

DIANA FU

APPOINTMENTS

Cornell University

Associate Professor, Department of Government 2026-present
Director, Levinson Program in China & Asia-Pacific Studies

University of Toronto

Associate Professor 2019-2026
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy & Department of Political Science
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (UT Scarborough) 2013-2019

The Brookings Institution

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, John L. Thornton China Center 2020-present

Woodrow Wilson International Center

China Fellow, Asia Program 2020-2021
Member, the Canada-US Commission on China 2022-2025

National Committee on US-China Relations

Public Intellectuals Fellow 2019-2020

Sciences-Po Paris

Visiting Scholar, Centre de Recherches Internationales Fall 2019

Stanford University

Post-doctoral Fellow, The Walter H. Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center 2012-2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Pre-doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science 2011-2012

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

DPhil in Politics, MPhil (Distinction) in Development Studies (*Rhodes Scholar, Canada 2006*)
Dissertation Committee: Vivienne Shue, Rachel Murphy, Patricia Thornton (internal examiner);
Elizabeth Perry (external examiner)
Dissertation title: “Flexible Repression: Engineering Control and Contention in Authoritarian China”

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Honors Bachelor of Arts (*summa cum laude*), Political Science and Global Studies

BOOKS

- E. Dirks and Fu, D. (expected in 2026). *How China Governs its Diaspora*. Cambridge University Press, Global China Elements Series.
- Fu, D. (2018). *Mobilizing Without the Masses: Control and Contention in China*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics; Columbia University Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.
- Winner of the 2018 American Political Science Association Gregory Luebbert Award for best book in comparative politics published in the previous two years.
 - Winner of the 2019 International Studies Association Best Book award from the International Political Sociology section.
 - Co-winner of the 2019 American Sociological Association Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship book award.
 - Shortlisted for the 2020 Canadian Political Science Association Best Book in Comparative Politics.
- Book Interviews: National Committee on US-China Relations; UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy; New Books in Political Science Network; Columbia University Weatherhead East Asian Institute.
- Reviews: *Governance*, *Mobilization*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Social Movement Studies*, *The American Journal of Sociology*, *The China Quarterly*, *The Chinese Journal of Political Science*, *Voluntas*.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Fu, D., R. Nielson and E. Schatz. (2026). "[Ethnography and Ethnographic Sensibility in Political Science](#)." *Annual Review of Political Science*. Vol. 29:4.1-4.20.
- Fu, D. and C. Göbel. (2025). "[Exposing State Repression: Digital Discursive Contention by Chinese Protestors](#)." *Studies in Comparative International Development*. Vol. 60:655-689. [open access]
- Hou, R. and D. Fu. (2024). "[Sorting Citizens: Governing via China's Social Credit System](#)." *Governance*. 37 (1). P.59-78.
- Fu, D. (2023). "[The Indoctrination Dimension of Repression: Televised Confessions Scripts in China](#)." *Mobilization*. Vol.28 (3), p.323-342
- Runner-up for the 2020 best paper award from the *International Studies Association's* human rights section.
- E. Dirks and D. Fu. (2023). "[Governing Untrustworthy Civil Society in China](#)." *The China Journal*. 89 (Jan), p.24-44.
- Fu, D. and E. Dirks. (2022). "[The Party's Struggle to Tame Civil Society in China](#)" in *The Party Leads All? The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in China's Politics, Governance, Society, Economy, and External Relations*. Delisle, J., and G. Yang (eds). The Brookings Institution Press.
- Fu, D. and C. Berman. (2022). "[Unconventional Mobilization \(Asia and the Middle East\)](#)" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social & Political Movements*, 2nd edition. Snow, D., D. Della Porta, B. Klandermans, and D. McAdam (eds). Wiley-Blackwell.

