

Curriculum Vita 2026

John James Kennedy

Professor 1541 Lilac Lane, Lawrence, KS 66044-3177
University of Kansas e-mail: kennedy1@ku.edu
Department of Political Science telephone: (785) 864-9025
521 Blake Hall <https://www.johnjameskennedy.com>

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Davis, 2002
M.A. University of California, Davis, Political Science, 2000
B.A. University of California, Davis, Political Science, 1995
A.A. Sacramento Community College, Sacramento 1992

Professional Experience

Chair of Political Science Department 2021-
Director of the Center for East Asian Studies 2018-2021
Director of the Center for Global and International Studies, 2012-2015
Professor, University of Kansas, Spring 2019
Associate Professor, University of Kansas, Fall 2009-2018
Assistant Professor, University of Kansas, Fall 2003-2008
Carpenter 1980-1992

Books

John James Kennedy and Yaojiang Shi, *Lost and Found: the 'Missing Girls' in Rural China* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Refereed Journal Publications

Rigao Liu, William Hatungimana, Haruka Nagao, John James Kennedy “Perception of China in Zimbabwe: Influence of Partisanship and Media Exposure,” *Journal of Contemporary China* forthcoming 2026

Haruka Nagao, Rigao Liu, William Hatungimana, Leeann Youn, John James Kennedy, “Vaccine Diplomacy: The Politics of Covid-19 Vaccines in Zimbabwe,” *International Political Science Review* (2025)

Riago Liu, Haruka Nagao, John James Kennedy, “The Digital Side to Mental Health: Uncovering the Relationship Between Screen-Based Entertainment and Mental Well-Being Among Older Rural Residents in China.” *Social Indicators Research* (2025) Vol. 178, pages 117–135

Haruka Nagao, William Hatungimana, Rigao Liu, and John James Kennedy,
“A Party with China: Political Party Affiliation and Perceptions of China in African Countries” *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2025); 62(2):175-199

Rigao Liu, Haruka Nagao, William Hatungimana, Jiakun Jack Zhang, and John James Kennedy, “The Politics of Flu Vaccines: International Collaboration and Political Partisanship” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (2024)

John James Kennedy and Haruka Nagao, “The Rite to Vote: Community Interactions and Grassroots Voter Participation in China” *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (2021): 613-630.

John James Kennedy, Hongyan Liu and Haruka Nagao, “Voting and Values: Grassroots Elections in Rural and Urban China,” *Politics and Governance*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2018): 201-214

John James Kennedy and Chen Dan, “State Capacity and Cadre Mobilization in China: the Elasticity of Policy Implementation” *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 27, No. 111 (2018): 393-405.

John James Kennedy with Shi Yaojiang, “Delayed Registration and Identifying the ‘Missing Girls’ in China” *China Quarterly*, no. 228, (December, 2016)

Cai, Yong. “Missing Girls or Hidden Girls? A Comment on Shi and Kennedy's ‘Delayed Registration and Identifying the ‘Missing Girls’ in China’.” *The China Quarterly*, 231, (2017), 797-803.

John James Kennedy with Shi Yaojiang, “Missing Girls, Indirect Measures and Critical Assumptions: A Response to Yong Cai's Comments.” *The China Quarterly*, 231, (2017), 804-810.

John James Kennedy, “Finance and Rural Governance: Centralization and Local Challenges” special issue on China rural studies in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* Volume 40, Number 6, 1 (2013), pp. 1009-1026

John James Kennedy, “What is the Color of a Non-Revolution? Why the Jasmine Revolution and Arab Spring Did Not Spread to China,” Special Issue on the Arab Spring, *The Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*, vol. 13, no. 1, (Winter/Spring 2012)

John James Kennedy, “The Price of Democracy: Vote Buying and Village Elections in China” *Asian Politics and Policy*, vol 2, no. 4 (2010)

John James Kennedy, “Supply and Support for Grassroots Political Reform in Rural China”, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, vol. 16, no. 2 (2010)

