

# Yifei Li

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 - now     *Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies*, New York University Shanghai  
                  *Global Network Assistant Professor*, Department of Environmental Studies, New York University
- 2020 - 2021     *Residential Fellow*, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (declined; covid)
- 2016 - 2017     *Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow*, New York University Shanghai
- 2013 - 2016     *Lecturer of Community & Environmental Sociology*, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## EDUCATION

- 2016, *Doctor of Philosophy*, Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2011, *Master of Science*, Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2009, *Bachelor of Law*, Sociology & Diplomacy, Fudan University
- 2008, *Universitas 21 Exchange Student*, Sociology & Public Policy, University of Nottingham

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

- Li, Yifei.** (In Preparation). *Environmentalism Of, By, and For the Chinese State*.
- Li, Yifei** and Judith Shapiro. 2020. *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet*. Cambridge, UK: Polity.
- \*Promoted by [Harvard University](#), [Woodrow Wilson Center](#), [Chicago Council on Global Affairs](#), etc.
- \*Reviewed in [Governance](#), [Environmental Politics](#), [Journal of Political Ecology](#), [Green European Journal](#), etc.
- \*Featured on [NPR](#), [The Economist](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), [Sinica](#), [China Dialogue](#), [South China Morning Post](#), etc.

### *Refereed Articles and Chapters*

- Li, Yifei** and Judith Shapiro. 2021 "Rethinking Extractivism on China's Belt and Road: Food, Tourism, and Talent." in *Our Extractive Age: Expressions of Violence and Resistance*, edited by Judith Shapiro and John-Andrew McNeish. Routledge.
- Li, Yifei** and Xiaohua Zhong. 2020. "'For the People' without 'By the People': People and Plans in Shanghai's Waterfront Development." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 1-13.
- Li, Yifei** and Gary Paul Green. 2020. "Green Economies and Community Wellbeing." in *The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Sociology*, edited by M. Bell, M. Carolan, K. Legun, and Julie Keller. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Li, Yifei.** 2019. "Qi." Pp. 215-25 in *An Ecotopian Lexicon*, edited by M. Schneider-Mayerson and B. R. Bellamy. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Li, Yifei.** 2019. "Bureaucracies Count: Environmental Governance through Goal-Setting and Mandate-Making in Contemporary China." *Environmental Sociology* 5(1):12-22.
- Zinda, John Aloysius, **Yifei Li**, and John Chung-En Liu. 2018. "China's Summons for Environmental Sociology." *Current Sociology* 66(6):867-85.
- Guttman, Dan, Oran Young, Yijia Jing, Barbara Bramble, Maoliang Bu, Carmen Chen, Kathinka Furst, Tao Hu, **Yifei Li**, Kate Logan, Lingxuan Liu, Lydia Price, Michael Spencer, Sangwon Suh, Xiaopu Sun, Bowen Tan, Harold Wang, Xin Wang, Juan Zhang, Xinxin Zhang, and Rodrigo Zeidan. 2018. "Environmental Governance in China: Interactions between the State and 'Nonstate Actors.'" *Journal of Environmental Management* 220:126-35.
- Li, Yifei.** 2014. "Sustainable Cities in Flux: Continuity, Comparisons, and Conceptions." Pp. 7-31 in *From Sustainable to Resilient Cities: Global Concerns and Urban Efforts*. Vol. 14, *Research in Urban Sociology*, edited by W. G. Holt. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- \*Winner of 2015 Emerald Literati Network Outstanding Author Contribution Award

Li, Yifei. 2012. "Environmental State in Transformation: The Emergence of Low-Carbon Development in Urban China." Pp. 221-46 in *Urban Areas and Global Climate Change*. Vol. 12, *Research in Urban Sociology*, edited by W. G. Holt. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

#### *Non-Refereed Contributions*

Li, Yifei. 2021. "China's Glorious Green Dreams." *Issues in Science and Technology*, XXXVII (2), Winter. Available online at <https://issues.org/section/forum/>

Li, Yifei and Judith Shapiro. 2021. "Environmentalism With Chinese Characteristics." *Noema Magazine*, January 12. Available online at <https://www.noemamag.com/environmentalism-with-chinese-characteristics/>

Li, Yifei and Judith Shapiro. 2020. "The High Stakes and Pitfalls of China's Drive for Carbon Leadership." *South China Morning Post*, October 31. Available online at <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3107503/high-stakes-and-pitfalls-chinas-drive-carbon-leadership>

Li, Yifei. 2020. "The Promise of Whistleblowing in China." Accountability Research Center, American University. Available online at <https://accountabilityresearch.org/the-promise-of-whistleblowing-in-china/>

Li, Yifei. 2020. "Coronavirus as Alibi for the Surveillance State." *Contexts*. Available online at <https://contexts.org/blog/covid-19-impact-on-asia-and-beyond/#li>

Li, Yifei. 2018. *Teacher's Guide for "Under the Dome: Investigating China's Smog."* Vancouver: Global Environmental Justice Documentaries Project. Available online at <https://gej.docuseek2.com/gj-032a>

Green, Gary P. and Yifei Li. 2012. "Green Collar Jobs." Pp. 177-180 in *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability: Assessing Sustainability Volume 7, China, India, and East and Southeast Asia*, edited by S. Geall, J. Liu and S. Pellissery. Great Barrington, Massachusetts: Berkshire Publishing Group.

