

# Weifeng Zhong

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## 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

American Enterprise Institute, Research Fellow, 2015-present.

Northwestern University, Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant, 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." Joint with Julian T. Chan. In progress.
5. "Talking Income Inequality: Parties, Media, and the Public." Joint with Sita Slavov. In progress.
6. "On the Observational Implications of Knightian Uncertainty," AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2016-17. Joint with Kevin A. Hassett. Under review.
7. "Sanctioning an Unruly Ally: Understanding Sino-North Korean Trade through the *People's Daily*," AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2017-22. Under review.
8. "Governmental Systems and Economic Volatility in Democracies," AEI Economics Working Paper No. 2018-06. Joint with Chen Cheng and Christopher Li. Under review.
9. "A Theory of the Material Foundation of Psychology: With an Application to the Non-Salience of Economic Classes." Joint with Y. Stephen Chiu.

## Media Publications

10. "Congress should back White House plan to use tolls to fix infrastructure," *The Hill*, March 2, 2018.
11. "China is trying to bribe North Korea into good behavior. Here is what that means for America." *The National Interest*, November 9, 2017.
12. "All the general secretary's men," *AEIdeas*, October 17, 2017. Joint with Julian T. Chan.
13. "What (not) to expect from China's upcoming party congress," *AEIdeas*, August 31, 2017.
14. "Trump's high-risk, high-reward trade policy toward China," *AEIdeas*, August 8, 2017.
15. "Reading Xi Jinping," *Foreign Affairs*, July 4, 2017.
16. "China must rethink free float for the yuan, as US border tax looms," *South China Morning Post*, March 7, 2017. Joint with Zhimin Li.
17. "Donald Trump and the perils of promising too much," *Real Clear Politics*, October 19, 2016. Joint with Rasa Karapandza.
18. "Yes, low-information voters have the right to vote," *AEIdeas*, April 28, 2016.
19. "A Saudi dump of US assets will only hurt the Saudis," *Real Clear Markets*, April 21, 2016.
20. "Debate text analysis: Trump is the moderate," *Real Clear Politics*, April 14, 2016.
21. Contribution to "Debate debrief: GOP awaits 'Super Tuesday 3,'" *AEIdeas Symposium*, March 11, 2016.
22. "Handle with care! A Q&A with Weifeng Zhong on China's porcelain economy," *AEIdeas*, February 29, 2016.
23. "China needs reform not another investment splurge," *Financial Times*, February 17, 2016. Joint with Zhimin Li.
24. Contribution to "Debate debrief: Democratic face-off after New Hampshire," *AEIdeas Symposium*, February 12, 2016.
25. "China needs clear market rules and consistent enforcement," *Inside Sources*, January 12, 2016.

26. Contribution to [“‘Hope and change’ eight years on: Time for Obama’s final State of the Union,”](#) *AEIdeas Symposium*, January 8, 2016.
27. [“China’s IPO system badly needs reform,”](#) *Inside Sources*, November 24, 2015.
28. [“China’s new securities superstar, Fang Xinghai, is no hero,”](#) *The National Interest*, November 9, 2015.
29. [“China’s stock market is about to tank – again,”](#) *Fortune*, September 28, 2015.
30. [“China’s troubling lurch back to socialism,”](#) *Real Clear Markets*, August 13, 2015.

#### *Media Publications in Chinese:*

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

### Selected Media Coverages

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. TV interview on VOA Mandarin’s [“Issues and Opinions” on trade protectionism](#), November 10, 2016.
39. [“Saudis have the most to lose by dumping US assets,”](#) *Newsmax*, April 21, 2016.
40. [“Smart ideas: A new way to confirm justices, and Kasich’s radical moderates,”](#) *National Journal*, April 14, 2016.
41. Podcast interview on Ricochet’s [“Political Economy Podcast” on China’s porcelain economy](#), February 25, 2016.
42. [“Chinese companies are trapped in IPO logjam,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal*, December 7, 2015.
43. [“China’s rigged IPOs,”](#) *The Wall Street Journal* (editorial), December 2, 2015.
44. TV interview on VOA Mandarin’s [“Issues and Opinions” on China’s GDP growth target](#), November 4, 2015.
45. Other coverages: The Australian, The Bond Buyer, FT Chinese, Investors’ Business Daily, Jiemian, Newsweek, People.cn, Real Clear Politics, Real Clear World, Sina Finance, Sohu Finance, Tencent Finance, WSJ Chinese, Yahoo Finance

## Panels and Presentations

### 2018 (including scheduled)

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

AI & Machine Learning Strategies Summit, American Association for Chinese Studies meetings, Association of Chinese Political Studies meetings, George Mason University, International Conference on Communication & Media Studies, International Studies Association meetings, Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research meetings, PremC Artificial Intelligence International Conference, Southwestern Social Science Association meetings, TEXATA Summit

Other panels and presentations:

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

### 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

NVIDIA Corporation Academic GPU Grant, 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

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

**Languages:** English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native)