

YA-WEN LEI

Harvard University
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EMPLOYMENT

Harvard University, Department of Sociology

Professor July 2023 – present
Associate Professor July 2020 – June 2023
Assistant Professor July 2016 – June 2020
– Faculty Affiliate: Asia Center; Committee on Degrees in Social Studies; Committee on Regional Studies
East Asia; Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies; Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

Sciences Po, Centre d'études européennes and Centre de recherches internationales

Visiting Professor September 2018 – June 2019

Harvard University, Society of Fellows

Junior Fellow July 2013 – June 2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Michigan 2007 – 2013

– Committee: Greta Krippner (Chair), Mark Mizruchi, Peggy Somers, Yu Xie, and Mary Gallagher

– Dissertation: “Uncovering the Roots of the Nationwide Counterpublic Sphere in China”

*** Winner of the 2014 American Sociological Association Best Dissertation Award**

J.S.D., Yale Law School 2006 – 2011

– Dissertation: “Twin Challenges to Legitimacy: China’s Informal Handset Industry Economy in the Globalized Knowledge and Information Economy”

M.A., Sociology, University of Michigan 2007 – 2009

LL.M., Yale Law School 2005 – 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political sociology; sociology of media and information technologies; law and society; sociology of work and labor, development; economic sociology; science and technology studies; Chinese studies

BOOKS

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2023. *The Gilded Cage: Technology, Development, and State Capitalism in China*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (Publication Date: Nov 21, 2023).

– Bronze medal, 2024 Axiom Business Book Award, the International Business/Globalization category

- 2024 Max Weber Book Award, Organizations, Occupations, and Work (OOW) section of the American Sociological Association, Honorable Mention
- 2024 Asia/Transnational Book Award, Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2024 Best Book Award, Communication, Information Technologies, and Media (CITAMS) of the American Sociological Association
- 2024 Robert K. Merton Book Award, Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKT) of the American Sociological Association
- 2024 Walter Channing Cabot Fellowships, Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2018. *The Contentious Public Sphere: Law, Media, and Authoritarian Rule in China*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- 2018 Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Law Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2018 Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award, Human Rights Section of the American Sociological Association
- Reviews: *American Journal of Sociology*; ASA Section on Human Rights Newsletter Fall 2018; *Choice*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Foreign Affairs*; *Governance*; *Pacific Affairs*; *The China Journal*; *The China Quarterly*; *Taiwanese Sociology*

EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES

Hoang, Kimberly Kay, Jessica Cobb, and Ya-Wen Lei (2017). De-centering ‘Globalized’ Asia, *positions: asia critique*, Duke University Press.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Lei, Ya-Wen and Kim, Rachel. 2024. “Automation and Augmentation: AI, Robots, and Work.” *Annual Review of Sociology*.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2022. “Upgrading China through Automation: Manufacturers, Workers and the Techno-Developmental State.” *Work, Employment and Society* 36(6):1078–1096.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2021a. “Delivering Solidarity: Platform Architecture and Collective Contention in China’s Platform Economy.” *American Sociological Review* 86(2):279-309.

- 2022 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2022 The W. Richard Scott Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Organizations, Occupations and Work of the American Sociological Association, Honorable Mention
- 2022 The Law and Society Association Article Prize, Honorable Mention
- 2021 Best Paper Award, Communication, Information, Technologies, and Media Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2021b. “Publics, Scientists and the State: Mapping the Global Human Genome Editing Controversy.” *The China Quarterly* 246:400-27.

- 2021 The Gordon White Prize. The Gordon White Prize is awarded annually for the most original article published in *The China Quarterly*.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2020. "Revisiting China's Social Volcano: Attitudes toward Inequality and Political Trust in China." *Socius* 6:1-21. doi: 10.1177/2378023120915382.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2018. "Social Protest under Hard Authoritarianism." *China Leadership Monitor*, 58(4), 1-10.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2018. "What Should We Know about Public Opinion in China?" Pp. 43-50 in *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*, edited by M. Szonyi and J. Rudolph. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Hoang, K. K., Cobb, J., and Lei, Y. W. 2017. "Guest Editors' Introduction: Inter-Asian Capital Circulations, Cultural Transformations, and Methodological Positions." *positions: east asia cultures critique*, 25(4), 633-644.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2016. "Freeing the Press: How Field Environment Explains Critical News Reporting in China." *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(1), 1-48. Lead Article.

- 2017 Best Research Paper Award, the Asia and Asian American Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2017 Best Paper Award, Communication, Information, Technologies, and Media Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association, Honorable Mention
- 2012 Outstanding Student Paper Award, The Section on Communication and Information Technologies, American Sociological Association
- 2012 Graduate Student Paper Award, The Section on Human Rights, American Sociological Association
- 2012 Katherine Luke Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan

Lei, Ya-Wen and Zhou, D. Xiaodan. 2016. "Embedding Law into Politics in China's Networked Public Sphere." Pp. 106-128 in *The Internet, Social Media, and a Changing China*, edited by Jacques deLisle, Avery Goldstein, and Guobin Yang, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Lei, Ya-Wen and Zhou, D. Xiaodan. 2015. "Contesting Legality in Authoritarian Contexts: Food Safety, Rule of Law, and China's Networked Public Sphere." *Law and Society Review*, 49(3), 557-593. Lead Article.

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2011. "The Political Consequences of the Rise of the Internet: Political Beliefs and Practices of Chinese Netizens." *Political Communication*, 28(3), 291-322.

- The First Prize in the Graduate Student Paper Competition of the 37th Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy

Lei, Ya-Wen. 2004. "Cyberlaw Special Report." *Technology Law Review*, 1, 1-45 (in Chinese).

SELECTED RECENT INVITED TALKS

"The Gilded Cage: Technology, Development, and State Capitalism in China"

- Koç University, May 2024.
- The Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, April 2024.
- Simon Fraser University, Smythe Memorial Lecture, March 2024.
- The Asian Studies Development Program National Conference, Keynote Speaker, March 2024.
- Princeton University, Fung Global Fellows Program, February 2024.
- University of Michigan, Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, January 2024.
- National Taiwan University, Department of Sociology, January 2024 (scheduled).
- King's College London, November 2023.

- University of Oxford, Oxford Internet Institute, November 2023.
- Microsoft New England Research and Development Center, November 2023.
- Rutgers University, Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies, November 2023.
- Berlin Contemporary China Network, November 2023.
- Stanford University, Management Science and Engineering, October 2023.
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute, April 2023.
- Harvard University, Dean's Symposium (invited by the Social Science Division Dean), March 2023.
- Wellesley College, East Asian Studies, March 2023.
- Georgetown University, Department of Sociology, Departmental Colloquium, January 2023.
- Boston College, Department of Sociology, Departmental Colloquium, November 2022.
- Duke Law School, November 2022.
- Princeton University, Center on Contemporary China, November 2022.
- Columbia University, Department of Sociology, Departmental Colloquium, October 2022.
- Harvard University, Department of Sociology, Culture, History, and Society Workshop, October 2022.
- University of Chicago, Department of Sociology, Departmental Colloquium, April 2022 (zoom).
- Brown University, Waston Institute, March 2022.
- Harvard Kennedy School of Government, The Program on Science, Technology and Society, March 2022 (zoom).
- Workshop co-hosted by the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University and the East Asian Studies (SEAS) at Freie Universität Berlin, December 2021 (zoom).
- Harvard Law School, East Asian Legal Studies, February 2021 (zoom).