

Weining Ai

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International security, economic statecraft, coercion, deterrence, conflict processes, Chinese foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and network analysis.

TEACHING INTERESTS

International security, international political economy, comparative politics, Chinese foreign policy, Chinese politics, U.S.-China relations, quantitative methods, qualitative and mixed methods, and network analysis.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Carbondale, Illinois

Aug. 2025 – Present

University of Oklahoma

Newman Postdoctoral Fellow

Norman, Oklahoma

Sep. 2023 – Aug. 2025

EDUCATION

Arizona State University

Ph.D. in Political Science

Dissertation: Network Dynamics and Coercion in International Relations

Tempe, Arizona

2017 – 2023

University of Macau

M.A. in European Studies

Macau S.A.R., China

2014 – 2017

Beijing International Studies University

B.S. in Management

Beijing, China

2010 – 2014

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

University of Michigan – ICPSR

Advanced Network Analysis

Summer 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles:

3. **Weining Ai** and Cameron G. Thies, 2023. Perception, Interest Constitution, and the Efficacy of Socialization: EU and US Socialization Efforts with China. *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 26(1): 131-158.
2. Weiqing Song and **Weining Ai**, 2023. Role Conflict, its Compromise, and the European Union's Public Diplomacy in China. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 31(1): 35-49.

1. **Weining Ai** and Weiqing Song, 2019. China and the European Union's Participation in Conflict Resolution: Norm Dynamics, Convergence, and Divergence in Foreign Policy. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 28(116): 277-292.

Other publications:

4. Weiqing Song and **Weining Ai**, 2023. China's Vision for a Future World Order and Its Implications for Global Governance, in *China and World Politics in Transition*, eds. Fulvio Attinà and Yi Feng, Springer.
3. **Weining Ai**, 2022. The Case Study Approach, in *Teaching Undergraduate Political Methodology*, eds. Mitchell Brown, Shane Nordyke, and Cameron G. Thies, Edward Elgar.
2. **Weining Ai**, 2019. U.S.-Canada Trade Disputes and the Renegotiation of the NAFTA (in Chinese), in *Annual Report on the Development of Canada*, ed. Xiaosong Tang, Social Sciences Literature Press.
1. **Weining Ai**, 2018. Book Review: Deepening The EU-China Partnership in an Unstable World: Bridging Institutional and Ideational Differences, edited by Mario Telo, Ding Chun and Zhang Xiaotong. (Routledge 2018). *European Foreign Affairs Review*, 23(3): 427-429.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

2. **Weining Ai** and Cameron G. Thies, Two-Dimensional Bargaining: Issue Linkage, Costly Signal, and Coercion-Evidence from U.S.-China Relations.
1. Timothy M. Peterson and **Weining Ai**, Democracy, Trade Networks, and International Condemnation of Russia Following the Invasion of Ukraine.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

5. Networks and Power: the Use and Limit of Weaponized Interdependence in Coercion.
4. Networks and Reputation.
3. International Trade Network Communities and Multilateral Sanctions (with Timothy Peterson).
2. Reconsidering China's Global Influence.
1. The Deterrence-Assurance Trade-off: U.S.-China Security Dilemma in the Taiwan Strait.

CONFERENCE

Invited talks:

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Institute for Humane Studies

Southern Illinois University, School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology

Fort Hays State University, Department of Communication, Law, and Political Science

Kennesaw State University, School of Government and International Affairs

University of North Florida, Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Cato Institute Junior Scholars Symposium

Pacific International Politics Conference Online Speaker Series

University of Kansas, Trade War Lab

University of Oklahoma, Institute for U.S.-China Issues

University of New Haven, Pompea College of Business

Conference presentations:

International Trade Community and Multilateral Sanctions (with Timothy Peterson). 2025 International Studies Association annual meeting.

The Deterrence-Assurance Trade-off: U.S.-China Security Dilemma in the Taiwan Strait. 2024 American Political Science Association annual Meeting.

Mapping and Measuring China's Global Influence: Conceptual, Methodological, and Theoretical Approaches. 2024 International and Area Studies Symposium, University of Oklahoma.

Mapping and Measuring China's Global Influence: Conceptual, Methodological, and Theoretical Approaches. 2024 Eastern Economic Association annual meeting.

Network Communities and Multilateral Sanctions (with Timothy Peterson). 2024 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting.

