

ZHIZHEN LU

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Bentley University

Assistant Professor in International Political Economy
Global Studies Department

July 2025 - to date

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin

PhD in Government

September 2019 - May 2025

Subfields: International Relations, Methods

Committee: Nathan M. Jensen (chair), Terrence L. Chapman, Daniel Nielson, Rachel L. Wellhausen,
Navin A. Bapat (external)

Dissertation: *Privatizing Economic Statecraft: How State-directed Private Governance Shapes Business Compliance with US Sanctions*

MA in Government

May 2022

Graduate Fellow, Innovations for Peace and Development Lab

Fall 2022 - Present

Graduate Fellow, Clements Center for National Security

Fall 2023 - Present

George Washington University

MA in International Trade and Investment Policy

September 2015- May 2017

Exchange experience: Sciences Po, Paris

Additional training: EITM Certificate, ICPSR

University of International Relations, Beijing

BA in English Language and Literature

September 2011 - July 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Jensen, Nathan M.; **Lu, Zhizhen**; Nielson, Daniel. "Compliance is taxing: An experiment on tax abatement information in the United States." *Business & Politics* 28(2). pp. 223–241.

WORKING PAPERS

Lu, Zhizhen. "Birds of a Feather: The Regulatory Deterrence of Cross-Border M&As under U.S. Sanctions Enforcement." (Conditionally accepted in *International Studies Quarterly*)

- Previous title: "Outsourcing Oversight: State-directed Private Governance Improves Business Sanctions Compliance in Cross-border M&As."
- Presented at 2025 AIB-NE Chapter Conference, 2024 ISA, 2024 Texas Triangle, 2024 APSA

Lu, Zhizhen. "State-Delegated Compliance: Leniency, Firm Information, and Selective Enforcement." (under review)

- Previous title: "Self-enforcing Global Private Governance."

- Presented at 2025 APSA, 2025 Strategy and the Business Environment Conference, 2023 MPSA, 2023 SPSA, 2023 GSPIE Mini-Conference

Lu, Zhizhen. “Cooperative Control: How US Introduced Private Governance in Economic Sanction Enforcement.”

Lu, Zhizhen; Preble, Keith; Wei, Pei-Yu. “The Compliance Gap: Regulatory Knowledge and the Private Implementation of Sanctions.”

- Supported by Bentley Research Council Grant and Bentley Faculty Activity Grant
- 2024 IPES (declined) and 2024 APSA

Lu, Zhizhen. “Trade Politics at Work: How Globalization Beliefs Shape Employee Activism.”

- Supported by Bentley-Gallup Business in Society Faculty Grant

Jensen, Nathan; **Lu, Zhizhen;** Nielson, Daniel. “A National Field Experiment on Tax Incentives Transparency.”

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Lu, Zhizhen; Xu, Meiyong. 2019. “**Why China’s Economic Reforms Often Backslide**”. *The Diplomat*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bentley University

As Instructor

Introduction to International Business

Spring 2026

International Relations

Fall 2025; Spring 2026

University of Texas at Austin

As Co-Instructor

Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies

Fall 2020

As Teaching Assistant

International Political Economy

Spring 2024; Fall 2022

Maximum Likelihood Statistics (graduate-level)

Fall 2023

Politics of International Trade

Spring 2023

US Foreign Policy

Summer 2022

America and the Cold War

Spring 2022

Human Rights & World Politics

Fall 2021

Statistical Analysis in Political Science

Spring 2021

American Government

Fall 2019; Spring 2020

INVITED TALKS

Bentley University

Sustainable Organization (Professional MBA class) by Ryan Bouldin

Spring 2026 (scheduled)

Research Methods (undergraduate-level) by Robert DeLeo

Spring 2026 (scheduled)

University of Texas at Austin

Great Decisions: US-China Trade Rivalry, Lake Travis Community Library
IR Speakers Series, UT Austin
Guest lecture for *International Political Economy*, UT Austin

April 2024, 2025
February 2024
Fall 2022; Spring 2023, 2024

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Bentley University

Bentley Research Council Grant (\$8,000	<i>Spring 2026</i>
Bentley Faculty Activity Grant (\$2,500)	<i>Spring 2026</i>
Bentley-Gallup Business in Society Faculty Grant (\$5,000)	<i>AY 2025-2026</i>

University of Texas at Austin

University Graduate Continuing Fellowship (\$36,000)	<i>AY 2024-2025</i>
Summer Research Fellowship	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Clements Center Grants in History, Strategy, and Statecraft	<i>Fall 2024</i>
Graduate Student Assembly Travel Award	<i>Spring 2024</i>
Graduate School Summer Fellowship	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Ward Endowed Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Department Pre-dissertation Fellowship	<i>Summer 2020 - 2022</i>
Department Supplementary Fellowship	<i>AY 2019 - 2024</i>
Professional Development Award, College of Liberal Arts	<i>2021 - 2024</i>

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

Bentley University

Student Engagement Committee of the Global Studies Department	<i>Fall 2025</i>
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University of Texas at Austin

Organizing first-gen admitted student panel	<i>2023, 2024</i>
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NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

China Policy

Macroeconomic Policy Analyst	<i>September 2017 - August 2019</i>
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World Resource Institute

Urban Development Intern	<i>August 2016 - December 2016</i>
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Delegation of the European Union to China

Science & Technology Section Trainee	<i>March 2015 - July 2015</i>
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European Union Chamber of Commerce in China

Government Affairs Assistant	<i>June 2014 - December 2014</i>
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Updated as of October 2026