish (double degree)

Changchun

Sep 2017-Jun 2021

Harvard University

Visting Undergraduate Student Program

Boston

Feb 2019-Jun 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Political Participation; Women & Politics; Authoritarian Politics.
- Thesis of Masters: "Up or Down? Survival Strategies of Grassroots Voluntary Organizations in China"

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University

SYSU Scholar

Guangzhou

Oct 2021-Dec 2023

- Designed & executed independent research on state-society relations in China.
- Led research on volunteerism & social sustainability (Dean's Grant recipient).
- Conducted field research in three metropolitan cities(Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan); presented findings in academic seminars.
- Awarded "Excellent Research of SYSU" (2022).

South China Rural Research Center of Sun Yat-sen University

Assessment Fellow

Guangzhou

Jan 2022-Feb 2022

- Evaluated rural revitalization in 18 villages through surveys & interviews.
- Compiled 50,000-word interview scripts & 10,000-word survey log.

Cornell China Center

Research Assistant

Online

Jul 2021-Aug 2022

- Led qualitative research on informal volunteer organizations in crises (COVID-19 case study).
- Built a district-level dataset on health codes used widely in research.

Jilin University

Research Assistant & Project Leader

Changchun

- Conducted research on fiscal policy for rural projects (Awarded "Excellent Research of Jilin University," 2020).
- Led "Oral History Study: Rural Land Reform in China circa 1950."
- Published findings on ecological agriculture (1st Prize, Provincial Undergraduate Research Competition).

CONFERENCES

- EGEN, Poster Presentation, 2026, Stanford University: "Producing 'Women's Issues' in Authoritarian Governance"
- AAS-Preworkshop: Gender and Politics in the PRC, 2026
- Politics & Gender Conference 2025, "The Quota Paradox: Assessing Gender Quotas and Women's Political Participation in China"
- IAPSS Virtual Academic Convention 2024, "The Autonomy Generation of Volunteer Organizations Participating in Grassroots Governance"

GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

- 2026-27 Research Fellowship, SPGS, ASU. (\$2000)
- 2025-26 Graduate College Travel Award. (\$300)
- 2024-25 ASU Graduate Student Government (GSG) Travel Grant. (\$950)
- 2024-25 Graduate College Travel Award. (\$300)
- P&G Travel Funding. 2025.(\$300)
- ICPSR Diversity Scholarship. 2025.
- Summer Training Funding, SPGS, ASU, 2025. (\$2750)
- Dean's Grant, Sun Yat-sen University, 2024. (¥3000)

- First-class scholarship for graduate students, Sun Yat-sen University, 2021-2024. (¥20,000 yearly)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Award (2% college level), Jilin University, 2021. (¥1000)
- University Excellent Student, Jilin University, 2020.
- National Scholarship (0.2%, national level), 2020. (¥8000)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Student, Jilin University 2019
- Undergraduate First-Class Scholarship, Jilin University, 2019
- Exchange Program Fellowship, Jilin University (0.1% national level), 2019. (\$20,000)
- Outstanding Student Cadre, Jilin University, 2018
- Undergraduate Second-Class Scholarship, Jilin University, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Development Research Center of The State Council]

Research Assistant

Beijing

Jun 2020-Sep 2020

- Conducted research on China-Africa investment & global think tank reports.
- Assisted in knowledge sharing on high-tech industry investments.

[People's Daily]

Research Analyst

Beijing

Jul 2019-Sep 2019

- Conducted case research on China's online education industry & policy analysis.
- Led content planning for a cultural creativity competition.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Student Mentor

Graduate student affairs office, Sun Yat-sen University

Guangzhou

Sep 2022-Oct 2023

- Organized monthly peer mentoring sessions on academic publishing and research design.
- Provided one-on-one mentoring to first-year graduate students on professional development and academic writing.

Teaching Associate

SPGS, Arizona State University

Phoenix

- POS 301 Empirical Political Inquiry (2024 Fall C)
- SGS 101: Thinking Globally (2024 Fall B)
- POS 160: Global Politics (2024 Fall B)
- POS 394: Politics of U.S. Immigration (2025 Spring C)
- POS 301/SGS 305: Empirical Political Inquiry (2025 Fall A)
- POS 348: Do You Want To Build a Nation? (2025 Fall B)
- POS 361: Foreign Policy
- POS 301/SGS 305: Empirical Political Inquiry (2026 Spring A)
- POS 350: Comparative Politics (2026 Spring B)

School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University

Guangzhou

- Party State System (2022 Spring)

Feb 2022-Jun 2022

Volunteer Academic Editor

"Political Scientist" Media Platform

Online

Nov 2020-Sep 2022

Chinese Youth Representative (1/60)

National Model United Nations, (fully-funded)

New York

Nov 2019-Feb 2020

SKILLS & PERSONAL

- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Advanced), Spanish (Double degree)
- **Computer:** Excel; PowerPoint; Word; LaTeX; SPSS; Stata; Python
- **Interest:** Writing novels; Chinese dance; Piano