John James Kennedy, “Legitimacy with Chinese Characteristics: ‘Two Increases, One Reduction’”, *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 18, no. 60 (2009)

John James Kennedy, “State Capacity and Support for Village Institutions in Rural Shaanxi” *China Information*, vol. 23, no. 3, (November, 2009)

John James Kennedy, “Popular Support and the Rural and Urban Divide in China: The Influence of Education and the State-Controlled Media” *Political Studies*, vol. 57, no. 3, (October, 2009)

John James Kennedy, “International Education and Developing Countries: Research and Educational Collaboration in the Field” *Journal of Political Science Education*, vol. 3, no. 3, (Fall 2007)

John James Kennedy, “From the Fee-for-Tax Reform to the Abolition of Agricultural Taxes: The Impact on Township Governments in Northwest China” *The China Quarterly*, vol. 189, (March 2007)

This paper was also honored with the Gordon White Prize for the most original article published in the *China Quarterly* in 2007.

John James Kennedy, “Bygone Days and Ballot Boxes: Previous Democratic Experience and Current Village Elections in Rural Northwest China” *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*, vol. 5, no. 1, (Spring 2006)

John James Kennedy, Scott Rozelle and Yaojiang Shi, “Elected Leaders and Collective Land: Farmers Evaluation of Village Leaders Performance in Rural China” *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, vol. 9, no. 1 (Spring 2004)

史耀疆, 高帆, 任保平, John James Kennedy, “中国农村民主选举中的提名方式及实施绩效分析,” (Analysis of policy implementation and the types of nominations in China’s village elections), 《管理世界》 (*Management World*), 2004 年, 第 1 期

史耀疆, 王生龙, John James Kennedy, “农村土地民主管理绩效研究,” (Research on the performance regarding the democratic management of rural land), 《经济学动态》 (*Economic Perspectives*), 2004 年, 第 6 期

John James Kennedy, “The Face of ‘Grassroots Democracy’: The Substantive Difference Between Real and Cosmetic Elections in Rural China.” *Asian Survey*, vol. 42, no. 3, (May/June 2002)

Book Chapters

John James Kennedy, “Rural China: Politics and Policy” in William A. Joseph ed. *Politics of China*, (Oxford University Press, 4th edition 2024)

John James Kennedy “Contained Emancipative Values: Waves of Conservative and Liberal Trends in China” Book Chapter in Ronald F Inglehart and Yang Zhong ed. *China as Number One? Evolution of Social and Political Values in China's Society* (Routledge 2023)

John James Kennedy and Rigao Liu, “One Country, Many Paradigms”, in Shiping Hua ed. *Paradigms Shifts in Chinese Studies*, (Palgrave-Macmillan Press, 2022)

John James Kennedy and Dan Chen, “Chapter 19: Local and Grassroots Governance” in *Handbook on Contemporary China*, (Sage Publication, 2018)

John James Kennedy with Chen, Dan, “Urbanization and Urban Villagers: Institutional Factors and Social Identity in Urban China,” in Edith W. Clowes and Shelly Bromberg editors, *Area Studies in the Global Age* (Northwestern University Press, 2016)

John James Kennedy with Jenna Mittelmeier, “Adapting Together: Chinese Student Experience and Acceptance at an American University,” In Jindal-Snape, D., Rienties, B., Eds. *Multi-dimensional transitions of international students to higher education: New Perspectives on Learning and Instruction*, (Routledge 2015)

John James Kennedy and Yaojiang Shi, “Rule by Virtue, the Mass Line Model and Cadre-Mass Relations” in Shiping Hua ed. *East Asian Development Model: The 21st Century Perspectives* (Routledge, 2015)

John James Kennedy and Dan Chen, “Election Reform from the Middle and at the Margins” in Jessica C. Teets and Bill Hurst edited, *Local Governance Innovation in China: Governance Challenges, Adaptation, and Subnational Variation*, (Routledge, London, 2014)

