

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology

Ph.D., International Affairs, Science & Technology (IAST) 2016
M.S., International Affairs 2015
Tech to Teaching Certificate in Higher Education; Graduate Communication Certificate 2014

Peking University

B.S., Chemistry 2009

Stanford University Program in Beijing “Institutional Change in Reform China” Certificate Fall 2008

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Kentucky

Assistant Professor, Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce Jan. 2020 – Present

United Nations University Institute in Macau

Consultant; Visiting Fellow Nov. 2022; Jul.-Aug. 2023

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

Institute for Emerging Market Studies & Institute for Advanced Study Postdoctoral Fellow 2018 – 2019

Atlantic Council

Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security Visiting Fellow 2017 – 2018

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Science and Technology Innovation Program Research Intern Spring 2017

University of Chicago Center in Beijing

New Generation China Scholar 2012 – 2013

George Washington University

Center for International Business Education and Research Doctoral Fellow Summer 2012

Georgia Institute of Technology

Co-Instructor, Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant, School of International Affairs 2009 – 2015

East Asia Study Abroad Program Assistant 2010 – 2011

US Science & Tech Policy Analyst, Georgia Tech Research Institute Summer 2010

Sam Nunn Security Program Fellow 2009 – 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

- He, Y. & Heeks, R. (2025). Analysing the US—China “AI Cold War” Narrative. *St Antony’s International Review*, 20(2), 28-54. <https://stair.shox.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/STAIR/article/view/417> (part of a [special issue on “A New Cold War?”](#))
- He, Y. & Zeng, K. (2025). A Geopolitical Economy Analysis of China and India’s Approaches to Transnational Data Governance. *Politics and Governance*. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.10361> (part of a [special issue on the Geopolitics of Transnational Data Governance](#))
- He, Y. & Zeng, K. (2024). China in Global Digital Trade Governance: Toward a Development-Oriented Agenda?. *International Affairs*, 100 (5), 2195-2215. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iaae177>
- Samers, M. & He, Y. (2024). A combinatory approach to understanding the relationship between artificial intelligence and financial labor markets. *Finance and Space*, 1 (1), 200-220. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2024.2355265>
- He, Y. (2024). Chinese Digital Platform Companies’ Expansion in the Belt and Road Countries. *The Information Society*, 40 (2), 96-119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2024.2317058> (part of a [special issue on China’s Digital Expansion in the Global South](#))

- He, Y. (2024). Chinese FinTech Goes Global: Political Challenges and Business Strategies. *Asia Policy*, 19 (1), 35-50. <https://doi.org/10.1353/asp.2024.a918869> (part of a forum [on China's Tech Policies and Development: Responding to Great Power Competition](#))
- He, Y., Tan, F., Leung, C., Huang, J., Junio, D. (2023). Realizing Innovation and Sustainability: A Case Study of Macau SAR's Smart City Development Capabilities. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 47(4), 1309–1327. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2023.2211274>
- Shen, H., He, Y. (2022). The Geopolitics of Infrastructuralized Platforms: The Case of Alibaba. *Information Communication & Society*, 25 (16), 2363-2380. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2022.2128599> (part of a [special issue on the Geopolitics of Chinese Internets](#))
- He, Y., Tritto, A. (2022). Urban Utopia or Pipe Dream? Examining Chinese-invested Smart City Development in Southeast Asia. *Third World Quarterly*, 43 (9), 2244-2268. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2089648>
- He, Y., Shen, H. (2021). Beyond the Great Power Competition Narrative: Exploring Labor Politics and Resistance behind AI Innovation in China. *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs*, 7, 5-15. <https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/handle/10822/1061301> (part of a [special issue on the Future of Work in Asia](#))
- Tritto, A., He, Y., Junaedi, V. A. (2020). Governing the Gold Rush into Emerging Markets: Indonesia's Regulatory Responses to the Expansion of Chinese-backed Online P2P Lending. *Financial Innovation*, 6 (1), 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40854-020-00202-4>
- He, Y. (2018). The Trade-Security Nexus and U.S. Policy Making in Critical Minerals. *Resources Policy*, 59, 238-249. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2018.07.010>
- He, Y. (2014). Reregulation of China's rare earth production and export. *International Journal of Emerging Markets*, 9(2), 236–256. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJoEM-09-2012-0117>

Policy Reports and Public Writing:

