

# Franziska Barbara Keller

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## Academic Appointments

**7/2016 –** : Assistant Professor (tenure track), Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
**5/2020 –** : non-resident fellow at the Digital Democracy Lab, University of Zurich  
**9/2019 –** : Faculty Associate, HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies  
**6/2017 – 5/2018:** SNSF postdoc.mobility fellow at the University of California, San Diego  
**9/2015 – 5/2016:** Postdoctoral Fellow, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York  
**4/2015 – 7/2015:** Visiting Researcher (with scholarship) at the International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development (ICSID) at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow

## Education

**PhD in Political Science**, Department of Politics, **New York University**, USA. Degree received: September 28, 2015.  
Dissertation title: *Networks of Power. Using Social Network Analysis to Understand Who Will Rule and Who is Really in Charge in an Authoritarian Regime. Theory, Method, and Application on Chinese Communist Elites (1982-2012)*  
Committee: Jenn Larson (Chair), Adam Przeworski, Joshua Tucker  
**“Lizentiat” in Political Sciences (major) and Islamic Studies (minor), University of Bern**, Switzerland. MA equivalent degree received: January 2010.  
Thesis title: *An Evaluation of the Community-Based Tourism Policy in Kyrgyzstan*  
**Exchange study in the P.R. of China** (with scholarship of the Chinese Scholarship Council): Political Sciences and Chinese at Renmin University, Beijing (2002-2003) and Wuhan University, Wuhan (2001-2002)

## Publications (peer-reviewed)

**Political Astroturfing on Twitter: How to Coordinate a Disinformation Campaign** (with Sebastian Stier, David Schoch, and JungHwan Yang), *Political Communication*, 2020, 37:2, 256-280. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2019.1661888>

Featured in the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage Blog:  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/28/its-not-easy-spot-disinformation-twitter-heres-what-we-learned-political-astroturfing-campaigns/>

And by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation:  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/coastal-gas-link-rail-blockades-facebook-1.5484039>

**Knowing the Wrong Cadre: Social Networking in the Chinese Central Party School** (with Jérôme Doyon), *Political Studies*, 2020, 68:4, 1036-1053.  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0032321719888854>

**Appropriating' Democracy: A Comparison between Argumentative Strategies for Confucian and Islamic Democracy**, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 2020, 41:2, 180-196. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07256868.2020.1724903>

**How to Manipulate Social Media: Analyzing Political Astroturfing Using Ground Truth Data from South Korea** (with Sebastian Stier, David Schoch, and JungHwan Yang), *Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Association of the Advancement of Artificial*

*Intelligence Conference on Web and Social Media – ICWSM 2017*  
<https://aaai.org/ocs/index.php/ICWSM/ICWSM17/paper/view/15638/14870>

**Moving Beyond Factions: Using Social Network Analysis to Uncover Patronage Networks Among Chinese Elites**, in *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 2016, 16:1, 17-41.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/jea.2015.3>

- Books **Social Network Analysis: Methods and Examples**, 2017, SAGE Publications (with Song Yang and Lu Zheng).
- Other publications **The Spread of Rumors on and across Social Media Platforms during Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition-Law-Protests**, 2021, report produced for the Hong Kong Policy and Innovation Coordination Office
- Analyses of Elite Networks** in Heinrich Best, Maurizio Cotta, Jean-Pascal Daloz, John Higley, Ursula Hoffmann Lange, Jan Pakulski, Elena Semenova (editors): *The Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites*, 2018, Palgrave Macmillan UK.
- In progress **How “Divide and Conquer” fails: a Simulation of Protest Cascades in Heterogeneous Societies** (a.k.a. [How to Spot a Successful Revolution in Advance](#) [*R&R at the British Journal of Political Science*])
- Political Astroturfing across the World** (with David Schoch, Sebastian Stier and JungHwan Yang)
- Extracting Political Elite Networks from Unstructured Text**
- Degrees of Separation: How Many Hands Must a Kazakh Citizen Shake until She Reaches the President?** (with Adele Del Sordi)
- Farewell Comrades! Power Struggle and Elite Removal in Single-Party Authoritarian Regimes** (with Yuhua Wang)
- Networks of Power. A Social Network Analysis of the Chinese Central Committee 1982-2012**
- Awards **Top Paper Award** International Communication Association - Computational Methods 2019
- John Sprague Award** for best paper presented by a graduate student for *Networks of Power: A Social Network Analysis of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee, 1982-2006*, APSA Political Networks Section 2013-2014
- Best Poster Award** for *How to Spot a Successful Revolution in Advance*, Political Networks Conference 2013
- Select fellowships & grants **Travel grants: 16,857 USD**  
Including the DAAD/RGC's Germany/Hong Kong Joint Scheme grant (2020)
- Data collection and research grants: 192,483 USD**  
Including Hong Kong Policy and Innovation Coordination Office's Public Policy Research Funding Scheme grant (2020), the World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship of the Smith Richardson Foundation (2015) and the New Generation China Scholars Program of the University of Chicago Center in Beijing (2014-2015)
- Fellowships and personal grants: 311,450 USD**  
Including the doctoral fellowship of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (2015), the SNSF postdoc.mobility fellowship (2017-2018) and Columbia University's Harriman Institute postdoctoral fellowship (2015)
- Recent invited talks **Advanced SNA Seminar**, University of Bern, January 17, 2019
- Seminar**, Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University, October 19, 2018
- USC Marshall China Research Day**, University of Southern California, March 30, 2018