John James Kennedy and Yaojiang Shi, “Surveys and learning about village elections and rural China: an analysis of a 2005 national village election survey” in Björn Alpermann ed. *Politics and Markets in Rural China* (Routledge, 2011)

John James Kennedy, “Uneven Political Reform and Development in the Shadow of the Olympic Games,” in William M. Tsutsui and Michael Baskett ed. *The East Asian Olympiads: Building Bodies and Nations in Japan, Korea, and China*, Global Oriental Publishers (2011)

John James Kennedy, “Legitimacy with Chinese Characteristics: ‘Two Increases, One Reduction’” in Kevin O'Brien, Suisheng Zhao ed. *Grassroots Elections in China*, (Routledge, 2010) [Reprinted with permission from *Journal of Contemporary China*]

Mariya Y. Omelicheva and John James Kennedy, “Reform in China and Russia: A Comparative Perspective” in *ISA International Studies Compendium Project*, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing (2010)

John James Kennedy, “The Implementation of Village Elections and Tax-for-Fee Reform in Rural Northwest China,” in Elizabeth J. Perry and Merle Goldman ed. *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007)

Book Reviews

John James Kennedy, Book Review of “Voting as a Rite: The History of Elections in Modern China” by Joshua Hill, *China International Review* (June 2021)

John James Kennedy, Book Review of “Contesting Cyberspace in China: Online Expression and Authoritarian Resilience” by Rongbin Han, *Journal of Asian Studies* (Volume 78, Number 3, August 2019)

John James Kennedy, Book Review of “Varieties of Governance in China: Migration and Institutional Change in Chinese Villages,” by Jie Lu, *The China Quarterly* (Volume 225, March 2016, pp. 256–257)

John James Kennedy, Book Review of “Tax Reform in Rural China: Revenue, Resistance and Authoritarian Rule” by Hiroki Takeuchi, *China Quarterly*, (Volume 222, June 2015, pp 559-560)

John James Kennedy, “Review of *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* by Kevin O’Brien and Lianjiang Li” *Journal of Asian Studies*, Volume 68, Issue 2 (2009)

John James Kennedy, “Review of *Public Opinion and Political Change in China*. by Tang Wenfang” *Perspectives on Politics*, Volume 5, Issue 1, (March 2007)

John James Kennedy, “Review of *Mutual Empowerment of State and Peasantry: Village Self-Government in Rural China*. By Xu Wang.” *Pacific Affairs*, Volume 77, No. 3, (Fall 2004)

Works in Progress

John James Kennedy, “Mutual Non-Compliance: Forms of Everyday Resistance” research article for journal publication on forms of Mutual Non-Compliance in China and other developing countries.

John James Kennedy and Yaojiang Shi, *Bare Branches and Bare Necessities* is our second book project on involuntary bachelorhood, poverty and public security.

Selected Conference Presentations in English

John James Kennedy, “Mutual Non-Compliance: Forms of Everyday Resistance” American Political Science Association, September (Conference 2022)

John James Kennedy and Haruka Nagao, “The Rite to Vote: Community Interactions and Grassroots Voter Participation in China” American Political Science Association, September 10 (Conference 2020)

John James Kennedy “Trust in the System or System Justification: Examining Authoritarian Resilience from the Bottom Up” presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, April 3, 2019

John James Kennedy “Trust thy Neighbor: Social capital and grassroots voter participation in rural and urban China” presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, April 8, 2018

John James Kennedy, “Street Level Family Planning” invited speaker George Washington University, September 23, 2016

John James Kennedy, “Mutual Non-Compliance and National Statistics in China” invited speaker at the University of Zurich, Zurich, September 8, 2016

John James Kennedy, “Social Stability and ‘Illegal Acts’: Cadre-Mass Bargaining at the Local Level” presented at the “Multifaceted Study of Chinese Politics and Society” Workshop, Shanghai Jiaotong University, July 15-16, 2016

