Pinda Wang

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EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University — Baltimore, MD, United States
PhD in Economics — 2027 (expected)

London School of Economics — London, United Kingdom
MSc in Economics — 2021

Peking University — Beijing, China
Bachelor of Economics (minor in law) — 2020

FIELDS OF RESEARCH

Political Economy, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, China

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Accountability without rule of law: how judicial centralization shapes local governance in China"

Abstract: This paper studies how government control of the judiciary affects political accountability under an authoritarian political system. I propose a model where local governments choose the amount of action taken against citizens, which are litigable in courts controlled either by local governments themselves or higher-level provincial governments. The model predicts that, as a result of centralizing judicial control, courts become stricter towards local governments, but only when the interests of local and provincial governments diverge. Instability decreases and local fiscal revenue falls when courts are stricter, but the amount of governmental action increases because local governments double down to make up for the lost revenue. Empirically, using a judicial centralization reform in China, I validate the predictions of the model by showing that centralization made local governments more likely to lose in administrative lawsuits, but the effect becomes negligible for cases with high political sensitivity where the interests of local and provincial governments align. The number of labor protests fell, local

governments' discretionary fiscal revenue decreased, but the amount of land requisition increased. These results illustrate the limits of top-down accountability without the rule of law.

WORKING PAPERS

"The long-term chilling effect of mass political violence: evidence from China's Cultural Revolution"

"How anti-corruption purges could backfire: evidence from China"

"Can mass purges root out corruption?" (with Stephane Wolton and Johannes Lützenrath)

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Overwhelmed by choice: high school curriculum liberalization and China's educational arms race"

TEACHING

Microeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant to Brendan Daley, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2026

Microeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant to Brendan Daley and Edi Karni, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2026

Microeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant to Sohani Fatehin, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2025

Market Design, Teaching Assistant to Maria Betto, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2025

Elements of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant to Muhammad Husain, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2024

Development Economics, Teaching Assistant to Jingyi Ye, Peking University, Fall 2019

PRESENTATIONS

DCPEC Research Workshop (Nov 2025, Washington D.C.)

DMV PhD Conference on Political Economy & Development (Oct 2025, Washington D.C.)

International Conference on Empirical Economics (Aug 2025, Pittsburgh)

JHU Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (2024, 2025, 2026, Baltimore)

AWARDS

Eugenio and Patricia Castillo Award, Johns Hopkins University, 2024

Silvio and Wilfred Prewo Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2023

ICBC Star Scholarship, Peking University, 2019

Leo Koguan Scholarship, Peking University, 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jiemian News, Journalist, 2021-2022

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native); English (fluent); French (professional proficiency); Spanish (intermediate)

REFERENCES

Filipe Campante
Bloomberg Distinguished Professor
School of Advanced International Studies
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Adam Isen
Associate Professor of Economics
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Pravin Krishna
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