

GARY LEUNG

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, Yale University

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EDUCATION

Expected 2027	Ph.D. in Political Science	Yale University · New Haven, CT
	– Committee: Jennifer Gandhi, Daniel Mattingly, Nicholas Sambanis (chair)	
	– Certifications: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Quantitative Methods (with Distinction)	
	– Graduate Student Affiliate, Identity and Conflict Lab	
2021	M.A. in East Asian Studies	Yale University · New Haven, CT
2019	B.S.Sc. in Government and Public Administration	The Chinese University of Hong Kong · Hong Kong
	– First Class Honours	
	– Minors: Statistics and Philosophy	

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

“State versus Cultural Nationalism and the Legitimacy–Unity Trade-off: Evidence from China”

Abstract. When does nationalism strengthen authoritarian rule, and at what cost? Autocrats often promote state nationalism, which defines the nation through political institutions and territorial boundaries rather than simply through shared culture. I argue that it creates a legitimacy–unity trade-off: it increases perceived regime legitimacy and support for ethnic minority accommodation, but weakens national identification among regime opponents, for whom dissatisfaction with the regime spills over into disidentification from the nation. I test this argument through two online experiments alongside a large-scale laboratory experiment in mainland China and Hong Kong, using a novel compare-and-argue self-persuasion design that generates exogenous variation in conceptions of the nation. In mainland China, state nationalism raises regime legitimacy and, under external threat, support for minority accommodation. In Hong Kong, state nationalism amplified how repression-related news and government dissatisfaction weakened national identification. The findings suggest that nationalism in autocracies can secure loyalty to the regime at the expense of attachment to the nation.

Working Papers (Draft available upon request)

“Victimhood Complements Victory” (*R&R at Political Psychology*)

“The Feedback Effects of Failed Nation-Building: Experimental Evidence from China” (*Under Review*)

“Self-Persuasion as Experimental Belief Manipulation: A Compare-and-Argue Method”

“What Does It Mean to Be Chinese? Inclusive Nationalism in a Resilient Authoritarian Regime”

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2025	Council on East Asian Studies Field Research Grant, <i>Yale University</i>
2025	Hayek Fund, <i>Institute for Humane Studies</i>
2025	MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, <i>Yale University</i>

2024	MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, <i>Yale University</i>
2023	CEAS Summer Travel & Research Grant, <i>Yale University</i>
2023	Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Grant, <i>Yale University</i>
2022	CEAS Summer Travel & Research Grant, <i>Yale University</i>
2020	University Fellowship (M.A.), <i>Yale University</i>
2019	Professor Jih-wen Lin Memorial Scholarship, <i>Academia Sinica</i>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA)
2026	Asia-Pacific Politics and Public Administration Conference
2025	Japanese Society for Quantitative Political Science, Winter Meeting
2024	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA)
2024	Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science (<i>poster</i>)
2024	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (MPSA)
2024	Workshop on Political Psychology in East Asia
2023	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (MPSA)
2023	When Hong Kong Studies Go Global Academic Conference
2019	International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Conference

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University

Fall 2026	Comparative Politics: States, Regimes, and Conflict PLSC 1413 · Undergraduate <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Spring 2025	Design and Analysis of Experiments in Political Science PLSC 512 · Ph.D. <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Fall 2024	Visualization of Political and Social Data PLSC 349 · Undergraduate <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Spring 2024	Theory and Practice of Quantitative Methods PLSC 503 · Ph.D. <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Fall 2022	Game Theory and Political Science PLSC 344 · Undergraduate <i>Teaching Fellow</i>