

Joshua B. Freedman

jbfree@sas.upenn.edu

+1 347-522-1044

jbfreedman.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA 2024–present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Contemporary China
- Academia Sinica**, Taipei, Taiwan 2023–2024
Visiting Research Associate, Institute of Sociology (predoctoral)

EDUCATION

- Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Ph.D. in Government, May 2024
Fields: Comparative Politics and Political Theory
Dissertation: “Science as Charisma: Expert Authority and State-Society Relations in Contemporary China”
Committee: Elizabeth Perry (chair), Peter Hall, Jennifer Hochschild, Richard Tuck
- Stanford University**, Stanford, California, USA
B.A. in Public Policy (Ethics), June 2011

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- “America the Failure? Critical Narratives of the United States in Chinese State Media.”
Forthcoming in *China Quarterly*. (with Christopher Carothers)
- “China’s Pension Paradoxes: Challenges to Creating an Equitable Pension Scheme.” *China: An International Journal* 14, no.3 (2016), 153-166. (with Yanxia Zhang)
- “Authenticity in America: Class Distinctions in Potato Chip Advertising.” *Gastronomica* 11, no.4 (2011), 46-54. (with Dan Jurafsky)

WORKING PAPERS and ONGOING PROJECTS

- “Polarized Expertise: Political Culture and Scientific Advising in Taiwan’s Pandemic Response.” [Working paper]
- “Authority, Public Health, and Chinese Citizens’ Willingness to Comply: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” [Working paper] (with Tianguang Meng)

“Taiwanese Technopopulism.” [In progress]

“Speaking Truth to Power? Science, the Media, and Objectivity from Walter Lippman to Max Weber.” [In progress]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED TALKS

Association for Global Political Thought Annual Conference, April 2025 (planned)

Power Conference, University of Virginia, January 2025 (planned)

“Blending ‘Red’ and ‘Expert’: De-Bureaucratizing Professional Scientists in China”

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, December 2024 (planned)

“The Spirit of Scientists: Ideology and the Limits of Self-Regulation in China”

Science, Technology, and Society Circle, Harvard University, September 2024

“Polarized Expertise: How Competing Views of Science Shaped Taiwan’s Pandemic Response”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2024

“Polarized Expertise: Political Culture and Scientific Advising in Taiwan’s Pandemic Response”

Association for Global Political Thought Annual Conference, April 2024

“The Charisma of Science: Max Weber and Chinese Scientists”

Science and Technology Studies Roundtable, Tsinghua University, December 2023

“Science as Charisma”

Young Scholars’ Conference on China, University of California-San Diego, August 2023

“Authority, Science, and Pandemic Controls in China”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (co-presenter), September 2022

“America the Failure? Critical Narratives of the United States in Chinese State Media”

Graduate Students in STS Annual Conference, Harvard University, October 2022

“Pandemic Controls and Public Legitimation in Contemporary China”

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Public Health and Bureaucracy Project, Harvard University
Research Consultant/Lead Research Assistant 2019–present

China Policy (research firm in Beijing, China) 2015–2017

Research Manager, Social Policy Program

New America Foundation (think tank in Washington, DC) 2012–2014
Policy Analyst, Economic Growth Program

Congress and Nonprofit Organizations Project, Stanford University 2010
Research Assistant

POLICY PAPERS

“Paying for Greying: Re-evaluating Domestic Debates on China’s Pension System.”
China Policy, 2016.

“America’s Private Debt Problem.” New America Foundation (with Sherle R.
Schwenninger), 2014.

“Pay More, Get Less: How American Socioeconomic Policy is Falling Short.” New
America Foundation, 2014.

“Beyond the Low-Wage Social Contract.” New America Foundation (with Michael
Lind), 2014.

“Renewing the American Social Contract: A New Vision for Improving Economic
Security.” New America Foundation (lead editor of collected volume; co-authored
introduction with Michael Lind), 2013.

“Expanded Social Security: A Plan to Increase Retirement Security for All Americans.”
New America Foundation (with Michael Lind, Robert Hiltonsmith, and Steven Hill),
2013.

SELECTED ANALYSIS AND REPORTAGE

“China’s Political Mobilization Challenge,” *The Diplomat*, October 2024.

“Power Moves: Politics and Culture in the CCP,” *frieze*, March 2021.

