

Bokai Qi
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Education

2022–Now **Ph.D. Candidate**, Politics, New York University
 M.Phil, Politics, New York University
2020–22 **M.A.**, Analytical Political Economy (MAPE), Duke University
2016–20 **B.S. in Economics**, Major in Finance, Central University of Finance and Economics

Research Interests

Substantive Topics: Authoritarian Politics, Civil Conflicts, Rebel Governance, Gender & Power.
Methodology: Text-as-Data, Social Network Analysis.
Regional Focus: China, East Asia.

Dissertation

Three Essays on Rebel Governance and Politics
Committee: Arturas Rozenas, Amy Catalinac, Michael Gilligan, Junyan Jiang

Working Papers

Mobilization without Empowerment: Wartime Women’s Organizations and Gendered Architecture of Power

Lost Comrades, Surviving Ties: Revolutionary Social Capital and Postwar Elite Power
Coauthor: Yinxuan Wang (NYU)

MuLTI: A Framework for Measuring Latent Ties from Rich but Noisy Observational Data
Coauthor: Yinxuan Wang (NYU)

Masquerading as the Capable: Moral Hazard and Imperfect Verifiability of Performance

Killing Comrades: Alliances of Purge in the Chinese Red Army
Coauthor: Xingchen Lan (NYU)
Under Review

Selected Work in Progress

Becoming the Mouthpiece: Capture, Transform, and Propagandize Intellectuals
Coauthor: Yinxuan Wang, Xingchen Lan (NYU)

Becoming Autocrat: Coalition Formation in Rebel Groups

Maintained Database

Historical Biographical Database of the People's Liberation Army (HBD-PLA)

Latest Version: 05-21-2026

The Historical Biographical Database of the People's Liberation Army documents 7,798 military figures who served at or above the regimental level in the CCP's military organization before 1949. To ensure accuracy, I gathered up to three biographical records for each figure, cross-verifying the details provided. The HBD-PLA also tracks a wide range of personal attributes. In total, the dataset surpasses 205 million Chinese characters, offering a rich textual corpus for the subsequent social network analysis and for understanding the micro-level dynamics of these historical actors.

Awards & Honors

2025	George Downs Prize, <i>New York University</i>
2025	GSAS Conference Fund Program (2025-2026, Period 1), <i>New York University</i>
2022–Now	GSAS MacCracken Fellowship, <i>New York University</i>
2020–22	2020 Duke Economics Master's Scholar Award, <i>Duke University</i>
2020	Outstanding Graduate of 2020, <i>Central University of Finance and Economics</i>

Teaching

New York University

2026 Fall	Teaching Assistant (POL-UA 500 Comparative Politics, Instructor: Tara Slough)
2026 Spr	Teaching Assistant (POL-UA 700 International Politics, Instructor: Bruce Bueno de Mesquita)
2025 Fall	Teaching Assistant (POL-UA 700 International Politics, Instructor: Michael Gilligan)
2025 Spr	Teaching Assistant (POL-UA 850 Intro to Research Methods for Politics, Instructor: Anna Harvey)
2024 Fall	Teaching Assistant (POL-UA 700 International Politics)

Duke University

2022 Spr	Teaching Assistant (Econ 371 Labor & Family Economics)
2021 Fall	Teaching Assistant (PubPol 810 Microeconomics & Public Policy)

Presentations

Talks

1. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *Killing Comrades: Alliances of Purge in the Chinese Red Army*. MPSA 2026 (Chicago, IL, USA). Apr. 2026.
2. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *Killing Comrades: Alliances of Purge in the Chinese Red Army*. SPSA 2026 (New Orleans, LA, USA). Jan. 2026.

3. **Qi, Bokai** & Wang, Y. *Lost Comrades, Surviving Ties: Revolutionary Social Capital and Postwar Elite Power*. 4^o Summer Conference, Authoritarian Political Systems Group (London, UK). June 2026.
4. Wang, Y. & **Qi, Bokai**. *MuLTI: A Framework for Measuring Latent Ties from Rich but Noisy Observational Data*. Comparative Politics Workshop, Wilf Family Department of Politics, NYU (New York, NY, USA). Apr. 2026.
5. **Qi, Bokai**. *From Rebels to Elites: Social Network, Power Delegation, and Coup-Proofing Strategy*. Comparative Politics Workshop, Wilf Family Department of Politics, NYU (New York, NY, USA). Mar. 2025.
6. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *Exclusive Power Sharing and Rebel Military Control: Theory and Evidence from the Chinese Red Army*. APSA 2024 (Philadelphia, PA, USA). Sept. 2024.
7. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *The Art of Purging: Intra-rebellion Purge and Insurgent Cohesion*. MPSA 2024 (Chicago, IL, USA). Apr. 2024.
8. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *The Art of Purging: Intra-rebellion Purge and Insurgent Cohesion*. Comparative Politics Workshop, Wilf Family Department of Politics, NYU (New York, NY, USA). Apr. 2024.

Posters

1. **Qi, Bokai**. *From Rebels to Elites: Social Network, Power Delegation, and Coup-Proofing Strategy*. Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia (FEREA 2025) (New York, NY, USA). May 2025.
2. Lan, X. & **Qi, Bokai**. *Strategic Logic of Military Purges in Civil Wars: Evidence from the Chinese Red Army*. Frontiers in Empirical Research on East Asia (FEREA 2024) (New York, NY, USA). May 2024.

Skills

Language: English (Fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Native).

Software: R, STATA, Python, $\LaTeX$.

Other Experience

2021	World Resources Institute (WRI) Research Intern, Climate and Energy Program, Beijing Representative Office
2019-21	Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Green Finance Intern, Environmental Law and Governance Program, Beijing Representative Office
2020	Paulson Institute Green Finance Intern, Green Finance Center, Beijing Office

Last updated: September 9, 2026