Zheng Zhou

Address: 27, rue Saint Guillaume, 75007, Paris

sisyphus-zhou.com   +33 0744719908   zheng.zhou@sciencespo.fr

RESEARCH STATEMENT

◆ I study how perceived social exclusion and identity-based threats fuel political radicalization and erode democratic legitimacy. My research centers on identity anxiety and symbolic threat as psychological mechanisms driving far-right support and undermining ontological security. At its core, my research asks how exclusion-induced identity anxiety reshapes political behavior across levels, from individual attitudes to public trust and collective alignment, as well as public responses to international crises and territorial disputes under identity threat. Drawing on comparative public opinion surveys, I investigate how historical cognition and economic precarity interact with political dissonance to generate nationalist backlash, especially in contexts of social duress.

◆ Methodologically, I integrate causal inference techniques, formal modeling, and survey experiments with visual and computational analysis. My research traces how emotion, belief, and information environments jointly structure political behavior and collective alignments under social duress.

◆ **Primary fields:** Political psychology; nationalism and identity; far-right politics; ontological security

◆ **Methods:** Causal inference; survey and experimental design; formal modeling; mixed and visual analysis

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

Sciences Po (Institut d'études politiques de Paris)   **Paris, France**   *08/2024-Expected 06/2026*

Major: Master of Research in Political Science (General Track)

GPA: 16.8/20

Southeast University (SEU)   **Nanjing, Jiangsu, China**   *08/2019-06/2023*

Major: Bachelor of Laws in Political Science & Public Administration

GPA: 3.73/4.0(WES), 88.79/100

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Quantitative Research Training Certificate (Python-based data analysis and text mining methods)

ISSS, Peking University   *05/2024*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Under Review

◆ Patriotism or Pressure? Public Opinion and China's Ontological Security in the South China Sea Dispute *(APSA 2025 Panelist)*

◆ Dissonance or Dialogue? Divergent Korean Public and State Views on Japan Ties *(APSA 2025 Panelist)*

◆ From Exclusion to Radicalization: Identity Anxiety and Far-Right Support in Post-COVID Europe *(European Social Survey Student Contest)*

◆ Research on China's High-Speed Rail Investment in Southeast Asia from the Perspective of Power Asymmetry *(ISA 2025 Panelist)*

Working Papers

◆ Spectacle Sovereignty and Visual Dissent: COVID-19 Governance in China's Digital Public Sphere

◆ Too Familiar to See: Methodological Challenges in Studying Non-Movements during Chongqing's Lockdown

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◆ Fractured Sovereignty from Below: Grassroots Infrastructural Power in China's Zero-COVID Lockdowns

Works in Progress

◆ *Master's Dissertation:* A Dragon at the Water's Edge: Identity Anxiety and Hawkish Preferences in the Taiwan Strait

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

APSA Annual Meeting 2025 *(Vancouver, Canada, September 2025)*

◆ Dissonance or Dialogue? Divergent Korean Public and State Views on Japan Ties, Poster presentation, Division: Political Psychology

◆ Patriotism or Pressure? China's Ontological Security in the South China Sea Dispute, Paper presentation, Fields: Public Opinion, Political Psychology, International Security

ISA Annual Convention 2025 *(Chicago, USA, March 2025)*

◆ Research on China's High-Speed Rail Investment in Southeast Asia from the Perspective of Power Asymmetry, Panel: Changing Dynamics of Chinese Foreign Policy: From Technology to Trade

HONOURS & AWARDS

Sciences Po Research Award *(2 awards, €2,000 total)*	*2024-2025*
France Excellence China: Social Security Scholarship, *Campus France*	*2024-2025*
Outstanding Graduate, *Southeast University*	*2023*
First Class Scholarship (Top 5% in university), *Southeast University*	*2022-2023*

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Statistical Analysis	R, STATA, Python, SPSS, Mplus
Causal Inference & Modeling	Difference-in-Differences, LASSO, Interaction Models, Mediation Analysis, Generalized Additive Models, Monte Carlo Simulation, Game-theoretic Modeling
Mixed Methods	NVivo, Visual Coding, Content Analysis, Absence Ethnography, Survey Design
Languages & Standardized Tests	Mandarin: (native) English: IELTS 7.5 (Listening: 7.5 | Reading: 8.5 | Writing: 6.5 | Speaking: 6.5) GRE: 325 (Verbal: 160 | Quantitative: 165 | AWA: 3.5) French & Japanese: Intermediate

REFERENCES

Kevin Arceneaux	**Damien Bol**	**Romain Lachat**
Professor of Political Science	Assistant Professor of Political Science	Associate Professor of Political Science
Director of the CEVIPOF	Researcher at CEVIPOF	Associate Professor at CEVIPOF
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