- Fu, D. and E. Simmons. (2021). "[Ethnographic Approaches to Contentious Politics: The What, How, and Why](#)." Lead article of the special issue, "Studying Contentions Politics: From Afar or Up-Close? Fu, D. (ed). *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol. 54 (10). 1695-1721.
*Guest editor of the special issue, "Studying Contentions Politics: From Afar or Up-Close?" *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol. 54 (10).
- Fu, D. (2021). "[How the Party-State Harnessed People Power in China](#)" in Stoltzfus, N. and C. Osmar (eds). *The Power of Populism and People: Resistance and Protest in the Modern World*. Bloomsbury.
- Fu, D. and Distelhorst, G. (2020). "[Political Participation and China's Leadership Transition](#)." In *Citizens & The State in Authoritarian Regimes*. Bunce, V., Koesel, C. and J. Weiss, (eds). Oxford University Press. Ch.3, 59-86.
- Distelhorst, G. and Fu, D. (2019). "[Performing Authoritarian Citizenship: Public Transcripts in China](#)." *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 17(1). 106-121.
Media: "Chinese Officials Use Hotlines to Take Public's Pulse." *The Economist*. (Feb. 4, 2017).
- Fu, D. and Distelhorst, G. (2018). "[Grassroots Participation and Repression under Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping](#)." *The China Journal*, Vol. 79, (January). 100-122.
- Top three most-read articles across all journal issues as of July 2026.
 - Media: "In China's Democracy Villages, No One Wants to Talk Anymore." *Reuters*. (Dec. 3, 2017).
- Fu, D. (2017). "[Disguised Collective Action in China](#)." *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol. 50, No. 4. 499-527. Qualitative methods appendix published online, (Oct. 2016).
- Co-winner of the 2018 editorial board's best article award published in *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Fu, D. (2017). "[Fragmented Control: Governing Contentious Civil Society in China](#)." *Governance*. Vol. 30(3). 445-462.
- Winner of the 2019 American Sociological Association's distinguished scholarly article award from the Labor and Labor Movements section.
- Fu, D. (2009). "[A Cage of Voices: Producing and Doing Dagongmei in Contemporary China](#)." *Modern China*. Vol. 35(5). 527-561.

OTHER BOOK CHAPTERS & REVIEWS

- Fu, D. (2026). Review: "[Seeing China's Belt and Road](#)" by Edward Schatz and Rachel Silvey (eds), Oxford University Press. *The Association of American Geographers Review of Books*. 14(3): 42-50.
- M. Barantilpour and D. Fu. (2026). "[Civil Society](#)" in *IPSA Companion to Political Science: A Practical Introduction to the 200 Most Important Concepts*. Stockemer, D., S. Sawyer and A. Gagnon, (eds). Springer. [open access]

- Fu, D. (2022). “[Why and How should the US Support Chinese Civil Society?](#)” in *The China Questions II: Critical Insights into the US-China Relationship*. Carrai, M., J. Rudolph, M. Szonyi (eds). Harvard University Press.
- Fu, D. and R. Hou. (2022). “[Rating Citizens with China’s Social Credit System](#)” in *CCP Futures: The New Era of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics*. Pieke, F. and B. Hofman (eds). NUS Press.
- Fu, D. and E. Dirks. (2022). “[The Xi Jinping Era of Chinese Politics](#)” in *The Oxford History of Modern China*, 3rd edition. Wasserstrom, J. (ed). Oxford University Press.
- Fu, D. (2022). Review: “[The Art of Political Control](#)” by Daniel Mattingly, Cambridge University Press. *The China Journal*. 87(Jan): 111-112.
- Fu, D. (2020). Review: “[Where the Party Rules: The Rank and File of China’s Communist State](#)” by Daniel Koss, Cambridge University Press. *Perspectives on Politics*. 18(2): 646-647.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The Brookings Institution

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, John L. Thornton China Center (2020-present).
Providing regular policy analysis and commentary; Track II dialogues

Canada-China Forum

Advisory board member. A forum composed of Young Canadian leaders from across Canada and around the world changing the direction of the Canada-China relationship. (2023-present).

Government of Canada

Invited speaker. Global Affairs Canada. Inaugural China Signature Speaker Series (Nov. 2024)
Expert advisor. Global Affairs Canada. Centre for China Policy Research. (Nov. 2023).
Invited lecturer. Canadian School of Public Service. Fundamentals of China Course (2021-2025)
Invited speaker. Global Affairs Canada. Panel on the CCP’s Influence Abroad (Jun. 2021).
Invited speaker. Department of Finance Canada. The Canada-China Roundtable Series (Jan. 2020).

National Committee on US-China Relations

Public Intellectuals Fellow (2019-2021 cohort). Delegation visits and closed-door discussions with policymakers in DC, Seattle, Beijing, Hong Kong. Ongoing participation in seminars and public events; community-based project on US-China relations.

