

Shuyi Yu (余舒意)

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Education

University of Chicago

Department of Political Science

PhD Candidate in Political Science 2021–Present

Dissertation: The Political Economy of the Great Divergence

Committee: Scott Gehlbach (Chair), Wioletta Dziuda, Joel Mokyr, Monika Nalepa, Kenneth Pomeranz, James Robinson

MA in Social Sciences (Political Science) 2019–2021

New York University

Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

MSc in Computer Science 2017–2019

Georgetown University

McCourt School of Public Policy

Master of Public Policy 2012–2014

Shanghai International Studies University

School of Business and Management

BA in Public Policy 2007–2011

Research Interests

Comparative Politics, Chinese Politics, Historical Political Economy, Formal Theory

Working Papers

1. “Bureaucratization as a Bumpy Journey: The Rise and Fall of the Imperial Chinese State.” (JMP)
2. “The Curse of the Mandate of Heaven: A Model of Power Centralization.”
3. “Great Divergence and Great Convergence: A Theory of Power Dynamics and Social Evolution.”
4. “A Relational Theory of Power Alternation.” (with Zhaotian Luo, Zanhui Liu, Yucheng Qiu)
5. “Corrupt Meritocracy: A Model of Bureaucratic Politics.”

Presentations

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference (2024, 2025, 2026)
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)
Political Economy Lunch, University of Chicago (2024, 2025, 2026)
Economic History Lunch, Northwestern University (2024, 2025, 2026)
Institutions in Historical Political Economy Conference, University of Chicago (2026)
Yale-UB Historical Political Economy Workshop, University of Barcelona (2026)
Asian Political History Conference, University of Michigan Ann Arbor (2026)
Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy, Online (2026)
Narratives and Culture in Historical Perspective, Hayek Conference, LSE (2025)
EITM Summer Institute, University of Michigan Ann Arbor (2025)
Faculty Research Workshop, China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) (2025)
Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE) Annual Conference (2025)
Formal Theory Conference, Washington University in St. Louis (2024)

Teaching

University of Chicago

- Teaching Assistant for Professor Monika Nalepa, Game Theory I (2022 Autumn)
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Scott Gehlbach, Political Economy I (2023 Autumn)
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Robert Gulotty, International Political Economy (2024 Spring)
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Monika Nalepa, Game Theory II (2025 Winter)

Service

Co-organizer, Institutions in Historical Political Economy, UChicago, IL (2026)
Co-organizer, APSA EITM in Historical Political Economy Panel, Boston, MA (2026)
Co-organizer, UChicago-Beijing HPE Conference, Beijing, China (2026)
Co-organizer, MPSA Historical Political Economy Mini-conference (2026)
Co-organizer, MPSA EITM in Historical Political Economy Panel, Chicago, IL (2026)

Awards and Fellowships

- Best APSA Paper Award (2026)
For “A Relational Theory of Power Alternation” (with Zanhui Liu, Zhaotian Luo, and Yucheng Qiu), presented at the 2025 APSA Annual Meeting.
- Merit Fellowship (\$10,000) (2013–2014)
Georgetown University

References

Prof. Scott Gehlbach (Chair)

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Prof. Joel Mokyr

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Prof. Monika Nalepa

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Prof. Kenneth Pomeranz

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Prof. James Robinson

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