Networks and Power: the Use and Limit of Weaponized Interdependence in Coercion. 2024 International Studies Association annual meeting.

Network Dynamics, Reputation, and the Effectiveness of Coercion. 2023 American Political Science Association annual meeting.

Networks and Multilateral Sanctions: the Case of the Ukraine Invasion (with Timothy M. Peterson). 2023 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting.

Networks, Resource Exchange, and Power: Explaining the Efficacy of Coercion in International Trade and Conflict. 2022 International Studies Association annual meeting.

Difference in Similarity: Expectancy and the Social Psychological Dynamics of International Cooperation between Democracies. 2021 International Studies Association annual meeting.

Perception, Interest Constitution, and the Efficacy of Socialization: US and EU Socialization with China (with Cameron G. Thies). 2019 International Studies Association annual meeting.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As instructor of record:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

POLS 480 Seminar in International Relations Fall 2025

POLS 270 Introduction to International Relations Fall 2025

University of Oklahoma

IAS 3980 Honors Research Spring 2025

IAS 3583 Managing U.S.-China Relations Spring 2025

IAS 3143 Chinese Politics Fall 2024

IAS 2123 China Today–Politics, Economy, and Foreign Policy Spring 2024

Arizona State University

POS 367 World Politics and Global Inequalities (online) Fall 2022

As graduate teaching associate:

Undergraduate:

POS 486 International Political Economy

POS 467 International Security

POS 465 International Organization and Law

POS 361 American Foreign Policy

POS 350 Comparative Politics

POS 301 Empirical Political Inquiry

POS 150 Comparative Government

Graduate:

IAL 598 Dark Side of Foreign Policy (online)

IAL 511 Human Rights and Realpolitik (online)

GSC 503 Future of War (online)

Guest lectures:

PSC 1113 Politics of Authoritarian Regimes, Politics in China.

POLS 230 Introduction to International Relations, Cooperation and Challenges in Global Climate Change Governance.

POLIS 4452 East Asian Politics, Policy Making in China.

INR 2002 Introduction to International Relations, Coercive Diplomacy in International Relations.

SMGT 6625 Sports Business Analytics, Social Network Analysis and its Application in Business Analytics.

POS 467 International Security, Network Power and Coercion in International Relations.

POS 350 Comparative Politics, Mobilization-Institutionalization Gap and Voter Turnout.

POS 150 Comparative Government, Informal Institutions and Leadership Transition in China.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS

External:

Cato Institute	\$500
Institute for Humane Studies Expense Support	\$900
International Policy Scholar Consortium and Network (IPSCON) 2023-2024 Cohort, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins SAIS	
American Political Science Association Travel Grant	\$150

Internal:

University of Oklahoma

Start-up fund	\$2,500
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Arizona State University

Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Grant	2022
School of Politics and Global Studies Travel Award	2019-2022
Graduate College Travel Award	2019, 2022
Stephen G. Walker Graduate Support Fellowship	\$1,200
Summer Paper Completion Award 2020-2021	\$2,000

University of Macau

Full Admission Scholarship, Institute of European Studies of Macau

SERVICE

University of Oklahoma

Undergraduate Honors thesis advisor: Audrey Fowler

Arizona State University

Undergraduate Honors thesis advisor: Malden Dodova

Discipline

Peer reviewer: *Asia Europe Journal*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Area Studies Review*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Review of International Studies*.

SKILLS

Languages

Chinese (native), English (fluent).

Programming

R, Stata

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Timothy M. Peterson	Cameron G. Thies
Associate Professor	Dean
Associate Director of Graduate Studies	MSU Foundation Professor
School of Politics and Global Studies	James Madison College
Arizona State University	Michigan State University
Email: Timothy.M.Peterson@asu.edu	Email: thiescam@msu.edu

Henry Thomson	Olga V. Chyzh
Associate Professor	Associate Professor
School of Politics and Global Studies	Department of Political Science
Arizona State University	University of Toronto
Email: Henry.Thomson@asu.edu	Email: olga.chyzh@utoronto.ca

Jonathan Stalling
Interim Dean and William J. Crowe, Jr. Chair in Geopolitics
Professor of International & Area Studies
Co-Director, Institute for US-China Issues
College of International Studies
University of Oklahoma
Email: stalling@ou.edu