

Michael Thompson-Brusstar

Postdoctoral Fellow, 21st Century China Center, UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy
La Jolla, CA

✉ mthompsonbrusstar@ucsd.edu 🌐 mthompsonbrusstar.com | Updated: March 26, 2024

Employment

University of California - San Diego, Postdoctoral Fellow 2023-Present

School of Global Policy and Strategy, 21st Century China Center
Teaching: Chinese Politics (Fall 2023), Chinese Foreign Policy (Spring 2024)

Education

University of Michigan, Political Science Ph.D. 2016-2023

Dissertation: *Building a Supervision Science: Bureaucratic Control in China from Mao to Xi*
Fields: Comparative Politics (with honors), Political Methodology

Santa Fe Institute, Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science 2018

University of Michigan, M.A. Asian Studies: China 2015

Juniata College, B.A. 2012

Major: International Politics

Minor: Economics

Northeast University of Finance and Economics, Dalian, China Fall 2010 - Summer 2011

Interests

computational social science; political economy of development; politics of bureaucracy and accountability; historical political economy; politics of China and Taiwan

Fieldwork

People's University of China, Beijing, PRC Summer 2024 (Anticipated)

Hoover Institution Library and Archives, Workshop on Authoritarianism Summer 2023

Fulbright - Taiwan, Fulbright Research Fellowship, Tunghai University Winter-Summer 2021

Universities Service Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong Summer 2019

Peer-Reviewed Publications

M. Thompson-Brusstar, 2022. "Supreme supervisor? The historical development of the People's Procuracy in the People's Republic of China," *China Law and Society Review* 6(1), 1-35.

Ding, I. and M. Thompson-Brusstar, 2021. "The Anti-Bureaucratic Ghost in the Bureaucratic Machine." *The China Quarterly* 248(S1), 116-140.

Hanson, M. and M. Thompson-Brusstar, 2021. "Building Socialist Legality: Political Order and Institutional Development in the Soviet and Chinese Procuracies", *Europe-Asia Studies* 73:1, 157-177.

Working Papers and Projects

"Information and Autonomy in Xi's China: The Case of Central Inspection Teams."

"The Rise and Fall of Bureaucratic Rationality in Mao's China."

"Learning by Going Out: Sub-national Diplomacy and Bureaucratic Learning in Reform China," with James Gethyn Evans.

"Validating Automatic Text Digitization: How to Ensure Quality of Text Analysis Tasks with Automatically Digitized Text Data," with Blake Miller.

"Platform Involution: Digital Personnel Management in China's Tax Bureaucracy."

"Hoover's Long Arm: Authoritarian Bureaucratic Control and American Influence in Martial Law Taiwan."

Invited Presentations

"Information and Autonomy in Xi's China: The Case of Central Inspection Teams," UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy China Research Workshop, April 29, 2022.

"Discipline and Punishment in the Chinese Communist Party," at "The CCP at 100", hosted by CSIS and COSI (CIRA), November 15-16, 2021.

"Building Socialist Legality: Political Order and Institutional Development in the Soviet and Chinese Procuracies", Ash Fellows Seminar Series, Harvard University. May 14, 2021.

Other Presentations

"The Rise and Fall of Bureaucratic Rationality in Mao's China," *APSA 2024 Asian Political History Miniconference*.

"Library and Archives Summer Workshop: Authoritarianism and Democratic Breakdown," *Hoover Institution, 2023*.

"Learning by Going Out: Sub-national Diplomacy and Bureaucratic Learning in Reform China," with James Gethyn Evans, *Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, 2023; Association for Asian Studies 2024*.

"Building Bureaucratic Control in Mao's China," *Western Political Science Association- Undemocratic Politics Mini Conference, 2023*.

"Validating Automatic Text Digitization: Ensuring Quality of Text Analysis with Automatically Digitized Text Data," with Blake Miller, *Michigan Institute for Data Science 2020 Symposium; Text as Data Conference 2022; MPSA 2024; APSA 2024*.

"Designing Anti-corruption: Evidence from China," *MPSA 2020 (canceled due to COVID19)*.

"Anti-Corruption and Prosecutor Transparency in China," *presented at APSA 2018*.

"Anticipating Inspections and Anti-Corruption Outcomes in China," *presented at APSA 2018*.

"Authoritarian Courts and Urban Bias: Dispute Resolution Organs in the PRC," *presented at MPSA 2017*.

Other writing

Book Review, 'Manipulating Globalization: The Influence of Bureaucrats on Business in China' *H-Diplo*, February 2019.

Contributor, "Xi Won't Go," *ChinaFile*, February 2018.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, *Chinese Foreign Policy*
(Graduate level course) Spring 2024

Instructor of Record, UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy, *Chinese Politics*
(Graduate level course) Fall 2023

Graduate Student Instructor, *Research Design*
(with Prof. Nancy Burns) Fall 2022

Instructor of Record, *The Use of Social Science Computer Programs*
(Graduate level course) Winter 2022

Graduate Student Instructor, *Senior Honors Thesis Seminar*
(with Prof. Brian Min) Fall 2020

Module Instructor, *University of Michigan Data Camp*,
(canceled due to COVID19) Summer 2020

Graduate Student Instructor, *Introduction to Comparative Politics*
(with Prof. Mary Gallagher) Fall 2016, 2018

Research Experience

Graduate research assistant:

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Political Research: Historical Institutions Lab (Prof. Noah Nathan, Prof. Edgar Franco Vivanco):

Religious Regulation in Central Asia (Prof. Pauline Jones);

China's Gilded Age (Prof. Yuen Yuen Ang)

Authoritarian Legality in China: Law, Workers, and the State (Prof. Mary Gallagher)

Extramural Awards

Hoover Institution Library and Archives Summer Workshop 2023

Fulbright Student Fellowship, Taiwan 2021

Fulbright Student Fellowship, China (canceled by [Executive Order 13936 3\(i\)](#)) 2020-2021

Institute for Humane Studies
Graduate Student Fellowship Fall 2019, 2020

Intramural Awards

Graduate Student Research Grant

Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan

Fall 2019

Precandidacy Research Grant

Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan

Summer 2018

Zimmerman Award

Political Science Department, University of Michigan

Winter 2018

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship

University of Michigan

2013-2014, Summer 2014

Service

U-M Community of Queer Political Scientists, *coordinator*

2018-2022

U-M China Interdisciplinary Workshop, *student coordinator*

2016-2018

Reviewer (selected):

The China Quarterly; Governance; Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations; British Journal of Political Science; Political Science Research and Methods

Languages and Computing

Mandarin Chinese (professional fluency), R , python , L^AT_EX