

Yan Chang Bennett, JD, Ph.D
Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University
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Teaching and Professional Positions

Deputy Chair, Global Issues (Contractor) **2024-present**
Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State
Administration and instruction of key global themes and transnational issues important to American foreign policy and diplomacy.

Adjunct Professor **Fall 2024 (expected)**
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Graduate course: "UN Reimagined for the 21st Century." This course is to provide an analytic framework in which to craft a global strategy for the UN to navigate an uncertain future. Its purpose is to explore what must be done to make the UN and other international organizations more capable and competent for the 21st century. Policies are meaningless in the absence of good strategies for implementing them; and strategies are worthless in the absence of competent institutions to execute them. Therefore, the course will focus on how to institutionalize the way we deal with major issues at the global level. While the principal focus is the United Nations, the course encourages students to examine more broadly the wider web of international organizations that constitute the multilateral system.

Adjunct Professor, JDi **Spring 2024**
Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY
Instructor for "Federal Practice and International Law in the U.S. Legal System," to law students interested in international affairs and federal legal practice with regard to national security, diplomacy, espionage, international financial transactions, energy security, among other topics. Students will learn about domestic legal authorities that allow for foreign relations and interaction with international organizations; the constitutional and statutory bases for the practice of international law within the federal law system. Students will also explore the notion of a rules-based world order and what role the United States should play in international leadership.

Subject Matter Expert and Instructor, Washington, DC and Virtual **2022 - Present**
Provide courses to a government client: "Contemporary Politics of China;" "China - Expanding Global Influence through the Belt and Road Initiative;" and "China: Foreign and Domestic Policies in Action." Provide expert analysis to government and private clients on: contemporary China; Chinese finance, industry, and economy; Chinese politics and foreign policy; Chinese leadership; Chinese political philosophy

Professorial Lecturer in International Affairs **2018 - Present**
Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, Washington, DC
Undergraduate Courses: Law and Diplomacy; UN and Global Security; Graduate Courses: UN Reimagined for the 21st Century; International Humanitarian Law

Assistant Director, Princeton University **2009 - 2024**
Administrative lead for the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China and the Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program, respectively.

Visiting Presidential Professor **2022 - 2023**
Illinois State University; Normal, IL
Undergraduate Course: 21st Century US Diplomacy; Graduate Course: History of American Diplomacy

Teaching Assistant **2010 - 2011**
Princeton University, School of International and Public Affairs
Teaching assistant to Professor Joshua Bolton (Rock Creek Global Advisors, former White House Chief of Staff) in an undergraduate-level course, "Special Topics in Public Affairs: Charting the Nation's Fiscal Future," and graduate-level course, "Special Topics in Public Affairs: American Fiscal Policy." Graded papers, scheduled office hours, prepared weekly lectures, among other tasks.

Managing Member **2009 – Present**
Law Office of Yan Chang Bennett, LLC; Princeton, NJ
Represent clients in employment, immigration matters, and business development matters; international mergers and acquisitions; advise on Chinese government relations and trade.

Associate Attorney **2008 – 2009**
Maselli Warren, PC; Princeton, NJ
Represented clients in employment and immigration matters and business development issues; domestic mergers and acquisitions; advised on corporate governance issues.

Legal Extern **2008**
U.S. Immigration Court; Philadelphia, PA
Research and preparation of memoranda on complex legal issues; drafted decisions on motions pending before the Court; drafted decisions on applications for relief from removal.

Legal Assistant **2006 – 2008**
Enterprise Media Group, Dow Jones & Company; Princeton, NJ
Assisted legal counsel in transactional matters, corporate governance issues, and due diligence in DJ merger with News Corporation.

Foreign Service Officer, Career Tenure **1999 – 2004**
U.S. Department of State; International Postings
As 2nd Secretary and Special Assistant to the Ambassador, Sarajevo, Bosnia: 2002 – 2004, coordinated senior staff on foreign policy initiatives; drafted briefings, speeches, and correspondence; oversaw interdepartmental foreign policy initiatives; ensured compliance with federal law; supervised 5 foreign service nationals and 1 American position; coordinated Mission Performance Planning; other administrative duties. As Vice Consul, Guangzhou, China, managed Consular Section; supervised 20+ foreign service nationals; reported to the Department on US corporate labor practices and intellectual property issues; Chinese village elections observer; applied federal regulations. Honored with personal commendation by Secretary Powell, among other awards. FSO Training in Washington DC: 1999 – 2000.

Economic Section Intern **1999**
U.S. Embassy, Singapore
Drafted weekly Southeast Asian economic status reports and other cables. Coordinated high-level diplomatic meetings; planned logistics and protocol for Secretary of State.

