

Peiyuan Li

Department of Economics, University of Colorado Boulder
256 UCB Boulder, CO 80309
☎+1 303-523-4135
✉Peiyuan.Li@colorado.edu
🏠<https://www.oscarpeiyuanl.com/home>

Education **Ph.D. in Economics,** Aug 2017 - Expected May 2023
University of Colorado Boulder

Dissertation ”**Collective Action in State and Society: 19th and 20th Century China**” ([NSF Dissertation Grant 2214884](#))
Committee: Carol Shiue (Chair), Wolfgang Keller, Taylor Jaworski, Murat Iyigun.

M.A. in Economics, Sep 2013 - Jun 2016
Peking University, China

B.A. in Economics, Sep 2009 - Jun 2013
University of International Business and Economics, China

Research Fields **Primary:** Economic History, Political Economy.
Secondary: Development Economics, Text Analysis.

Job Market Paper [Political Repression, Media Propaganda, and Nation-Building](#)
Media Coverage: [EHS blog](#)

Nations are products of modernity, but they also have historical roots. In the conquest of China in the mid-17th century, the Manchu-led Qing government oppressed the Han Chinese, the native population of China. Two centuries later, when modern newspaper technology became available, revolutionary propagandists seized the opportunity to reframe the political repression as an ethnic conflict to fan the flames of discontent. Applying machine learning to analyze 0.3 million newspaper article titles, I find that prefectures characterized by repression and resistance responded to the anti-Manchu propaganda by producing more nationalist revolutionaries. Using the historical political cycle as the instrumental variable, I confirm the causal link. The proposed mechanism is the preservation of historical memories through deep cultural traits created by repression and resistance. After the 1911 Revolution, revolutionaries strove to establish a modern nation-state by organizing the Kuomintang (Nationalist) party, army, and government. The results indicate that propaganda utilizing historical repression and resistance shaped the political identity and played a pivotal role in the nation-building of modern China.

Publication [The Sin of Words: Censorship and Self-Censorship in Qing China 1644-1911](#),
forthcoming at *Australian Economic History Review*.

Working Papers [Wrongful Convictions with Chinese Characteristics](#), with Wei Li, Revise &
Resubmit at *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*.

[“Who Lost \(or Won\) China?”: Land Reform and War Mobilization](#)
Fund: [NSF SSE 2214884](#)

Redistribution could be deliberately designed to trigger a civil war. How did the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rally millions of farmers to win in 1949? The crucial step was to initiate land reform through class struggle, empowering farmers to violently grab land from landlords. Farmers desired land ownership but feared reprisals from landlords, who were backed by the Kuomintang (KMT) government. Therefore, farmers had to choose between joining the CCP's army to defend their land and free-riding. Adopting a Difference-in-Difference design and examining the death records of 566,161 communist soldiers, I find that for counties within 82 kilometers of KMT forces, a greater share of land redistribution to farmers encouraged farmers to fight, leading to a rise in CCP soldier deaths after land reform. However, for counties that were farther than 82 kilometers from KMT forces, a greater share of land transfer to farmers discouraged farmers from fighting (free-riding), resulting in fewer soldier deaths after land reform. A model of class struggle for land ownership explains the two different patterns. This paper develops a novel theory of war mobilization and partially explains the emergence of communism in the twentieth century.

Work in Progress

The Regional Distribution of Elites in China, 1368 to 2020, with Wolfgang Keller and Carol Shiue

After Nixon's China Visit: The Arrival of New Technology and Economic Development in Pre-reform China, with Kang Zhou

Labor Strikes and Labor Management In Urban China 1862-1949, [NSF 2214884](#)

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	2019 Fall
Mathematical Tools for Economists	2020 Spring

Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	2019 Spring, 2020 Fall, 2021, 2022 Spring
Principles of Microeconomics	2017 Fall, 2018 Fall, 2022 Fall
Principles of Macroeconomics	2018 Spring
MBA Investment Management and Analysis	2022 Fall
Investment Management and Portfolio	2022 Fall

Conferences & Seminars

Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy, Copenhagen/OSU	Feb 23, 2023
Online Economic History Workshop: War & The Economy	Dec 6, 2022
Applied Young Economist Webinar, Monash/Warwick	Nov 23, 2022
Southern Economic Association, Fort Lauderdale	Nov 19, 2022
All-UC Economic History Graduate Students Workshop, UC Davis	Nov 4, 2022
Economic History Association, La Crosse (poster)	Sep 16, 2022
Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop	Sep 1, 2022
IRES Graduate Student Workshop, Chapman University	Jun 3, 2022
The Quantitative China Studies Seminar, New York University	Apr 29, 2022
Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture	Apr 22, 2022
Quantitative History Webinar, Hong Kong University	Apr 20, 2022
AEA (poster)	Jan 7, 2022
LSE Graduate Seminar in Economic History, LSE	Oct 20, 2021
American Political Science Association	Sep 30, 2021
China Economics Summer Institute, Chinese Univ of Hong Kong	Aug 25, 2021
European Economic Association	Aug 25, 2021
Annual Symposium on Quantitative History, Shanghai Jiaotong Univ	Jul 18, 2021

Economic History Society PhD Thesis Workshop Jun 29, 2021
Nankai University, Tianjin, China Jun 4, 2021
Economic History Society Apr 8, 2021

Research Experience RA for Prof. Wolfgang Keller and Prof. Carol Shiue (NSF SES 1124426) 2019-2020
RA for Prof. Taylor Jaworski 2022

Grants & Awards **NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant**
([Award Number: NSF SES 2214884](#), Awarded Amount: \$19,946) 2022-2024
Sieglinde Talbott Haller Endowed Economics Scholarship, CU Boulder
(Awarded Amount: \$2,000. To top 10% of students in the program.) 2022
Best Papers Prize, Symposium on Quantitative History, Hong Kong University
(Awarded Amount: RMB 50,000 or \$7,463) 2021

Competences **Languages:** Chinese (*native*), English (*fluent*)
Techniques: Stata, R, Python

References

Carol H. Shiue Professor Department of Economics University of Colorado Boulder ✉ shiue@colorado.edu	Wolfgang Keller Professor Department of Economics University of Colorado Boulder ✉ Wolfgang.Keller@colorado.edu
Taylor Jaworski Associate Professor Department of Economics University of Colorado Boulder ✉ Taylor.Jaworski@colorado.edu	Murat Iyigun Professor Department of Economics University of Colorado Boulder ✉ iyigun@colorado.edu