

Zhanyang Liu

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Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI Aug. 2025
Ph.D. in Political Science

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Aug. 2022–May 2025
M.S. in Information (Data Science & Big Data Analytics) — M.A. in International & Regional Studies (MENA)

Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China Sept. 2018–July 2022
B.A. in Modern Hebrew — *Study Abroad*: Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Oct. 2020–July 2021)

Skills

Technical Skills:

- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, SQL, \LaTeX
- **Statistical Analysis:** Multiple regression, time series analysis, hypothesis testing, causal inference
- **Machine Learning:** XGBoost, LightGBM, Random Forest, K-means, hierarchical clustering, PCA, t-SNE
- **Natural Language Processing:** NLTK, spaCy, Transformers, topic modeling
- **Data Visualization:** Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly, ggplot2
- **Data Engineering:** Data cleaning, feature engineering, ETL pipelines

Language Skills:

- Chinese (Native)
- English (Proficient)
- Hebrew (Proficient)
- Modern Standard Arabic (Fluent)
- Levantine Arabic (Intermediate)

Professional Experience

The Jewish-Arab Center, Haifa, Israel — *Visiting Researcher* May–Aug. 2023

- Conducted ethnographic research on Arab participation in 2023 judicial protests via 50+ interviews with organizers, politicians, and community members
- Developed mixed-methods research design combining participant observation, interviews, and discourse analysis
- Co-authored INSS policy report analyzing factors affecting Arab citizens' participation in nationwide demonstrations

Institute for National Security Studies, Tel-Aviv, Israel — *Research Analyst* May–Aug. 2023

- Chaired and co-authored INSS position paper "What Deters the Arab Population from the Protests?"
- Executed end-to-end data analysis using R for research reports involving 20 expert interviews
- Applied data-driven methodologies to extract insights and develop policy recommendations

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI — *Graduate Student Instructor, Anthropology* Aug.–Dec. 2023

- Facilitated discussion sessions for 60 students emphasizing data-driven problem-solving approaches
- Designed comprehensive lecture materials and provided personalized academic writing support

Middle Eastern Studies Newsletter, Shanghai, China — *Contributing Editor* Jan.–Sep. 2023

- Authored weekly MENA region reports employing data analysis for economic, political, and social insights
- Co-authored chapter "Geographical Location of Morocco" incorporating data-driven research methodologies

Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Beijing, China — *Communications Intern* June–Aug. 2021

- Analyzed user engagement patterns across social media platforms to optimize policy content strategy
- Implemented data-driven approaches to enhance content curation and social media scheduling

Publications

The Country Geography of Morocco Beijing, China
Co-Author Expected Publication Date: Dec. 2025

- Collaborated with scholars to write a chapter titled "Geographical Location of Morocco."

- "What Deters the Arab Population from the Protests? Arab Citizens of Israel on the Judicial Overhaul Protests"

Awards & Fellowships

- Mahfoud Bennoune Memorial Thesis Award, CMENAS, University of Michigan (2024–25)
- MIRS Fellowship, University of Michigan (2023–2024)
- Rackham International Research Awards, University of Michigan
- MIRS International Travel Grant, University of Michigan
- Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Financial Fellowship, University of Michigan
- MIRS Fellowship, University of Michigan (2022–2023)