China Research Workshop, Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China, University of California, San Diego, January 12, 2018

Digital Media, Networks, & Political Communication, University of Pennsylvania, March 11, 2016

INCITE – Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics, Columbia University, February 9, 2016

“HKUST-HSE Workshop on Comparative Studies of Regional Governance in China and Russia”, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, September 25, 2015

Division of Social Sciences, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, September 21, 2015

“4<sup>th</sup> ICSID conference: Political Economy of Development: New Challenges and Perspectives”, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, June 29, 2015

International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development (ICSID) at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow, May 26, 2015

Hong Kong Baptist University. April 24, 2015

“Quantitative Studies of the Chinese Elite”, University of California, San Diego, USA. February 6–7, 2015

University of Konstanz, Germany. January 16, 2015

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Washington, DC, USA. November 20, 2014

Conferences	<p>Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2012, 2014-2019), Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (2012-2019), Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association (2012-2014, 2016, 2017), Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association (2018), General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (2014-2015), European Social Networks Conference (2014, 2016), Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association (2016-2019), North East Slavic, East European and Eurasian Conference (2016), World Convention of the Association for the Studies of Nationalities (2016), European Consortium for Political Research Joint Session (2016), Sunbelt Conference (2014), Applications of Social Network Analysis Conference (2013).</p>
Teaching Experience	<p>Introduction to Social Network Analysis (UG course, 2016/17)</p> <p>Introduction to Social Network Analysis (UG and PG course, 2018/19, 2019/20)</p> <p>Introduction to Social Network Analysis (UG and PG online course, 2020/21)</p> <p>The World of Politics (UG course, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20, 20/21)</p> <p>The World of Politics (UG online course 2020/21)</p> <p>Introduction to Social Network Analysis at the Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology, July 2019</p> <p>Introductory course to Social Network Analysis and related statistical programs, Higher School of Economics and HKUST, 2015</p>
Service to the community	<p>Reviewer for APSA’s John Sprague Award (2014-2015), American Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, British Journal of Political Science, Social Networks, Political Research Quarterly, Political Studies, China: An International Journal, Journal of Communication, China Quarterly, Party Politics, Comparative Politics</p> <p>Section Chair of the Political Networks section at the General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research in Montréal, 2015.</p> <p>Organized thematic Political Networks panels for the Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress 2014, MPSA 2014-2017, and APSA 2014-2017, organized working groups for APSA 2016-2017</p> <p>Co-founder of the Comparative Political Networks group and mailing list</p>

Language skills      German (native speaker), English (fluent), French (advanced), Chinese (intermediate), Russian (intermediate), Arabic (beginner), Italian (beginner)

Computer skills      R, STATA, NetLogo, gephi, visone, LaTeX

References            **Professor Jenn Larson**  
Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University  
e-mail: [jennifer.larson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.larson@vanderbilt.edu)

**Professor Adam Przeworski**  
Department of Politics, New York University  
e-mail: [adam.przeworski@nyu.edu](mailto:adam.przeworski@nyu.edu)

**Professor Joshua Tucker**  
Department of Politics, New York University  
e-mail: [joshua.tucker@nyu.edu](mailto:joshua.tucker@nyu.edu)

**Professor Kellee Tsai**  
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