

Mariah Thornton

EDUCATION

Doctoral Candidate, LSE International Relations Department (Sep 2021—Sep 2025)

- Enrolled in a 4-year PhD programme at the LSE International Relations Department, fully funded by the Stonex Scholarship.
- Researching how Taiwan resists China's united front work in the form of disinformation and propaganda.
- Completed methodology modules on Discourse Analysis (MY528) and Case Study Analysis (MY525).

MSc in the Politics of China, SOAS, Distinction (Sep 2016—Sep 2017)

- Modules in China and International Politics, State and Society in the Chinese Political Process, Taiwan's Domestic Politics and Cross-Strait Relations, Dissertation (Distinction), Practical Translation: Chinese to English.

BA in Chinese, University of Oxford, High 2:1 (Oct 2011—Jun 2015)

- Modules in Chinese to English and English to Chinese translation, Classical Chinese translation, Interpreting, Contemporary Chinese History, Republican-era Literature and Dissertation (Distinction).
- Year abroad at Peking University from Sep 2012—Sep 2013, supported by the Fung Scholarship.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Thornton M (2025) Resisting disinformation: theorising whole-of-society and sociotechnical resistance. *European Journal of International Relations* [Unconditional Acceptance, Forthcoming].
- Kaul N and Thornton M (2025) [Construction and control of cartographic imaginaries: Kashmir and Taiwan](#). *Review of International Studies*. Cambridge University Press: pp. 1–35.
- Thornton (2024) [BECKERSHOFF, André. 2023. Social Forces in the Re-making of Cross-strait Relations: Hegemony and Social Movements in Taiwan. London: Routledge. China Perspectives](#). London: Routledge.
- Thornton M, Fell D, and Ash R (2021) [Taiwan's Economic and Diplomatic Challenges and Opportunities](#). London: Routledge.
- Thornton M (2021) “[Walking towards China or towards the world? Taiwan's international space under Ma Ying-jeou and Tsai Ing-wen](#)” in Thornton M, Fell D, and Ash R (eds) *Taiwan's Economic and Diplomatic Challenges and Opportunities*. London: Routledge.

THINK TANK REPORTS & MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Thornton M (2024) [Taiwan's 2024 election results: hard lessons in resisting disinformation](#). *LSE IDEAS*. 22 January.
- Thornton M (2023) [Countering United Front Work: Taiwan's Political Warfare System](#). Strategic Update, 21 March. LSE IDEAS.
- Thornton M (2022) [China's 20th Party Congress Escalates Cross-Strait Tensions](#). *The Diplomat*. 27 October.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

IR4A1: International Relations: Core Theories and Debates (Oct—Dec 2025)

- Teaching the mainstream theories of IR to MSc students, including constructivism, functionalism, realism, liberalism.
- Working with the course convenor to design seminar activities for active learning.

- Providing supervision to undergraduate students of IR on topics relating to Taiwan, China, and cross-Strait relations.

IR102: “Thinking Globally: Studying International Relations” (Oct—Nov 2023; Oct—Nov 2024)

- Introduced BSc IR students to International Relations as an academic discipline, its core concepts and theories, and the necessary skills to succeed in the programme.
- Worked with the course convenor to design lesson activities which helped students achieve the course’s intended learning outcomes as well as supported their work relating to IR101 and IR100.

IDEAS IR5: “Chinese Foreign Policy: Global Perspectives” (Jan—Mar 2024; Jan—Mar 2025)

- Taught final year undergraduates of IR in eleven seminars covering China’s relationship with the US, Southeast Asia, the Global South, its economic statecraft and foreign policy as well as cross-Strait relations.
- Designed simulations in which students took on the role of policymakers in a scenario relating to Chinese foreign policy, including a policy workshop to combat transnational disinformation campaigns.

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, LSE (July 2025)

- Awarded in completion of the Principles of Teaching Higher Education course.

Taiwan Fellowship Scholar, Center for Chinese Studies and National Cheng-chi University (15 Jun—18 Sep 2023)

- Awarded the Taiwan Fellowship for research on “[Authoritarian Interference and Democratic Resilience: How Taiwan’s Countermeasures Against Chinese Interference are Consolidating its Democracy](#)”

Level 5 Certificate, HSK Chinese Proficiency Test, Ministry of Education (Dec 2019)

- Listening and reading exam taken on 16 November 2019.

RESEARCH IMPACT

Presenter, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (10 Jan 2024)

- Presented research findings to FCDO officials for a training day on Chinese influence, co-organised by LSE IDEAS.

Presenter, Project on Taiwan in the Indo-Pacific (PTIP) Workshop, Hoover Institute (21 May 2023)

- Presented research findings in a working paper titled “Democratic Deterrence: Taiwan’s open source and algorithmic co-governance.”

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher, LSE IDEAS (Sep 2021—Sep 2025)

- Working as a researcher at LSE’s foreign policy think-tank, LSE IDEAS.
- Teaching seminars for “Chinese Foreign Policy: Global Perspectives”.
- Writing policy reports and media commentary relating to Taiwan and cross-Strait relations.

Deputy Editor, Millenium (October 2022—September 2024)

- Provided evaluations of whether manuscripts submitted met the journal’s standards and critical mandate.
- Attended editorial board meetings to scrutinise manuscripts for publication and vote in editorial decisions.
- Expanded the journal’s network of reviewers and visibility in the field of Chinese studies.

Press and Communications Adviser, Taipei Representative Office in the UK (TRO) (Feb 2018— Jun 2020)

- Wrote op-ed pieces for publication in UK newspapers, news releases, position papers for circulation, speeches for Taiwanese officials, letters of diplomatic correspondence and the TRO monthly newsletter (See “[Taiwan’s Response to Covid-19](#)”, *The Economist*; “[China’s authoritarian streak](#)”, *The Guardian*)
- Worked with the TRO’s Press, Political, Defense, and Administration Divisions to draft research reports on key developments in UK politics, foreign relations, and media.