“Why Beijing is Bringing Big Tech to Heel,” *Foreign Affairs*, February 2021.

“Illiberal China,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, September 2019.

“The Sincere Indignation of Simon Leys,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 2018.

“China’s Whack-a-Mole Housing Boom,” *City Lab/The Atlantic*, July 2017.

“The End of Poverty in China,” *World Policy Journal*, June 2017.

“China’s Counter-Urbanization,” *Pacific Standard*, March 2017.

“China’s Taobao Villages,” *Quartz*, February 2017.

“Higher Red: China’s Quest for World-Class Universities,” *Washington Monthly*, November
2016.

“China’s Charitable Turn?” *Foreign Affairs*, July 2016.

“Big Whopper Economics,” *Washington Monthly*, March 2014.

“The Past and Future of America’s Social Contract,” *The Atlantic*, December 2013.

“Moving Past the Low-Wage Social Contract,” *Reuters Opinion*, September 2013.

“How Not to Help the Poor: The Lesson of Soaring College Prices,” *The Atlantic*, July 2013.

“Why American Colleges Are Becoming a Force for Inequality,” *The Atlantic*, May 2013.

“The Tax-Break Myth: They’re Not Really for the Middle Class,” *The Atlantic*, November 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

GOV 99: Senior Thesis Writers’ Workshop, Harvard, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

GOV 97: Technocracy and the Politics of China, Harvard, Spring 2022*

Teaching Fellow/Teaching Assistant

EASTD 197: China’s Cultural Revolution (for Daniel Koss), Harvard, Fall 2022*

GOV 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics (for Steven Levitsky), Harvard, Fall 2021*

GOV 1280: Politics and Government of China (for Yuhua Wang), Harvard, Fall 2020

GENED 1058: Technology and Ethics (for Michael Sandel and Doug Melton), Harvard, Fall 2019*

PUBLPOL 106: Law and Public Policy (for Bruce Owen), Stanford, Spring 2010

Undergraduate Thesis Adviser

A. Choo, “Singapore’s Healthcare Innovation in Comparative Perspective,” 2019–2020

T. Lebryk, “Crafting International Elite at Chinese Fellowship Programs,” 2018–2019

*Awarded Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (2022, 2022, 2021, 2019)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Research Grant, Harvard University Asia Center, 2024

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2023–2024

Taiwan Studies Grant, Harvard University Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, 2023

Desmond and Whitney Shum Fellowship, Harvard University Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, 2020–2021

Graduate Summer Research Grant, Harvard University Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, 2019

Graduate Summer Language Grant, Harvard University Asia Center and Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies (joint), 2018

Theodore H. Ashford Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2017–2024

Henry R. Luce Foundation Scholar, 2014–2015

Ann C. Seminara Award for Most Outstanding Student in Public Policy, Stanford University, 2011

Public Policy Program Outstanding Senior Practicum Award, Stanford University, 2011

ACADEMIC SERVICE and AFFILIATIONS

Co-Coordinator, Harvard-MIT-BU Chinese Politics Research Workshop, 2020–2022

Founder and Coordinator, Contemporary Chinese Political Thought Reading Group,
2020–present
Graduate Student Mentor, Harvard, 2020–2023
Graduate Associate, Association for Global Political Thought, 2019–2024
Graduate Associate, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard, 2021–2024

SKILLS

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (fluent), Classical Chinese (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

Software

R, LaTeX, HTML/CSS, Adobe Creative Suite

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Comedy

Contributor to *The New Yorker* Daily Shouts, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and other humor publications, 2012–present

Former stand-up comedian (English/Chinese) and sketch comedy writer, 2007–2017

Former headline contributor, *The Onion*, 2005–2007

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Elizabeth J. Perry
Henry Rosovsky Professor of
Government
Department of Government
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
eperry@gov.harvard.edu
617-496-4536

Peter A. Hall
Krupp Foundation Professor of
European Studies
Department of Government
Harvard University
27 Kirkland Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
phall@fas.harvard.edu
617-998-5423

Jennifer L. Hochschild
H.L. Jayne Professor of Government and
Professor of African and African
American Studies
Department of Government
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
hochschild@gov.harvard.edu
617-496-0181

Yuhua Wang
Professor of Government
Department of Government
Harvard University
1737 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
yuhuawang@fas.harvard.edu
617-496-2750