The Woodrow Wilson Centre

Member, Canada-US Commission on China. Leading and contributing to regular closed-door discussions among a group of policymakers, scholars, and other stakeholders on pressing policy issues related to Canada, US, and China (2021-2025)

POLICY REPORTS

- Fu, D. and E. Dirks (2025). Policy report. "[How Can Canada Tackle Foreign Interference Without a US Ally?](#)" Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.
- Fu, D. (2025). Policy report. "[Distinguish Foreign Interference from Influence.](#)" Johns Hopkins SAIS. Getting China Right at Home. Weiss, J. (ed). Launch for the China and the World Institute.
- Fu, D. and E. Dirks (2024). Policy report. "[The TikTok Debacle: Distinguishing Between Foreign Influence and Interference.](#)" Brookings.
- Dirks, E. and Fu, D. (2024). Policy report. "[China's Overseas Police Stations: An Imminent Security Threat?](#)" Brookings Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors (INAA) and Illegal Economies. Brookings.
- Fu, D. (2022). Policy report. "[Is Rights Advocacy Civil Society in China Dead? How the United States Should Navigate People-to-People Exchange in a New Era.](#)" The Woodrow Wilson Center.
- Fu, D. and E. Dirks. (2021). Policy report. "[Xi Jinping-Style Control and Civil Society Responses.](#)" China Leadership Monitor, The Hoover Institution. Sept. Issue.
- Dirks, E. and D. Fu. (2021). Policy report. "[Disaggregating Xi Jinping's China.](#)" in Behind the Headlines Series. Canadian International Council. Mar. 2.
- Fu, D. (2018). Consulting report. The CCBC's 40th anniversary report on Canada-China business relations. Canada-China Business Council.
- Distelhorst, G. and D. Fu. (2016). Consulting report. "Working Conditions 'In' and 'Out' of Global Supply Chains: Comparative Empirical Review." International Labor Organization.

OPINION ESSAYS

- "Babies in the Plan: Taking a Pragmatic Approach to Pro-Natalism." [Brookings](#). Mar. 3, 2026.
- "Disinformation and Foreign Interference." [Brookings](#). July 18, 2025.
- "China's Gender Woes are as Pressing as America's Abortion Debate." [Brookings](#). July 17, 2024.
- "Chinese Protestors are Reacting to a Broken Social Contract." [NBC](#). Dec. 1. 2022.
- "America Should Open its Arms to Chinese Students." [The New York Times](#). Nov. 17. 2022.
- "Around the Halls: The Outcomes of China's 20th Party Congress." [Brookings](#). Oct. 25, 2022.
- "How the Chinese State Mobilized Civil Society to Fight COVID-19." [The Diplomat](#). Feb. 9, 2021.
- "Showtime for Xi as China's Annual Congress Opens." [POLITICO China Watcher](#). Mar. 4, 2021.
- "China's Activists Mourn the Loss of Hong Kong's Glimmer of Hope." [The Diplomat](#). Jul. 16, 2021.
- "China has a Playbook for Managing Coronavirus Chaos." [Foreign Policy](#). May 5, 2020.
- "China is Governed by Neither Despotic Rule, nor the Rule of Law." [The Globe and Mail](#). Jan. 23, 2019 (with Emile Dirks and Sida Liu).
- "The End of Activism in China?" [Foreign Affairs](#). Aug. 2, 2017.
- "Why Beijing is Afraid of Chinese Feminists." [The Washington Post](#) Monkey Cage Blog. Jul. 27, 2017.
- "Making Chinese Officials Accountable, Blog by Blog." [The Boston Review](#). Sep. 27, 2016 (with Greg Distelhorst and Yue Hou).

SELECTED MEDIA COMMENTARY

- "As More Chinese People Own Pets, Young People Stand Up for Animal Welfare." [The New York Times](#). Jun. 26, 2026.
- "Rare China Protest Reveals Resistance to Xi's Frontline Officers." [Bloomberg](#). Aug. 12, 2025.
- "Why a Teen Bullying Case in China Set Off Protests and a Crackdown." [The New York Times](#). Aug. 7, 2025.

“The Great Suppression: Social Resistance in Xi Jinping’s China.” [China Considered](#). Hoover Institution. Jan. 30, 2025.

“TikTok Refugees in US Test Xi’s Firewall While Embracing Chinese.” [Bloomberg](#). Jan. 16, 2025.

“Everyday Democracy: The Struggle against Authoritarian Culture in China.” [National Committee on US-China Relations Podcast](#). Jan. 2025.