John James Kennedy, “Counting the Missing: Identifying the ‘Missing Girls’ in China” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago April 16-17, 2015

Selected Conference Presentations in Chinese

John James Kennedy, “Bare Sticks and Social Stability: Involuntary Bachelorhood, Local Governance and Social Welfare” invited speaker Shaanxi Normal University, July 25, 2019

John James Kennedy, “Edgar Snow and his interviews with Mao Zedong” invited speaker Beijing University, Beijing, October 12, 2016

John James Kennedy, “Bare Sticks: unmarried men in rural China” invited speaker Shaanxi Normal University, July 13, 2016

John James Kennedy, “Family Planning and ‘out of plan’ births in Rural China”, presented in Chinese at the 2015 International Conference on Digital Publishing and Digital Libraries (CDPDL) Jianguo Hotel, Xi'an China, June 16-17 2015

This talk was honored with the CDPDL Best Presentation Award for 2015

John James Kennedy, “Mixed methods and fieldwork in rural China” presented in Chinese at Symposium on Research in China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, July 9 2015

Grants, Honors and Awards

Grants:

Principle Investigator for the National Resource Center (Title VI) grant from the US Department of Education 2018-2022 for \$940,000

Principle Investigator for the Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) grant from the US Department of Education 2018-2022 for \$930,000.

Teaching:

Outstanding Educator of the Year 2021, presented by the Mortar Board honor society at the University of Kansas

Gene Budig Teaching Professorship Award (\$5,000) 2013

McNair (Scholars) Mentor Award 2013

KU HOPE Award Finalist for Outstanding Progressive Educator 2011

Outstanding Educator of the Year 2009, presented by the Mortar Board honor society at the University of Kansas

University of Kansas, Teaching Excellence Award 2004, Center for Teaching Excellence

Research:

Fulbright Faculty Research Award (China Studies) 2010-2011

Best Paper Award 2008, Association of Chinese Political Science for the paper “Out of the Shadows: Identifying the ‘Missing Girls’ in Shaanxi.”

Gordon White Prize for the most original article published in the *China Quarterly* 2007 for the paper, “From the Fee-for-Tax Reform to the Abolition of

Agricultural Taxes: The Impact on Township Governments in Northwest China”

Best Paper Award 2005, Association of Chinese Political Science for the paper “Death of a Township: the Tax-for-Fee Reform in Northwest China.”

Research Centers

My colleagues at Shaanxi Normal University, Xian, China and I established the Northwest Socio-economic Development Research Center (NSDRC) in 2004. The center has three missions. One is to train local professors, graduate students and professionals in social science research methods (quantitative and qualitative). Second is to conduct regional surveys. The third mission is to produce academic and policy relevant publications. NSDRC became the Center for Experimental Economics in Education (CEEE) at Shaanxi Normal University in 2015. CEEE is committed to reducing the educational inequalities in rural China through policy relevant research, early childhood education and scholarships.

Courses Taught

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Methods of Inquiry: Political Science Research Methods

Problems and Politics in Developing Countries

Political Reform in Contemporary China

Foreign Policy in Contemporary China

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Graduate Course)
Comparative Political Institutions (Graduate Course)
Research in the Field: Conducting and Analyzing Fieldwork in Developing Countries
(Graduate Course)

PhD Dissertation Chair

Yang Jingran (expected 2027)
Liu Rigao (2025) Washington & Jefferson College
Kyunghwan Jung (2022) Army Training and Doctrine Command School, Monterey, CA
Leeann Youn (2021) Michigan Technological University
William Hatungimana (2021) University of Oregon
Haruka Nagao (2021) University of Oregon
Rachel Finnell (2021) Bethney College
Chen Dan (2014) University of Richmond
Patrick Asingo (2012) University of Nairobi, Kenya
Ken Aikins (2011) Cape Coast University, Ghana