Appointments, Scholarships, Fellowships, And Honors

Professional:

Part-time faculty representative for the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEIC), 2023-2025
Princeton Employee Merit Award, 2018
Franklin Award, U.S. Department of State, 2003
Superior Honor Award, U.S. Department of State, 2004
Career Appointment (Tenure), U.S. Department of State, 2004
Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State, 2004
Meritorious Step Increase, U.S. Department of State, 2004

Academic:

Dean's List, Syracuse University College of Law, 2005-2008 (all semesters)
Student Editor of *Dictum*, New Jersey State Bar Association publication, 2007-2008
CALI Award for Excellence in Business, Finance and Economics, 2008
Law Chancellor Scholarship, 2005-08
Hinman Scholarship, 2005-08
Pickering Fellowship (formerly Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship), 1998-1999
A.G. Furman Scholarship, 1993-1996

Community:

Member, Princeton Borough Committee on Traffic and Transportation, 2008 – 2012

Member, Princeton Joint Advisory Committee on Traffic, 2009 – 2012

Delegate to Democratic National Convention for New Jersey 4th District, 2008

Publications

American Policy Discourses on China: Implications from the Past and Predictions for the Future. 2024 (expected). Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

“American Strategy in Melanesia: Soft Power, Alliance, and Pacific Security” 2024 (expected). Special report by the National Bureau of Asian Research (final title pending).

“Xi Jinping Thought: Political philosophy or Totalizing Paradigm?” 2023 (expected). In [China under Xi Jinping: An Interdisciplinary Assessment](#), edited by Hanna Kupś, Maciej Szatkowski and Michal Dahl. Leiden, the Netherlands: Brill.

“[China’s Real Ambitions for the South Pacific](#).” *The Strategist*, June 17, 2022.

“[Implications of China’s Pacific Dream for the United States, Australia, and Allies](#).” *Journal of Political Risk* 10, no. 6 (June 2022).

“China’s inward and outward facing identities: post-COVID challenges for China and the international rules-based order.” In [COVID-19 and Foreign Aid: Nationalism and Global Development in a New World Order](#), edited by Viktor Jakupec, Max Kelly, Michael de Percy. London, United Kingdom: Routledge.

“[Why the Winter Olympics are so vital to the Chinese Communist Party’s legitimacy](#).” February 1, 2022. *The Conversation*.

“[China’s Leadership and Governance](#).” February 2022. *Journal of Asian Studies* 81(1), 151-53.

“[What the Peng Shuai saga tells us about Beijing’s grip on power and desire to crush a #MeToo moment](#).” November 24, 2021. *The Conversation*.

“[Nations concerned about injustice in China must not bow to Beijing’s coercion](#).” May 27, 2021. *The Strategist*. Australian Strategic Policy Institute. /

“[Uniting against authoritarianism: a blueprint for the Quad](#).” February 26, 2021. *The Strategist*. Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

“[Investigators must counter China’s disinformation campaigns, including on the origins of Covid-19](#).” January 28, 2021. *The Strategist*. Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

“[Comment la Chine tente de réécrire l’histoire sur les origines de la Covid-19](#).” January 14, 2021. *The Conversation*.

“[How the Chinese Government is Controlling the COVID Origins](#).” January 13, 2021. *The Conversation*.

“[Blinken’s Call: Opportunities Abound to Revitalise US Engagement in the Indo-Pacific](#).” December 16, 2020. *The Strategist*. Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Reposted in *East Post Today*.

“[China’s Actions Have Driven the Evolution of the Quad](#).” October 29, 2020. *The Strategist*. Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

“[China’s Rise and the Weaponization of Soft and Hard Power: How the U.S., Japan, India and Australia are Responding](#).” September 2020. *Journal of Political Risk*, vol. 8, no. 9.

“[Xi Jinping Thought: Realisation of the Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation?](#)” 2018. *China Perspectives*, No. 2018/1-2 (Summer), 99-105.

John Garrick, & Yan Bennett, eds. [China’s Socialist Rule of Law Reforms Under Xi Jinping](#). 2016. New York and London: Routledge.

[“A Critical Appraisal of China’s ‘Four Comprehensives’ Grand Narrative.”](#) *UUM Journal of Legal Studies*, vol. 6, 2015.

“Chinese Contract Law after the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.” 2012. In [Law and Policy for China's Market Socialism](#), edited by John Garrick. New York and London: Routledge.

“TARP Recipients Limitations on Foreign Worker Hiring.” 196 [New Jersey Law Journal](#) 775 (June 15, 2009)

“Options for Foreign Workers Facing Termination of Employment.” 196 [New Jersey Law Journal](#) 395 (May 11, 2009)

Conferences and Presentations

“American Strategy in Melanesia: Soft Power, Alliance, and Pacific Security,” 2023 Western Conference of the Association of Asian Studies (WCAAS) Conference, October 5-6, 2023 West Yellowstone, Montana.

“The Securitization of Melanesia: A Discursive Perspective” for Panel II: Motivations Behind the Geostrategic Changes in the Pacific at the Pacific Islands Strategic Dialogue. Sponsored by the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) and U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Strategic Integration Directorate, Strategic Trends and Effects Department, Strategic Trends Division (SI-STT). April 3, 2023, Nadi, Fiji.

“America’s Arsenal in a Trade War with China.” February 13, 2020. Keynote Address, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Organizer, Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility Annual Conference. 2019, Princeton, NJ.

