Cao Le Quynh Anh

23 Le Van Thiem, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi, Vietnam | caoleq@lawrence.edu | +84-356-633-388

EDUCATION

Peking University, Yenching Academy, Beijing, China 2026 – 2028
Master of Law in China Studies, Law and Society

Lawrence University, Wisconsin, USA 2022 – 2026
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, minor in East Asian Studies GPA 3.99/4.0
Honors: *summa cum laude* in Courses, *summa cum laude* in Honors Thesis
Thesis Title: "Borrowing the Hand of the Masses: Ultranationalism as Delegated Repression in Vietnam's Post–Nguyen Phu Trong Era."

PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Publication:

- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2024. "Revisiting the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War: Neo-Realist and Constructivist Perspectives." **Johns Hopkins University East Asian Studies Forum and Review** (Fall)

Conference Presentations:

- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2026. "Delegating Repression: The Rise of Ultranationalism in Vietnam's Post-Nguyen Phu Trong Era." **12th Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference**, UW-Madison, USA
- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2025. "Reframing Revolution: The Nationalist Foundations of Ho Chi Minh's Communist Appeals." **Vietnam Up Close: Heritage, Continuity, Future**, Sofia University, Bulgaria (online)
- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2025. "The Blurred Line: Nationalism, Communism, and the Political Writings of Phan Boi Chau and Ho Chi Minh." **33rd Association of Southeast Asian Studies Biennial Conference**, University of Cambridge, UK
- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2025. "The Inclusivity Trap in Peace Negotiations: The Stalemate of Myanmar's Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (2011–2015)." **29th Richard A. Harrison Symposium in Humanities and Social Sciences**, Lawrence University, USA
- Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2025. "Beyond Power Politics: Constructivist and Neo-Realist Perspectives on the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War." **82nd Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference**, Chicago, USA
- Nguyen, Thanh Trung and Cao Le, Quynh Anh. 2023. "Vietnam's Perception of Great-Power Strategic Rivalries since 1986 and Current Challenges" [in Vietnamese]. **Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs National Conference** (invitation-only), HCMC, Vietnam

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Feature-length Documentary Film Project: "Distance Unknown" **August 2024 – present**
Film Director/Producer Orange County, CA

- Produced and directed a documentary exploring contested historical memory and transgenerational trauma across three diaspora generations, 50 years after the Vietnam War; the first film on Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. by a Vietnamese filmmaker from Socialist Vietnam
- Led four field trips to California and HCMC; conducted 80+ interviews averaging 2–6 hours each with three generations of the Vietnamese diaspora and domestic population, including former RVN political prisoners, veteran, boat people, journalists, intellectuals, and youths
- Raised $17,100 in competitive social justice and field experience grants to fund film development and production, and presented as the first student speaker in Povolny Lecture Series in International Studies on April 30, 2026

Mediation Team, swisspeace/University of Basel **June – September 2024**
Research Assistant Basel, Switzerland

- Collaborated with Dr. Julian Arevalo on project "Complexity Management in Peace Negotiations", investigating potential of complex system theory in understanding ideal process design in Myanmar peace negotiations
- Analyzed the Myanmar peace process and conflict dynamics during the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) negotiations (2011–2015) and the 21st century Panglong Peace Conference since 2015
- Examined China's geopolitical and economic stakes in Myanmar and its potential role as a peace broker in Myanmar's conflict resolution

Government Department, Lawrence University **January – May 2024**
Field Researcher Banjul, The Gambia

- Coordinated with two supervisors and 13 colleagues in field research in Banjul to investigate relationship between Islamic practice and democratic values in The Gambia, using interviews, field observations, and grounded theory, resulting in a research poster presentation at Lawrence Field Experience Symposium
- Conducted 20+ interviews with government officials, lawyers, activists, business leaders, UN offices, and NGOs on Gambia's religious practice and China's influence in Gambian governance and fishing industry

Department of Vietnam Studies, Fulbright University Vietnam **June 2023 – February 2024**
Research Assistant Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- Analyzed 100+ publications on Vietnam's foreign policy learning and strategic adaptation to intensifying US-China rivalry through "bamboo diplomacy"
- Co-authored with Dr. Nguyen Thanh Trung a manuscript theorizing Vietnamese elites' foreign policy learning mechanism to evaluate Vietnam's evolving hedging strategy in response to U.S.–China competition since 2014

Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs **February – December 2023**
Policy Intern Hanoi, Vietnam (remote)

- Co-led 15+ mini-research projects with 20 colleagues, examining Vietnam's diplomatic philosophy and strategy toward the U.S., China, and ASEAN, and framework for strategic trust in Vietnam's foreign relations
- Managed bi-weekly policy briefings, memos, book reviews, scholars' commentary, and joint statement analysis, according to MOFA's policy demands on great-power relations

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Oxford-Linacre Pioneer Graduate Scholarship — Full-ride MSc scholarship (declined) 2026
The Mojmir Povolny Prize in Government — Awarded to the best senior in government 2026
Political Science Journal Award — Awarded to outstanding undergraduate in political science 2025
Warren Hurst Stevens Prize — Awarded to junior for notable scholarship and campus leadership 2025
Mita Sen Award for Societal Impacts — Awarded to student works for significant societal benefits 2024
Phi Beta Kappa Downer First-year Prize — Awarded to exemplary first-year academic performances 2023
Dean's List 2022 – 2026

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Povolny Fund for Excellence Awards: US$6,100 2025
Class of 1968 Peace and Social Justice Fund (Film Project): US$13,000 2025
Class of 1968 Peace and Social Justice Fund (Summer Research): US$9,400 2024
Goldsmith Fund for African and Global Studies: US$3,000 2024
Lawrence University Summer Experience Grant: US$4,000 2023
Youth Regional Affairs Dialogue, NTU Singapore & Temasek Foundation: Fully funded 2023

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center of Academic Success, Lawrence University 2023 – 2026
Head Writing Tutor & Government Tutor
Language: Vietnamese (Native), English (Fluent), Chinese (Intermediate-Mid)
Research interests: Authoritarian regimes, contentious politics, state-society relations, nationalism, historical memory