Li, Yifei. 2012. "Low-Carbon Development and Poverty in Urban China." Pp. 21-39 in *Changing Cities: Change Climate, Youth, and Land Markets in Urban Areas: A New Generation of Ideas.*, edited by L.E. Herzer. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Li, Yifei. 2012. *Essential Buildings: The Emergence of "Low-Carbon Cities" in Post-Industrial Urban China*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Institute for Building Efficiency.

Li, Yifei. and Julia Currie. 2011. *Green Buildings in China: Conception, Codes and Certification*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Institute for Building Efficiency.

#### **EXTRAMURAL FUNDING**

2020. "Down to Earth: Authoritarian Environmentalism and the Quest for Good Governance in the Age of Global China," residential fellowship awarded by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, declined due to covid.

2019. "Emergence of the Environmental State under Authoritarianism," 3,695,737 Danish Krone, or 544,395 USD, awarded by the Danish Research Council under Grant 9038-00138B, Co-PI.

2019. "Rural Collective Land Development Rights and Responsibilities: Financing Models and Socio-ecological Impacts," 200,000 RMB, awarded by the National Social Science Fund of China under Grant 19CSH046, Co-PI.

2018. "Public Space, Waterfront Development, and Inclusive Urban Development along the Huangpu River in Shanghai," 50,000 RMB, awarded by the Shanghai Institute for Global City Research, Co-PI.

2017. "Ecological Civilization, Belt and Road, and China's Role in Global Environmental Governance," 100,000 RMB, awarded by the Shanghai Pujiang Talent Plan under Grant 17PJC073, PI.

2016. "Global Shanghai: Historical and Cultural Heritages," 150,000 RMB, awarded by the Development Research Center of Shanghai Municipality, Co-PI.

2013, "Down to Earth: Bureaucracy, Populism, and Local Environmental Governance in China," 11,981 USD, awarded by the United States National Science Foundation under Dissertation Improvement Grant SES-1334870, Co-PI.

#### **EXTRAMURAL AWARDS**

2017, Development Research Award, Second Rank, Shanghai Municipal Government

2015, Yu Chi-Chung Scholarship for Dissertation Research, China Times Cultural Foundation

2015, Outstanding Author Contribution Award, Emerald Literati Network  
2014, New Generation China Scholar Award, University of Chicago Center in Beijing  
2009, Boeing Fellowship  
2009, Shanghai College Graduate of the Year Award, Shanghai Municipal Government  
2008, Hang Seng Student Leader Scholarship, University of Hong Kong  
2007, Samsung Scholarship

### INTERNAL AWARDS

2020, Summer Research Grant, NYU Center for Environmental and Animal Protection  
2016, Kolb Dissertation Award, Department of Community & Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2016 & 2012, Graduate Academic Achievement Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2013, Departmental Nominee, Richard M. Heins Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship  
2013, Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2013, A. Eugene Havens Award for Development Scholars, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2011, Evelyn T. Crowe Master's Thesis Research Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### *New York University Shanghai*

SOCS-SHU 135 Environment and Society (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)  
SOCS-SHU 235 Nature in Social Thought (Spring 2018; Spring 2019)  
SOCS-SHU 333 Global Environmental Politics (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020)  
SOCS-SHU 360 Urban Sociology (Spring 2019)  
SOCS-SHU 401 Environmental Studies Capstone (Spring 2020)

#### *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

SOC 140 Introduction to Community & Environmental Sociology (Fall 2013, Spring 2015)  
SOC 248 Environment, Natural Resources, and Society (Spring 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

### INVITED TALKS

April 2021. Keynote Speaker at the *Pluralizing the Anthropocene* webinar, University of Coimbra, Portugal.  
February 2021. *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet* book talk at the Berkeley Law School and California-China Climate Institute.  
January 2021. *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet* book talk at Antioch University, Keene, New Hampshire.  
December 2020. *Contested Waters: China-India Environmental Politics on the Roof of the World* at the Geopolitics and Ecology of Himalayan Water Project, Abu Dhabi.  
November 2020. *Is Coercive Environmentalism the Answer?* live interview at the SupChina NEXTChina Conference.  
November 2020. *Authoritarian Environmentalism and Chinese Ecological Civilization*, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
October 2020. *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet* book talk at the Wisconsin China Initiative, Madison, Wisconsin.  
September 2020. *Green Authoritarianism* at the 21st Century China Center, UC San Diego, San Diego, California.  
July 2019. *China's Green Dictatorship: State-led Environmentalism for a Planet on the Brink* at the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York City.  
May 2019. *(Un?)Charted Waters: Hydraulic Infrastructures in Zaanheh and Shanghai* at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies of Kyoto University.  
March 2019. *Bureaucracies Count: Environmental Governance through Goal-setting and Mandate-making in Contemporary China* at the School of International Service of American University in Washington, D.C.  
March 2019. *Scaling China's Waste Mountains: Potential Governance Reforms to Address Solid and Hazardous Waste* at the Environmental Law Institute and the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