Judge, New York University Policy Case Competition; 2016, 2019, New York, NY.

Moderator, Panel on the Rule of Law in China: Practitioner’s Perspective on Commercial and Business Law, Princeton University US China Coalition Global Governance Forum 2019, Princeton, NJ

Bennett, Yan and John Garrick, “China’s ‘Four Comprehensives’ Narrative: The Underlying Values of Socialist Rule of Law Reform,” July 2017, Australia.

Panelist on “China and Foreign Affairs,” Harvard College China Forum. 2012, Cambridge, MA.

Panel Moderator, Investment Banking in China and Hong Kong, Princeton Global China Connection, 2011

Organizer, Princeton-Harvard China and the World Annual Conference 2010-2015, Princeton, NJ and New Orleans, LA.

Media Appearances and Interviews

[“Where are EU relations with China?”](#) July 25, 2023. TRT World. London, England.

Harmsen, Peter. [“I Kina siger de #MiTu \[In China, they say #MiTu\].”](#) December 2, 2021. *Weekendavisen*. Copenhagen, Denmark.

[“WTA suspends play in China as concerns over Peng Shuai’s safety linger.”](#) December 2, 2021. *The World from PRX* with Bianca Hillier. Boston, MA.

[“Peng Shuai and WTA suspension on China.”](#) December 1, 2021. *Canada Tonight with Ginella Massa*, Canadian Broadcasting Company. Toronto, Canada.

[“What Peng Shuai's disappearance says about Beijing's grip on power.”](#) November 27, 2021. *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio. Washington, DC.

[“WTA suspension on China.”](#) December 2, 2021. *Today Programme*, BBC Radio 4. London, England.

[“What the Peng Shuai saga tells us about Beijing’s grip on power and desire to crush a #MeToo moment.”](#) November 25, 2021. *The Shaye Ganam Show*, 770 CHQR. Calgary, Canada.

[Interview with Amelia Pang](#), author of *Made in China*. February 6, 2021. C-Span’s Book TV “After Words” Program. Washington, DC.

[Panel Discussion on EU-China Trade Deal.](#) January 19, 2021. *Roundtable*, TRT World. London, England.

[“Arsenals in the U.S.-China Trade War: What’s Used and How.”](#) April 2020. East Asia Hotspots: Sigur Center Podcast. [Transcript](#). Washington, DC.

[“China: What’s Changed Since Tiananmen?”](#) June 4, 2019. *Roundtable*, TRT World. London, England.

[“What is China’s Pacific Plan?”](#) April 24, 2018. *Roundtable*, TRT World. London, England.

[“China’s Power Mission,”](#) February 8, 2018. *Nexus*, TRT World. London, England.

Working Papers

“Biden Playbook for China Policy” (working paper)

“Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the Pacific Region? A Critical Appraisal of Xi Jinping’s Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy.” (working paper)

“America’s Arsenal in a Trade War with China” (working paper)

“The International Criminal Court and Article 98 Agreements” (working paper)

Grant Management Experience

William T. Grant Foundation: RC28 2019 Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$10,000)

National Institute of Health Grant for the study of “Examination of Heterogeneous Treatment Effects in Experimental Studies”: 2015-2018 (\$957,000)

The Carnegie Corporation - 3 Year Grant for the China and the World Program: July 2013 (\$687,900), renewed January 2017 (\$575,000)

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation – 3-Year Grant for the China and the World Program: July 2013 (\$500,000)

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, selected to distribute fellowships to gifted graduate students at Princeton University: 2009-2014 (\$25,000 per year)

Education

PhD. in History December 2022

College of Arts and Sciences, LU; Lynchburg, VA

Dissertation: *American Policy Discourses on China: Two Centuries of National Imagination and Constructed Reality*. Passed without revision. 4.0 GPA. Book contract pending with Cambridge Scholars.

Fields: Early and modern American history; early and modern European history

Juris Doctorate May 2008

Syracuse University College of Law; Syracuse, NY

Cum laude

Passed New York and New Jersey bar exams first attempt

M.A. in International Affairs May 1999

Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University; Washington, DC

B.A in Political Science
Furman University; Greenville, SC

May 1996

Memberships and Licenses

American Historical Association; Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations; Association of Asian Studies; International Political Science Association; International Studies Association; National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education; National Education Association; National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity; Service Employees International Union Local 500.

Licensed to practice law in New Jersey and New York (current).

Training, Skills, Interests, Language

Princeton University training in higher education management and administration, financial accountability, reporting, diversity. Expertise in research databases, ProQuest, JSTOR, Oxford, Westlaw, LexisNexis Legal, etc. Expert use of Microsoft Office Suite; Adobe Acrobat Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign; HTML and Drupal. Chinese, German, and Spanish, to varying levels. Previous top secret and SCI State Department security clearances. State Department: consular training, personnel management and performance, EEO, political.

7+ years expatriate living; travel to 40 countries; 100+ trips to international locations; certified scuba diver