- He, Y. (2025). [Amidst the frenzy over DeepSeek AI, US federal science and tech policy is a mess of internal contradictions](#). LSE Phelan United States Centre USAPP-American Politics and Policy Blog.
- He, Y. (2023). [Towards Smart Cities as Innovation Systems: The Case of Macau SAR](#). United Nations University Institute in Macau.
- Tritto, A., He, Y., Junaedi, V.A. (2022). [Chinese-backed FinTech Lending Boom: How did Indonesia Respond?](#). HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Thought Leadership Brief No. 67.
- He, Y., Tritto, A. (2021). [Chinese-invested Smart City Development in Southeast Asia - How Resilient are Urban Megaprojects in the Age of COVID-19?](#). HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Thought Leadership Brief No. 56.
- Tritto, A., He, Y. (2020). [Cities in China's BRI: Green and Smart or Gray and Clumsy?](#) Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI).
- He, Y. (2019). [Connecting the Emerging Markets: China's Growing Role in Global Digital Infrastructure](#). HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Thought Leadership Brief No. 26.
- He, Y. (2018). [Developing Resilient Economies in the Age of Artificial Intelligence](#). United Nations University.
- Denton, S., Pauwels, E., He, Y., Johnson, W. (2018). [There's Nowhere to Hide: Artificial Intelligence and Privacy in the Fourth Industrial Revolution](#). Wilson Center.
- He, Y. (2017). [How China is Preparing for an AI-Powered Future](#). Wilson Center.
- He, Y. & Tyson, E. (2017). [Survey Results: Complexities and Overlaps in Existing Citizen Science Mosquito Projects](#). Wilson Center.
- Sloan, M., He, Y. (2017). [The Global Race for Artificial Intelligence – Comparison of Patenting Trends](#). Wilson Center.
- He, Y. (2017). [Global Mosquito Alert: UN-Backed Citizen Science Platform to Fight Mosquito-Borne Diseases](#). Discover.
- He, Y. (2017). [Resources for Data Quality in Citizen Science](#). Wilson Center.

- He, Y., Sloan, M. (2017). [Future Frontiers for U.S. Federal Science and Technology Leadership](#). Wilson Center.

Working Papers:

- He, Y., Tritto, A. Greenfield Smart Cities in Myanmar: Politics and Techniques of Pipe Dreams.
- He, Y., Chen, S.H., Gong, X. The Geopolitics of Biotech Innovation for Small Powers: Cases of Taiwan and Singapore.
- Tyralla, M., He, Y. From the Evisceration of the HTCI to the Watering Down of BEPS 2.0: The Evolving Impact of Neoliberalism on Global Tax Governance.

GRANTS & HONORS

Research Grants:

- University of Kentucky UKinSPIRE (Seeding Partnerships for International Research Engagement) Grant, PI, “How the Governance of Standards and Geopolitics Shape Competition in the Global Economy” (2024-26)
- University of Kentucky CURATE (Celebrating University Research Across the Enterprise) Research Grant, PI, “Cross-border Partnerships for Innovation in Smart City Development: The Case of China’s Greater Bay Area” (2025-26)
- University of Kentucky Gaines Humanities Cooperatives, “Mapping the Affective, Rhetorical, Socio-cultural, and Symbolic Dimensions of Global Cities” (2025-26, PI: Charlie Yi Zhang, Michael Samers)
- Social Science Research Council Abe Fellows Network Collaborative Grant, Co-Investigator, “Data Governance for Innovation for Sustainable Smart Cities: A Comparative Analysis of Japan, the United States, and China” (2024-25, PI: Masaru Yarime)
- University of Kentucky CURATE (Celebrating University Research Across the Enterprise) Research Grant, PI, “Rise of the Rest? Examining China’s Role in Global Internet Governance” (2024-25)
- University of Kentucky CURATE (Celebrating University Research Across the Enterprise) Research Grant, PI, “Managing Biotech Innovation in an Era of New Geopolitics for Small Economies in East Asia” (2023-24)
- HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Research Grant, Co-Investigator, “Manufacturing Powerhouse or Technology Playground? Unpacking the Varieties of Industrial Parks in ASEAN” (2022-24, PI: Angela Tritto)
- HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Research Grant, Co-Investigator, “Champions of Disruption or Status Quo Powers? Examining the Complex Roles of China and India in Global Tax Governance” (2020-23, PI: Michael Tyralla)
- HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies Research Grant, Co-Investigator, “Examining the Role of Chinese Investors in ASEAN’s Sustainable Development” (2019-22, PI: Angela Tritto, Dini Sejko)
- University of Chicago Center in Beijing New Generation China Scholar, “Environmental Governance through State Reregulation: The Case of China’s Rare Earth Industry” (2012-13)
- Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Grant, PI, “Re-control the Market for Strategic Power: China’s Reregulation of Its Rare Earth Industry” (2012)
- George Washington University Center for International Business Education and Research Summer Doctoral Fellow, “The Trade-Security Nexus and U.S. Policy Making in Critical Minerals” (2012)