“China U-Turn on Night Biking Craze Shows Obsession with Control.” [Bloomberg](#). Nov. 11, 2024.

National Committee on US-China Relations. “[Has U.S. Engagement with China Failed?](#)” Featured speaker. (Apr. 2024).

“If Trump and his Hero’s Ruled the World.” [The New Republic](#) (print magazine). Mar. 21, 2024.

“How to Do Diplomacy with Autocrats”. [CBC Radio](#). Nov. 2023.

“Still suffocated: Mourning China’s Zero-Covid protests a year on.” [AFP](#). Nov. 25, 2023.

“Biden and Xi to set tone for superpower ties in country house summit.” [Nikkei Asia](#). Nov. 25, 2023.

National Committee on US-China Relations. “[Can the U.S. and Canada Agree on China?](#)” Panelist on virtual program. (Jun. 2023).

“Technology has become the double-edged sword of Asia’s protests.” [BBC](#). Mar. 26, 2023.

“Chinese Canadians worry foreign interference probe could stigmatize politicians, candidates.” [CBC](#). Mar. 29, 2023.

“Chinese comedian ‘Chi Zi’ has online profile wiped after Canadian tour.” [The Globe and Mail](#). Mar. 6, 2023.

“China masses take Covid fight into own hands as Xi sits back.” [Bloomberg](#). Jan. 18, 2023.

“Xi faces dilemma as China quietly detains young Covid protestors.” [Bloomberg](#). Jan. 15, 2023.

“China’s Covid Generation: the surging inequality behind Xi’s U-turn.” [Financial Times](#). Jan. 3, 2023.

“Xi Jinping’s Credibility ‘Badly Wounded.’ As China’s COVID Death Toll Mounts.” [Financial Times](#). Dec. 31, 2022.

“‘Give me my youth back’: Students return to the forefront of China protests.” [AFP](#). Dec. 26, 2022.

T.V. Commentary on China’s Covid Protests. [BBC World Service](#). Dec. 2, 2022.

“Filling in the blank: Why protesters in China are holding up white sheets of paper.” [CBC](#). Nov. 30, 2022.

“Chinese students in Canada mobilize covertly to deliver anti-Xi message.” [The Globe & Mail](#). Nov. 17, 2022.

“Beijing protester’s battle cry sends ripples worldwide.” [Wall Street Journal](#). Oct. 22, 2022.

“Few signs that China is trying to escape its zero-covid trap.” [Washington Post](#). Oct. 14, 2022.

“When Chinese protesters came up against Xi’s security machine.” [Reuters](#). Oct. 10, 2022.

“The Party Leads Everything: China under Xi.” [The New Statesman Podcast](#). Oct. 4, 2022.

“‘COVID zero’ key to Xi legacy as leader prepares for third term.” [Japan Times](#). Oct. 6, 2022.

“Dangerous liaison: U.S. and allies target China-Russia ties.” [POLITICO China Watcher](#). Jul. 7, 2022.

“Covid in China: Xi’s fraying relationship with the middle class.” [Financial Times](#). Jun. 25, 2022.

“No work and nowhere to live: a rural migrant’s ordeal in locked-down Shanghai.” [Reuters](#). May 18, 2022.

“How China’s silenced feminist Sophia Huang Xueqin went missing.” [BBC World Service](#). May 18, 2022.

“China’s Ukraine Quagmire.” [POLITICO China Watcher](#). Mar. 17, 2022.

“Troubles mount in China ahead of Xi’s bid to stay in power.” [Los Angeles Times](#). May 13, 2022.

“With new leader, the future for progressive politics looks more challenging.” [CNN](#). May 11, 2022.

“Shanghai lockdown tests Xi Jinping’s loyalties in China’s Communist Party.” [Financial Times](#). May 7, 2022.

“Outpouring of Resentment on Chinese Social Media Is Overwhelming Censors.” [Bloomberg](#). Apr. 27, 2022.

“Women’s tennis’ China stance could be unique, cost millions.” [AP](#). Dec. 2, 2021.

