

Shuyi Yu (余舒意)

Updated: August 19, 2026

Contact

yushuyi@uchicago.edu
<https://www.shuyiyyu.com/>
6444 S Woodlawn Ave Unit 1S,
Chicago, Illinois 60637

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), Monika Nalepa, Violetta Dziuda, James Robinson, Joel Mokyr, Kenneth Pomeranz

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

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

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)

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
gehlbach@uchicago.edu

Prof. Monika Nalepa

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
mnalepa@uchicago.edu

Prof. Wioletta Dziuda

Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
wdziuda@uchicago.edu

Prof. James Robinson

Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu

Prof. Joel Mokyr

Department of Economics
Northwestern University
j-mokyr@northwestern.edu

Prof. Kenneth Pomeranz

Department of History
University of Chicago
kpomeranz1@uchicago.edu