

Weijia Rao

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Boston University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate Professor of Law, 2024 – Present

Faculty Affiliate, Global Development Policy Center, 2024 – Present

Courses: Contracts, International Trade Regulations, Comparative Law and China

George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia

Assistant Professor of Law, 2020 – 2024

Courses: Contracts I, Contracts II, International Trade Regulations, Scholarly Writing

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Illinois

J.S.D., 2019

LL.M., 2015

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

LL.B., 2014

B.A. in Economics, 2014

University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Toronto, Canada

Exchange Student, 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Signaling through National Security Lawmaking, 59 UC Davis Law Review (forthcoming)

Bilateral Treaties and Foreign Policy Convergence: Evidence from Bilateral Investment Treaties, American Law and Economics Review (forthcoming) (with Adam Chilton)

The Impact of Foreign Investors' Challenges to Domestic Regulation, Journal of Law and Economics, 68: 269-309 (2025) (with Mark Maffett and Mario Milone)

Foreign Judges and Foreign Case Citations: A Study of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, Journal of Law and Courts, 13: 547-572 (2025) (with Nuno Garoupa)

The Limits of Diplomacy by Treaty: Evidence from China's Bilateral Investment Treaty Program, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies 21(4): 1023-1101 (2024) (with Adam Chilton)

Large Corporations and Investor-State Arbitration, Harvard International Law Journal, 65: 133-184 (2023)

(Un)stable BITs, Yale Journal of International Law, 47: 247-307 (2022) (with Cree Jones)

Domestic Politics and Settlement in Investor-State Arbitration, Journal of Legal Studies, 50: 145-185 (2021)

Are Arbitrators Biased in ICSID Arbitration? A Dynamic Perspective, International Review of Law and Economics, 66: 1-20 (2021)

Social Science Research and Reform of International Institutions, Chicago Journal of International Law, 22: 156-167 (2021) (invited symposium piece)

Sticky BITs, Harvard International Law Journal, 61: 357-406 (2020) (with Cree Jones)

Development Status and Decision-Making in Investment Treaty Arbitration, International Review of Law and Economics, 59: 1-12 (2019)

China's Market Economy Status under WTO Antidumping Law after 2016, Tsinghua China Law Review, 5: 151-168 (2013)

Book Chapter

Transnational Legal Ordering and National Security in CHINA AND THE TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL ORDERING: DISAGGREGATING THE STATE (Greg Shaffer & Ji Li, eds., Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)

NON-ACADEMIC WRITING

Large Corporations and Investor-State Arbitration, Kluwer Arbitration Blog (August 19, 2023)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2025

Law, Globalization and Development Colloquium, New York University; Faculty Workshop, Boston University; ASIL Annual Meeting Theory Forum; ASIL International Economic Law Biennial Conference, University of Michigan; ComplianceNet Conference, Fordham University School of Law; European China Law Studies Association Annual Conference (keynote); International Business Law Symposium, Brooklyn Law School

2024

Faculty Workshop, University of Toronto; Sokol Colloquium, University of Virginia; Levy Workshop, George Mason University; American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, University of Michigan; NYU/Penn Empirical Contracts Workshop; Law, Courts, and Judges in Comparative Perspective, University of Hong Kong; Law and Economics Workshop, University of Toronto; Biennial Conference on International Law and the Social Sciences, Northwestern University; Oxford University Business Law Workshop; ASIL Research Forum, University of Chicago Law School

2023

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting; American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston University; University of Chicago and ETH Zurich Junior Scholars Forum in Law and Social Science; Manne Forum, George Mason University; Law and Economics Workshop, Georgetown University; UC-Irvine Symposium on China and International Law; European Association of Law and Economics Annual Meeting, Free University of Berlin; University of Michigan ISDS Forum; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Chicago; The Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania; Clarke East Asia Conference, Cornell University; Faculty Workshop, Boston University

2022

Asian Law and Economics Association webinar; JIEL Junior Faculty Forum; Manne Forum, George Mason University; Law and Economics Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis; ASIL Research Forum, University of Miami; Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Chicago; Midwest Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, University of Chicago; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Virginia; Levy Workshop, George Mason University

2021

Chicago Journal of International Law Symposium, University of Chicago; Manne Forum, George Mason University; ASIL Research Forum; Seminar on Current Trends in Public Law Scholarship, University of Chicago; Law and Economics Workshop, Northwestern University; Law and Economics Colloquium, University of Virginia; Law and Economics Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis; Micro-Economic Policy Seminar, George Mason University

2020 and earlier

Manne Forum, George Mason University; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Claremont McKenna College; American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, New York University; Conference on International Law, Organization, and Politics, University of Pennsylvania; Law and Economics Colloquium, University of Texas; American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, Boston University; Empirical Legal Studies Replication Conference, Claremont McKenna College; ASIL Research Forum, UCLA School of Law; Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Chicago; Legal Scholarship Workshop, Northwestern University; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell University; Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Hong Kong; Regional Colloquium on Global Capitalism and Law, Northwestern University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sidley Austin LLP, Washington, DC

International Lawyer, Global Arbitration, Trade and Advocacy, 2019 – 2020

International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Washington, DC

Legal Intern, Case Management Team, 2017

SERVICE

Committees

Boston University: Tech/AI and Education; Judicial Panel; Faculty Intellectual Life

George Mason University: Academic Standing and Student Affairs; Research, Faculty Development & Workshops; JD Admissions; LLM Admissions; Faculty Selection

Conferences

American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting Area Organizer; European Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting Area Organizer; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies Area Organizer

Referee

American Journal of Political Science, International Review of Law and Economics, International Migration Review, Journal of International Dispute Settlement, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law and Empirical Analysis, Journal of Law and Courts, Hong Kong Law Journal, Review of International Political Economy

Discussant

Law, Courts, and Judges in Comparative Perspective, University of Hong Kong; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies Supplemental, University of Chicago; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Chicago; Clarke East Asia Conference, Cornell University; UC-Irvine Symposium on China and International Law; JILSA Annual Meeting

BAR ADMISSION

New York; China (inactive)