“Is U.S. Foreign Policy Too Hostile to China? Asks the Experts.” [Foreign Affairs](#). Oct. 19, 2021.
 ‘Two Lists’ too far: the U.S.-China diplomatic stalemate. [POLITICO China Watcher](#). Oct. 7, 2021.
 “Why China’s hostage diplomacy will likely continue.” [The New Statesman](#). Sep. 29, 2021
 “Huawei’s Meng Wanzhou and 2 Michaels: What next for China-U.S. ties?” [NBC News](#). Sep. 28, 2021.
 TV commentary. “March for the Michaels: Families and supporters of Kovrig and Spavor.” [Global News](#). Sep. 4, 2021.
 “Trudeau Initially Hoped for Common Ground with China. But the Michael Spavor and Kovrig Detentions Marked a Turning Point in Relations.” [The Globe & Mail](#). Sep. 3, 2021.
 “Keep Your Eyes on the Sun.” [ABC News](#). June 30, 2021.
 “Biden says ‘America Is Back,’ but ‘America First’ has haunted his first 100 days.” [CNN](#). Apr. 28, 2021.
 “Second Canadian is Tried in China on Spying Charges.” [The New York Times](#). Mar. 22, 2021.
 Radio commentary. “The Main Takeaways After China’s Annual Parliament Session.” [NPR All Things Considered](#). Mar. 11, 2021.
 “Electoral Reform: In Changing Hong Kong, Who Counts as a Patriot?” [The Christian Science Monitor](#). Mar. 15, 2021.
 “Beijing Prepared to Accept the Pain to ‘Fix’ Hong Kong, Observers Say.” [South China Morning Post](#). Mar. 7, 2021.
 “China’s Plan to Win in a Post-Pandemic World.” [The New York Times](#). Mar. 5, 2021.
 “Noose Tightens on Hong Kong as China Congress Set to Open.” [AFP](#). Mar. 2, 2021.
 “For Canadians Held in China, Two Years of Isolation and Uncertainty.” [The New York Times](#). Dec. 9, 2021.
 “Time for China to Revisit its China Narratives.” [POLITICO China Watcher](#). Nov. 19, 2020.
 “US-China acrimony at 75th UN General Assembly as Trump slams Beijing for coronavirus and Xi decries ‘stigma.’” [South China Morning Post](#). Sep. 22, 2020.
 Radio interview. “China is ready for a potential exodus from Hong Kong and has designs to make it more prosperous.” [CBC Sunday Edition](#). Jul. 10, 2020.
 “China Leverages George Floyd Protests Against Trump, US.” [US News & World Report](#). June 9, 2020.
 TV commentary. Trump’s Threat to Protestors a Boon for Beijing. [Bloomberg TV](#). June 3, 2020.
 TV commentary. Hong Kong’s New National Security Law. [BBC World News](#). May 23, 2020.
 TV commentary. China Moves to Enact Security Law in Hong Kong. [Global News](#). May 23, 2020.
 “Coronavirus Changed China’s Big Political Event. Here’s What to Expect.” [The New York Times](#). May 21, 2020.
 “Haunted by Virus, China Gears Up for Annual Congress.” [AFP](#). May 19, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Council of Learned Societies

Advisory committee member, Luce/ACLS Collaborative Grant in China Studies 2025 (2024-2026)
 Consultant advisor, the securitization of China Studies for 2023, “China Studies in an Uncertain Age”

American Political Science Association

Executive Committee, Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research Section (2022-present)
 Selection Committee, A. Philip Randolph Award for Outstanding Labor Research (2026)
 Selection Committee, Gregory Luebbert Best Book Award in Comparative Politics (2019)
 Selection Committee, Gabriel A. Almond Award Committee for Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics (2020)

CONTPOL, co-founder (2019-present): building a network of scholars working on contentious politics, political violence, and citizenship using qualitative methods.

Mobilization: An International Quarterly, Editorial Board Member (2023-present)

Modern China, Editorial Board Member (2025-present)

New Faces in Chinese Politics Conference, Organizing Committee Member (2026-present)

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Grant Reviewer (2017)

The Rhodes Trust

National Co-secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship in China (2019-22), responsible for overseeing the selection process of Rhodes Scholars in the China jurisdiction.

Final Selection Committee (2016, 2017); pre-selection committee (2016, 2018)

The Woodrow Wilson Center, Selection Committee for Wilson China Fellows (2023-2024)

Peer Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology, American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, China Journal, China Quarterly, Governance, Human Relations, International Journal of Communication, ILR Review, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Politics, Mobilization, Modern China, Oxford University Press, Perspectives on Politics, Problems of Post-Communism, World Politics.