

Longjiao Yu

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Research Interests

Comparative environmental politics; political economy of energy transitions; governance and accountability under shocks (wildfire, floods, drought); climate adaptation in the Global South; causal inference; spatial analysis and remote sensing.

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara, PhD student in Political Science, 2023–2028 (expected).

Focus: comparative environmental politics; methods.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation, 2022–2023.

Coursework: Environmental Regulation – Implementing Policy; Economic Development and the Environment; Applied Regression Analysis; Quantitative Text Analysis.

University of Macau, Bachelor of Social Science in Government and Public Administration, 2018–2022.

top 5%, Class of 2021.

Working Papers

“Political Mobilization of Clustered Interests: Evidence from Residential Solar Revolution” (with Tao Li). *Under Review*.

Argues that geographic clustering enables otherwise diffuse interests to overcome collective-action barriers. Using county-level U.S. data and instrumenting solar adoption with solar radiation, we find that the residential solar revolution substantially increased the formation of environmental NGOs.

“Deforestation as a Strategy of Authoritarian Survival: Evidence from Myanmar” (with Cesar B. Martinez-Alvarez). *Under Review*.

Studies the ecological consequences of Myanmar’s 2021 military coup. Using a difference-in-differences design with georeferenced data on teak suitability, state extractive infrastructure, and access to international markets, we show that the restored junta sharply accelerated deforestation in commercially valuable, accessible forests — evidence that autocrats facing strategic threats turn to renewable natural resources for political survival.

Work in Progress

“Government Adaptation and Drought Resilience in Indonesia.”

Indonesia faces increasingly frequent and severe droughts that threaten agricultural livelihoods, food security, and water access for tens of millions of people, yet adaptation responsibilities are highly decentralized across national, provincial, and district governments. This project asks when and where government adaptation effort actually reaches the communities most exposed to drought, and which political and institutional conditions enable — or block — effective response. Combining satellite-derived measures of drought exposure with administrative data on adaptation spending and program rollout, supplemented by interviews and fieldwork in drought-prone provinces, the project extends the literature on accountability under shocks beyond rapid-onset disasters to slow-onset climate stress in a major decentralized democracy. The findings aim to inform academic understanding of climate politics in the Global South and ongoing policy debates on adaptation finance and targeting.

“Evaluating the Effectiveness of Firewise USA for Vegetation Management and Wildfire Risk Reduction” (with Sarah Anderson, Mark Buntaine, Sara M. Constantino, Cesar Martinez-Alvarez, and Gabrielle Wong-Parodi).

Evaluates whether community participation in the Firewise USA program reduces wildfire risk, by combining program enrollment data with satellite-derived measures of vegetation management and wildfire outcomes across U.S. fire-prone regions.

“Infrastructure and Post-Flood Recovery in Mozambique.”

Examines how the spatial distribution and quality of public infrastructure shape post-flood recovery in Mozambique, asking whether infrastructure investments mitigate or exacerbate inequalities in disaster recovery across affected communities.

Conference & Seminars

2025 Fall UCSB Comparative Politics and International Relations Workshop (CPEIR) (Presented).

2025 American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC. Paper session: *Politics of Deforestation* (Presented).

2025 American Political Science Association Virtual Research Meeting (Presented).

2024 Fall UCSB Environmental Politics Workshop (EPW) (Presented).

2023 American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA. Paper session: *Pathways to ‘Green Policies’ and a Greener Future* (Accepted).

2023 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Paper session: *The Political Economy of Environmental Policy* (Presented).

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher / Research Assistant, UCSB (2024–present).

Program evaluation and environmental outcomes research; causal inference workflows, spatial data construction, and remote sensing integration.

Research Assistant, Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding (iGCU), Peking University (May 2022–May 2023).

Built and maintained a Belt and Road policy database covering Southeast, South, and Central Asia; tracked policy documents; conducted index construction and research synthesis.

Produced four research reports (10,000+ words) in Chinese and English on international S&T cooperation mechanisms and energy policy topics.

Research Assistant, Policy Analysis Department, China Reform Forum (May 2021–Aug 2021).

Built a database on Cambodia social media discourse for policy reference.

Produced an overview report on Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone programs.

Research Assistant, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Macau (Fall 2020).

Awards and Grants

Conference Travel Allowance (USD \$1,000), UCSB, 2025.

Dean's Honour List, University of Macau, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Research Assistant Grant (USD \$500), Peking University, 2022.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Grant (USD \$500), University of Macau, 2021.

Research Assistant Grant (USD \$600), China Reform Forum, 2021.

Residential College Student Leader Scheme Scholarship (USD \$1,783), University of Macau, 2019.

Teaching Experience

Introduction to Political Science Research, UCSB, Fall 2025.

Environmental Politics of the Global South, UCSB, Spring 2024.

Politics of Developing Countries, UCSB, Fall 2023.

Tutorials of Big Data Analysis Foundation, University of Macau, Spring 2020 & Spring 2021.

Skills

Languages: Chinese (native); English (fluent); Bahasa Indonesia (beginner).

Statistical Programming / Markup: R, QGIS, L^AT_EX, Google Earth Engine.