

# JOHN NGA-LEONG KOO

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international relations / foreign policy analysis / political methodology

## EDUCATION

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### Harvard University

*PhD in Government*

Advisors: Alastair Iain Johnston, Joshua D. Kertzer  
Graduate Student Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs  
Graduate Affiliate, Institute of Quantitative Social Science  
Raymond Vernon Fellow

Cambridge, Mass., USA

Sep 2023 –

### University of Hong Kong

*Bachelor of Laws & Bachelor of Social Sciences*

Double first-class honours  
Dean's Honours List  
HKU Worldwide Visiting Scholarship  
Lee Shau Kee Scholarship

Hong Kong

Aug 2018 – Jun 2023

### University of Oxford

*Visiting Student in Politics*

First-class honours results  
Specialisation in International Relations and Political Sociology

Oxford, United Kingdom

Oct 2020 – Jul 2021

## PUBLICATIONS

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**John Koo**, Kai Quek. 2024. "Win-Win Deescalation." *International Studies Quarterly*. 68(4): sqae148.

## WORKING PAPERS

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"Breaking the Machine: Rise of Personalism and Foreign Policy Making"

"Repetition Premium"

"How Combat Experience Harms Promotion in Revolutionary Autocracies" (with Michael Cerny and Joshua Henderson)

"Reputations in Interaction" (with Kai Quek)

Presented at the Pacific International Politics Conference 2021, ISA 2021 (panel), and APSA 2022 (panel)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant

*Stephen Walt*

Jul 2024 –

*Harvard Kennedy School*

### Research Assistant

*Joshua Kertzer*

Jun 2024 –

*Harvard University*

### Research Intern

*Dean Knox*

*Christopher Lucas*

May 2022 – Aug 2022

*Wharton School*

*Washington University in St. Louis*

### Research Assistant

*Kai Quek*

Jun 2020 – Jul 2023

*University of Hong Kong*

### Research Assistant

*Kelvin Kwok and Thomas Cheng*

Jan 2022 – Jul 2023

*University of Hong Kong*

## TEACHING

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*Harvard University*

**GOV 50** Data Science for the Social Sciences (Teaching Fellow, Fall 2025, with Scott Cunningham)

*University of Hong Kong*

**POLI 2104** Research Methods in Politics and Public Administration (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, with Kai Quek)

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2025 Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow (O'Brien Notre Dame International Security Center)  
Weatherhead Graduate Student Associate

## WORKSHOPS AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

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2025 APSA (withdrawn)  
2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), APSA  
2022 International Studies Association (ISA), American Political Science Association (APSA)  
2021 Pacific International Politics Conference (PIPC)

## SERVICE

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### *For the Discipline*

Referee for the *Journal of Politics*  
Journal editor for the *Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law* (2019–2023)

### *For the Department*

Harvard-MIT IR Summer Symposium (2024, 2025)  
IR Research Workshop (2025, 2026)

### *For the Community*

Director for the Outreach Legal Talks Initiative (2019–2022)  
Mentor for PS-Prep (2024, 2025)

## SKILLS

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**Languages:** Cantonese (native), Mandarin (fluent), Japanese (JLPT N1)

**Software:** C/C++, R, Python, Julia, Stata,  $\LaTeX$ , JavaScript, Bash, PowerShell

**Technical Frameworks:** JAMstack (Hugo, Jekyll), Google Cloud Platform, Keras, TensorFlow

**Developer Tools:** RStudio, GCC, Git, Visual Studio Code

## REFERENCE

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Available upon request

October 25, 2025