

Research project summary:
The Political Economy of Systemic Risk in China
Project managed by:
Professor Jeffrey Chwieroth
Project outline:
<p>This project investigates the political economy of systemic risk in China. Recent events in China, most notably the intervention in Huarong Asset Management (China's largest distressed debt investor) and the unravelling of Evergrande (the world's largest property developer), underscore the fragilities present in China's financial markets. Most accounts highlight the role of narrow connected elite interests in shaping government policy. Yet recent interventions stand out because of the impact they have on households across the country, such as the 80,000 retail investors that hold more than \$6bn in high-yield wealth management products linked to Evergrande.</p> <p>Our research aims to explore the how mass politics in China, or more precisely, the preferences of the financialized middle class, play an important but under-appreciated part in shaping policy responses. Governments in such systems have thus become increasingly prone to undertake bailouts not solely due to strong links with narrow connected interests, but also to sustain their performance legitimacy in the eyes of this group whose rising wealth has become exposed to greater risk.</p>
What you will be expected to do:
<p>The UGRA will assist in the identification and collection of Chinese household wealth data for analysis.</p> <p>The UGRA will assist in the design of the survey instrument and its translation into Mandarin.</p> <p>The UGRA will assist in the coding of the survey in the Qualtrics platform.</p> <p>The UGRA will assist in working with survey providers to implement the survey in China.</p> <p>The UGRA will develop important skills in identifying appropriate methods of investigation and analysis, operationalizing and measuring key concepts, managing large scale databases, and interpreting and analyzing patterns and trends in data. The UGRA will be supported with regular meetings with the project supervisor (Chwieroth). The UGRA will deepen their skill set and strengthen their knowledge of conducting research via an iterative process.</p>
Desirable technical skills (e.g. language/tech skills)
Fluent Mandarin speaking and writing is essential. Previous experience with coding in Qualtrics survey platform is desirable (but not essential). Strong data management skills also desirable.
How many hours you will work overall, and per week (subject to variation)
100 total, 5 per week.
Can the project be undertaken remotely or do you have to be physically present at a specific location to carry out the work?
Student may undertaken the project remotely, though some face-to-face meetings would be desirable.