

Weifeng Zhong

American Enterprise Institute
1789 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 419-5206
Email: weifeng@weifengzhong.com
Site: www.weifengzhong.com

Research Interests

Chinese economic issues, political economy, text analysis, machine learning

Education

Ph.D., managerial economics and strategy, Northwestern University, 2015.

M.Sc., managerial economics and strategy, Northwestern University, 2013.

M.Phil., economics, University of Hong Kong, 2009.

M.Econ., economics, University of Hong Kong, 2007.

B.A., business administration, Shantou University, Shantou, China, 2006.

Employment

Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, 2015-present.

Expert, Open Research Group, 2018-present.

Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2010-2015.

Academic and Policy Publications

1. [“Political Institutions and the Governmental Burden on Businesses,”](#) *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, published online first May 2018. Joint with Ruiqing Zhong. ([working paper version](#))
2. [“The Candidates in Their Own Words: A Textual Analysis of 2016 Presidential Primary Debates,”](#) *AEI Economic Perspectives*, April 2016.
3. [“To What Extent Defining a Group Predicates on Defining Other Groups?”](#) *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, March 2011. Joint with Y. Stephen Chiu.

Working Papers

4. [“Reading China: Predicting Policy Change with Machine Learning.”](#) AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2018-11. Joint with Julian T. Chan. ([website](#); [source code](#))
Selected media: [South China Morning Post](#); [Dataconomy](#).
5. [“Sanctioning an Unruly Ally: Understanding Sino-North Korean Trade through the *People’s Daily*,”](#) AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2017-22. Under review.
6. [“On the Observational Implications of Knightian Uncertainty,”](#) AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2016-17. Joint with Kevin A. Hassett. Under review.
7. [“Governmental Systems and Economic Volatility in Democracies,”](#) AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2018-06. Joint with Chen Cheng and Christopher Li. Under review.
8. [“A Theory of the Material Foundation of Psychology: With an Application to the Non-Salience of Economic Classes.”](#) Joint with Y. Stephen Chiu.

Work in Progress

9. [“Policy Change Index of Cuba.”](#) Joint with Julian T. Chan and Erin Melly.
10. [“Opinionated News.”](#) Joint with Julian T. Chan and Sita N. Slavov.
11. [“The Politics of Tax Progressivity and Income Redistribution.”](#) Joint with Sita N. Slavov.

Media and Other Publications

12. [“Machine learning with a twist: How trivial labels can be used to predict policy changes,”](#) *Dataconomy*, November 1, 2018.
13. [“Congress should back White House plan to use tolls to fix infrastructure,”](#) *The Hill*, March 2, 2018.
14. [“China is trying to bribe North Korea into good behavior. Here is what that means for America.”](#) *The National Interest*, November 9, 2017.
15. [“All the general secretary’s men,”](#) *AEIdeas*, October 17, 2017. Joint with Julian T. Chan.
16. [“What \(not\) to expect from China’s upcoming party congress,”](#) *AEIdeas*, August 31, 2017.
17. [“Trump’s high-risk, high-reward trade policy toward China,”](#) *AEIdeas*, August 8, 2017.
18. [“Reading Xi Jinping,”](#) *Foreign Affairs*, July 4, 2017.
19. [“China must rethink free float for the yuan, as US border tax looms,”](#) *South China Morning Post*, March 7, 2017. Joint with Zhimin Li.
20. [“Donald Trump and the perils of promising too much,”](#) *Real Clear Politics*, October 19, 2016. Joint with Rasa Karapandza.
21. [“Yes, low-information voters have the right to vote,”](#) *AEIdeas*, April 28, 2016.
22. [“A Saudi dump of US assets will only hurt the Saudis,”](#) *Real Clear Markets*, April 21, 2016.
23. [“Debate text analysis: Trump is the moderate,”](#) *Real Clear Politics*, April 14, 2016.

24. "China needs reform not another investment splurge," *Financial Times*, February 17, 2016. Joint with Zhimin Li.
25. "China needs clear market rules and consistent enforcement," *Inside Sources*, January 12, 2016.
26. "China's IPO system badly needs reform," *Inside Sources*, November 24, 2015.
27. "China's new securities superstar, Fang Xinghai, is no hero," *The National Interest*, November 9, 2015.
28. "China's stock market is about to tank – again," *Fortune*, September 28, 2015.
29. "China's troubling lurch back to socialism," *Real Clear Markets*, August 13, 2015.

Media Publications in Chinese:

30. "Trump's first 100 days: What does his lackluster debut tell us?" *The Paper (Pengpai)*, April 27, 2017.
31. "An evolution of the Senate revealed by the Supreme Court showdown," *The Paper (Pengpai)*, April 12, 2017.
32. "How did Trumpcare collapse and where will other Trump 'deals' go?" *The Paper (Pengpai)*, March 31, 2017.
33. "The looming US tax reform and how China should respond," *The Paper (Pengpai)*, March 15, 2017.

Selected Media Coverage

34. "Predicting Beijing's thinking with the help of artificial intelligence and *People's Daily*," *South China Morning Post*, October 30, 2018.
35. TV interview on VOA Mandarin's "Eyes on America" on the US-China trade dispute, April 7, 2018.
36. "Femårsplanen (Five-year plan)," *Weekendavisen*, October 20, 2017.
37. TV interview on VOA Mandarin's "Pros and Cons" on the US trade policy toward China, August 4, 2017.
38. "Saudis have the most to lose by dumping US assets," *Newsmax*, April 21, 2016.
39. "Smart ideas: A new way to confirm justices, and Kasich's radical moderates," *National Journal*, April 14, 2016.
40. "Handle with care: China's porcelain economy," *Ricochet's Political Economy with James Pethokoukis*, February 25, 2016.
41. "Chinese companies are trapped in IPO logjam," *The Wall Street Journal*, December 7, 2015.
42. "China's rigged IPOs," *The Wall Street Journal* (editorial), December 2, 2015.
43. Other coverage: The Australian, Biz Republic, The Bond Buyer, Contacto Hoy, FT Chinese, Investors' Business Daily, Jiemian, Newsweek, Página Siete, People.cn, Real Clear Politics, Real Clear World, Sina Finance, Sohu Finance, Tencent Finance, WSJ Chinese, Yahoo Finance

Panels and Presentations

2018 and 2019 (including scheduled)

Presentations of “Reading China: Predicting Policy Change with Machine Learning:”

American Association for Chinese Studies, Association of Chinese Political Studies, Data Natives, George Mason University, George Washington University, International Conference on Communication & Media Studies, International Studies Association, Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, Policy Simulation Library Meetup, PremC Artificial Intelligence International Conference, Southern Political Science Association, TEXATA Summit, Université Paris-Dauphine

Other panels and presentations:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Association, International Studies Association

2017

Center for China and Globalization, Central Party School of the Communist Party of China, Fudan University, Petralia Applied Economics Workshop, Zhejiang University

2015

American Enterprise Institute, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Northwestern University, Petralia Applied Economics Workshop

Awards and Grants

Academic GPU Grant, NVIDIA Corporation, 2018.

Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2009-2014.

Graduate Fellowship, University of Hong Kong, 2007-2009.

Li Ka-shing Foundation University Medal, Shantou University, 2006.

Miscellany

Fluent Languages: English, Mandarin, Cantonese

Programming: Keras, Mathematica, MATLAB, Python, R, STATA, TensorFlow

GitHub: <http://github.com/towashington>