- October 2018. *Greening the Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI) and Global Environmental Politics in the Age of Global China* at the NYUAD Social Science Colloquium in Abu Dhabi.
- May 2018. *Bureaucracies Count: Environmental Governance through Goal-setting and Mandate-making in Contemporary China* at Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing.
- February 2018. *The Inadvertent Civil Space: Sichuan 2008 Earthquake Recovery and Its Durable Aftermath* at the Rachel Carson Center “Transformations in Environment and Society” workshop in Abu Dhabi.
- May 2016. *Towards Earthly Diplomacy: Disengaged Environmentalism in Transnational Development* at the 2016 Duck Family Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance at the University of Washington in Seattle.

### CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- April 2021. *Belts and Roads in Environmental Perspective* (with additional service as panel chair and organizer) at the NYU Center for Global Asia.
- November 2019. *Heavenly Compasses and Earthly Matrices: Interrogating the Ethics of Big Data Environmental Governance in the Age of Global China* (with additional service as panel chair and conference co-organizer) at the International Institute for Asian Studies Symposium on Ambivalent Infrastructures in Dimapur, India.
- October 2019. *(Un?)Charted: Hydraulic Infrastructures in Zaanheh and Shanghai* (with additional service as panel chair and discussant) at the Fifth Biennial Conference of East Asian Environmental History in Tainan, Taiwan.
- August 2019. *“For the People” without “By the People”: People and Plans in Shanghai’s waterfront development* at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association in New York City.
- May 2019. *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Environmental Governance in the Age of Global China* (with additional service as panel chair) at the NYU Center for Global Asia Annual Conference in New York City.
- March 2019. *Policy Entrepreneurship as Relational Boundary-Work: Evidence from Urban Community Governance in China* at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Denver.
- November 2018. *(Un?)Charted: Hydraulic Infrastructures in Zaanheh and Shanghai* (with additional service as conference co-organizer) at the International Symposium on Water Heritage in Asian Cities in Shanghai.
- June 2018. *Pride and Prejudice in China’s Pursuits of Ecological Civilization* at the Political Ecology Network Conference in Oslo, Norway.
- June 2018. *“For the People” without “By the People”: Exclusive Inclusion in Shanghai’s Waterfront Development* at the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Infrastructure History and the Social Sciences Conference in Venice.
- March 2018. *The Inadvertent Civil Space: Sichuan 2008 Earthquake Recovery and Its Durable Aftermath* at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D.C.
- October 2017. *Durable Impact of Disaster Relief on Civil Society in China: Case of Sichuan 2008 Earthquake* at the International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia in Taipei.
- March 2017. *Environmentalism of the Total: Quantitative Indicators and Authoritarian Rule in China’s Environmental Politics* at the International Studies Association’s Annual Convention 2017 in Baltimore.
- August 2016. *Accidental Participation: Post-Disaster Reconstruction and the Emergence of Participatory Planning in Southwest China* at the 33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing.
- May 2015. *The Pilot Contest: Bumpy Landing of Transnational Environmental Governance in Beijing* at the Annual Conference of the Sociology of Development section of the American Sociological Association in Providence, Rhode Island.
- July 2014. *Down To Earth: Environmental governance by the local state, for the national state, and with supra-national agencies* at the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama.
- July 2014. *Simplification Politics: Ascendance of Quantitative Indicators into State Affairs* at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Sociological Association in Wuhan, China.
- October 2013. *Down to Earth: Developmental Bureaucracy and Local Environmental Governance in China* at the Third Annual Conference of the Sociology of Development section of the American Sociological Association in Salt Lake City.
- March 2013. *Down to Earth: Bureaucratic Consistency and Local Environmental Governance in China* at the Annual Conference of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago.
- August 2012. *Growth Machine Refashioned: Case Study of Plastic Bag Ordinance in Marin County, California* at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association in Denver.

April 2012. *Environmental State in Transformation: The Emergence of Low-Carbon Development in Urban China* at the Annual Conference of the Urban Affairs Association in Pittsburgh.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

### *Article Manuscript Double-Blind Referee*

*American Journal of Sociology, Theory and Society, Geoforum, Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space, Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Development, Global Environmental Politics, Environmental Politics, Journal of Environment and Development, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, Modern China, Sage Open, Sociological Focus*

### *Book Manuscript Referee*

Palgrave, Polity, Springer Nature

### *External Referee*

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO; *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*), Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg (*Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg*)

### *Pro bono Service to the Nonprofit/Advocacy Community*

Brighter Green, The Good Food Institute, Rendu Ocean

## **MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS**

### *International Outlets*

The New York Times, NPR, The Economist, BBC World Service, Reuters, Le Monde, Financial Times, Bloomberg, AFP, Huffington Post, Slate, Quartz, South China Morning Post, Noema Magazine, China Dialogue, Sup China, MIT Technology Review

### *Local Venues*

Shanghai Foreign Correspondents Club, Sixth Tone, British Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, International Channel Shanghai, Shanghai Daily, NYU Shanghai Magazine