Honors:

- Georgia Tech School of International Affairs Outstanding Graduate Student (2014)
- Georgia Tech Research and Innovation Conference Outstanding Poster Presentation (2012)
- Georgia Tech Sam Nunn Security Program Fellow (2009-10)
- National Natural Science Foundation of China Fund for Fostering Talents in Basic Science (2007-08)
- Peking University Mingde Scholarship (2005-09), Academic Excellence Award (2005-08), Fieldwork Excellence Award (2008), President’s Undergraduate Research Award (2007-08)

Travel Grants:

- International Studies Association Annual Conference Travel Grant (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2023)

- Sustainable Energy Fund Energypath Conference Scholarship (2015)
- Georgia Tech Research Corporation Ivan Allen College Student Travel Grant (2012, 2014, 2015)
- Georgia Tech Student Government Association Graduate Conference Fund (2012, 2014, 2015)
- Georgia Tech School of International Affairs Summer Grants (2010, 2012, 2015)
- Gordon Research Conference and Seminar on Science and Technology Policy Travel Grant (2012)
- University of Chicago Atomic Age Fukushima Symposium Scholar (2012)
- Georgia Tech Anne Robinson Clough International Student Scholarship (2010, 2012)
- International Studies Association-South Annual Conference Travel Grant (2010)

Professional Training:

- Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) College and University Educators Workshop (2023)
- North Carolina State University Building Future Faculty Program (2014)
- National Committee on US-China Relations US Foreign Policy Colloquium (2010)

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference (2012-2015, 2021-2026)
- UC Berkeley “Digital Statecraft and Political Economy in China” Workshop (2026)
- University of Virginia Digital Technology for Democracy Lab (2026)
- University of Kentucky Annual Global Fair (2026)
- HKUST Division of Public Policy (2025)
- Chinese Internet Research Conference (2023, 2025)
- Royal Geographical Society Digital Geographies Research Group Annual Symposium (2025)
- University of Kentucky “How Digital Standards and Geopolitics Shape Competition and Collaboration in the Global Economy” Workshop (2025)
- Politics and Governance “The Geopolitics of Transnational Data Governance” Workshop (2025)
- The New School India China Institute “US-China Technology Rivalry and Its Global Implications” Seminar (2024)
- LSE “Digital China in the Global South: Opportunities, Frictions and Future Trajectories” Workshop (2024)
- Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Conference (2024)
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Conference (2023, 2024)
- Socio-Economic Review “Global governance and the emergence of a post-neoliberal order?” Workshop (2024)
- HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies (2019, 2023)
- University of Macau Department of Government and Public Administration (2023)
- Politics of Emerging Technologies Mini-conference (2023)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference (2023)
- Asia-Pacific Public Policy Network Conference (2019, 2023)
- Industry Studies Association Annual Conference (2023)
- S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (2023)
- Review of International Political Economy Journal Early Career Workshop (2023)
- Georgia Tech Sam Nunn School of International Affairs (2023)
- Transylvania University Asian Studies Program (2023)
- Global TechMining Conference (2022)
- University of Manchester “China’s Digital Expansion in the Global South” Workshop (2022)
- Institute for Development Studies “Inclusive Fintech in China and Global Development” Seminar (2021)
- Development Studies Association (DSA) Annual Conference (2021)
- University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy (2021)
- National University of Singapore “Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: Alternative Imaginaries of China’s Presence in Southeast Asia in Contemporary Contexts” Workshop (2020)
- HKUST Trade and Investment under the Belt and Road Initiative Conference (2020)

- Americas Conference on Information Systems (2020)
- United Nations University Institute in Macau (2019)
- French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC)-HKUST “Chinese Global Engagement Abroad: Changing Social, Economic and Political Configurations” Conference (2019)
- Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE) International Conference on Digital Transformation for Finance and Economics (2019)
- Hong Kong Political Science Association Annual Conference (2018)
- Atlantic Council Brownbag Talk (2018)
- ISA Science, Technology & Art in International Relations Working Group (2015)
- Academy for Co-creative Education of Environment and Energy Science (ACEEES) International Education Forum on Environment and Energy Science (2014)
- Association for Asian Studies-Southeast Annual Conference (2014)
- American Association for Chinese Studies Annual Conference (2014)
- University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus School of International Studies (2013)
- Academy of International Business-Southeast Annual Conference (2013)
- Georgia Tech Division of Professional Practice (2013)
- ISA International Political Economy of Resources Working Group (2013)
- Worldwatch Institute (2012)
- China Goes Global Conference (2012)
- Gordon Research Conference on Science & Tech Policy (2012)
- Georgia Tech Research and Innovation Conference (2011, 2012)
- Georgia International Leadership Conference (2011)
- International Studies Association-South Annual Conference (2010)

MEDIA APPEARANCE

- Packer, H. (2024). [Can Alibaba’s university courses help China outpace the West?](#). Times Higher Education.
- Lopez, E.C. (2021). [Fintech firms are blossoming in the Philippines, helping MSMEs prosper](#). KrASIA.
- Hornby, L. & Sanderson, H. (2019). [Rare earths: Beijing threatens a new front in the trade war](#). Financial Times.
- Halder, B. (2018). [Beijing Set to Transform Itself Into a Tech Capital](#). OZY.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Kentucky 2020-Present

Instructor, Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce (MA program)

- “International Science & Tech Policy”, each Spring, [DIP 780 Intl S&T Policy course syllabus](#)
- “Economic Statecraft”, each Fall, [DIP 720 Economic statecraft syllabus](#)
- “Research Methods in International Relations”, each Fall, [DIP 777 research methods syllabus](#)
- CFR [Higher Education Ambassador](#) (2024-25)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Co-Instructor & Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) 2010 – 2015

Completed Georgia Tech-NSF Tech to Teaching Intermediate Certificate in Higher Education

- “International Political Economy” (undergrad), GTA, Spring 2014
- “Science, Tech and International Affairs” (undergrad), GTA, Fall 2013
- “Intro to International Relations” (undergrad), GTA, Fall 2014
- “Intro to Comparative Politics” (undergrad), Co-instructor, Spring 2014
- “Political Philosophies & Ideologies” (undergrad), GTA, Spring 2011, Spring 2012
- “Great Power Relations” (undergrad), GTA, Summer 2010, Spring 2012
- “Research Methods” (undergrad), GTA, Fall 2010, Spring & Fall 2011, Spring 2015

- “Research Methods” (grad), GTA, Fall 2010, Fall 2011
- “American Government” (undergrad), GTA, Spring & Summer 2010

Guest Lectures:

- Middlebury Institute of International Studies “How China is Changing the World” Course (2023)
- Nanyang Technological University “Globalization and Development” Course (2023)
- Nanyang Technological University “Regional Integration in the World Economy” Course (2023)
- Georgia Tech “Science Tech and International Affairs” Course (2023)
- Georgia Tech “International Business” Course (2021)
- HKUST “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Social Science Perspectives” Course (2019)
- National Chiao Tung University Taiwan “Research Methods” course (2014)
- Georgia State University “Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems” course (2012)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for journals (in alphabetical order)

AI & Society; Asia Europe Journal; Asia Policy; Big Data & Society; Cambridge Forum on Technology and Global Affairs; Communication & Society; Finance and Space; Financial Innovation; Georgetown Journal of International Affairs; Global Policy; International Affairs; International Journal of Emerging Markets; International Relations; Learning, Media and Technology; The Extractive Industries and Society; The Information Society; The Pacific Review; Third World Quarterly; World Review of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development

Reviewer for policy publications

UN Global Pulse (2019); National Geographic Society (2019); UN Commission for Social Development (2017); World Wildlife Fund (2016)

Professional societies

ISA Science Tech and Arts in International Relations (STAIR) Section Executive Team Member, Communications Officer, Best Graduate Paper Committee (2025-)

Conferences

Conference organizer

“How Digital Standards and Geopolitics Shape Competition and Collaboration in the Global Economy” Workshop, also part of the AAS Southeast Annual Conference, Co-organizer (2025)

Panel chair

ISA Annual Conference (2024); AAS Annual Conference (2023)

Discussant

ISA Annual Conference (2026); LSE “Digital China in the Global South” Workshop (2024)

Reviewer

China Goes Global Conference (2012)

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

International partnerships:

- Spearheaded research collaboration with HKUST Division of Public Policy (2024-)
- Spearheaded MOU partnership agreement with United Nations University Institute in Macau (2022-)

Student committee memberships:

University of Kentucky

- Patterson School: Comprehensive Exam Committee member for MA students every semester;
- Department of Geography PhD Committees: Sanjana Krishnan (2022-25), Michael McCanless (2023-25);
- Department of Political Science PhD Committees: Jingwen Wu (2023-24);

Events:

- Patterson School Speakers Series: invited and hosted 30+ guest talks
- Patterson School Annual Conference: moderated commerce sessions every year
- Patterson School summer reading book club, information sessions

Other Departmental Service:

- Patterson School Search Committee for Clinical Professor (2024-2025), Director (2023-2024);

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native), English (fluent)