

Wanlin Lin

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Academic Appointments

Sun Yat-sen University

Associate professor, School of Law, 2024-present

The University of Hong Kong

Research Fellow, International Centre for China Development Studies, 2025-present

University of Pittsburgh

Research Affiliate in the Center for Governance and Markets, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, February 2023-present

The University of Hong Kong

Research Assistant in the Department of Geography, August 2022-February 2023

Post-doctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Social Sciences, August 2020-August 2022

Editorial Positions

Editorial Board, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 2022-present

Academic Qualifications

Ph.D. in Political Economy, King's College London, 2020

M.A. in Political Economy, King's College London, 2015

M.A. in Jurisprudence, Sun Yat-sen University, 2014

LL.B., Guangdong University of Finance & Economics, 2012

Research and Scholarship

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Lin, Wanlin**, Pablo Paniagua, and Minjun Yuan. “Conceptualizing Knowledge Commons: Knowledge Regimes and Industries”. *Journal of Institutional Economics*. 21, e28.
- Lin, Wanlin**, and Peng Wang. 2024. “The Social Order of Illegal Markets in Cyberspace: Extralegal Governance and China’s Internet Gambling”. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*. 11, 1643. (Impact Factor 3.7, Q1, JCI Rank 1/411 in Humanities, Multidisciplinary and 2/267 in Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) **2025 Jianhong Liu Outstanding Paper Award**
- Lin, Wanlin**, Siqin Kang, Jiangnan Zhu, and Li Ding. 2025 “How to Enter Business Networks? Drinking to Signal Cooperativeness in China”. *Public Choice*. 203, 3-22. **2025 Gordon Tullock Prize**
- Lin, Wanlin**, Peng Wang, and Minjun Yuan. 2023. “Governing the Knowledge Commons: The Hybrid Relational-Contractual Governance in China’s Mining Industry”. *World Development*. 173 (Impact Factor 5.4, Q1, JIF Rank 6/63 in Development Studies and 45/600 in Economics).
- Lin, Wanlin**, and George C. S. Lin. 2023. “Strategizing Actors and Agents in the Functioning of Informal Property Rights: The Tragicomedy of the Extralegal Housing Market in China”. *World Development*. 161.
- Lin, Wanlin**. 2022. “Garnering Sympathy: Moral Appeals and Land Bargaining under Autocracy”, *Journal of Institutional Economics*. 18(5): 767-784.
- Lin, Wanlin**. 2023. “The Endogenous Institutional Analysis and Chang: The Perspective of Game Theory (内生的制度运行和变迁分析：博弈论的视角)”. *Journal of Peking University (Philosophy & Social Sciences)* [北京大学学报 (哲学社会科学版)]. 60(4):158-166.
- Lin, Wanlin**, Fengyi Zhao, Xingshen Wu, Meng Ge, Huiyin Yang, and Nan Li. 2013. “The Governance of Trans-boundary Water Pollution—Illustrated by the Example of Pearl River Basin (跨区域水资源污染治理研究—以珠江流域为例)”, *Law Review of Sun Yat-Sen University (中山大学法律评论)* 11(2):229–250.
- Liu, Wei, and **Wanlin Lin**. 2013. “Rawls’ Distributive Justice: A Comparative Perspective (试论罗尔斯的分配理论：一种比较的视角)”, *Seeker (求索)* 7:238–240.
- Lin, Wanlin**. 2012. “The Nation State and the ‘Leviathan’ of Hobbes: From the Perspective of Game Theory and Social Choice Theory (霍布斯自然状态和“利维坦”理论：博弈论和社会选择理论视角)”, *Journal of Guangdong University of Finance & Economics (广东商学院学报)*, supplementary issue.

Book

- Wang, Peng, and **Wanlin Lin**. 2025 Extralegal Governance: The Social Order of Illegal Markets in China. Cambridge University Press.

Works submitted for publication

- Lin, Wanlin**, Li Ding, and Ye Lin. “Innovation, Cooperation and Institutional Entrepreneurship”. Conditional Accept. *Small Business Economics*.
- Ding, Li and **Wanlin Lin**. “Judicial Inference, Quasi-Verifiability and Incentive Adjustment”. Revise and Resubmit. *Law, Probability and Risk*. (corresponding author).
- Lai, Ruoran, **Wanlin Lin**, and Li Ding. Walking the Tightrope: Contract Enforcement and Self-Policing under AML Regulation in China’s Stablecoin OTC Market. Under review. (corresponding author).
- Lin, Wanlin**, and Li Ding “Property Rights, Social Cooperation and Governance: The Comparative Analysis Based on The Prisoner’s Dilemma Game and Stag Hunt Game (产权、社会合作与治理：基于囚徒困境博弈与猎鹿博弈的比较分析)”. Under review.

Book chapters

- Yuan, Minjun and **Wanlin Lin**. 2023. “The Institutional Diversity of Online E-commerce Platforms in China”. In *Living Better Together: Social Relations and Economic Governance in the Work of Ostrom and Zelizer*, edited by Virgil Henry Storr and Stefanie Haeffele. Palgrave Macmillan. (corresponding author).
- Lin, Wanlin**. 2020. “Community, State and Market: Rethinking Social Capital in Transitional Authoritarian Regimes”. In *Exploring the Political Economy & Social Philosophy of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom*, edited by Peter Boettke, Bobbi Herzberg, and Brian Kogelmann. Rowman & Littlefield International Publisher.

Working paper

- Lin, Wanlin**, Siqin Kang, Peng Wang, Li Ding. “Criminal resilience: Campaign-style enforcement and the adaptation of China’s illegal online gambling market”.
- Lai, Ruoran, **Wanlin Lin**, and Peng Wang. “Money Laundering and Its Organizational Variation in China: An Organizational Economics Framework”. (corresponding author).
- Xiao, Zhenyu, and **Wanlin Lin**. “Beyond bilateral investment treaties: mechanisms of trust building and cooperation in international investment”. (corresponding author).
- Ding, Li and Wanlin Lin. “Signaling for trust-building: Considering the multiple dimensions of sender’s types”. (corresponding author).
- Lin, Wanlin**, and Meina Cai. “Institutional Diversity of the Redevelopment of Urban Villages in China”.

Cai, Meina, Greg Caskey, Wilson Law, **Wanlin Lin**, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. “The Ostrows in Beijing”.

Research Grants, Honours, and Awards

2025, Jianhong Liu Outstanding Paper Award, from The Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice in the United States.

2025, Gordon Tullock Prize, from Public Choice Society.

2025, Rule of Law Development and Legal Theory Research Project, for “The Governance of Platform-Based Illegal Online Transactions: A Law and Economics Perspective,” from Ministry of Justice. PI, ¥40,000.

2024, National Social Science Fund of China (Post-funded Projects), for “Strategic Games and Incentive Design in Social Governance,” from National Office for Philosophy and Social Sciences. PI, ¥250,000.

2024, General Research Fund, for “The Social Order of Illegal Market in Cyberspace: Extralegal Governance and Online Gambling in China” from Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. Co-PI, HK\$950,000.

2021, General Research Fund, for “Private Governance in China: How Private Individuals Secure Social Cooperation without Government”, from Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. Co-PI, HK\$959,365.

2020, Seed Fund for Basic Research, for “Private Governance of Intellectual Property Rights: Why Trade Secret is Favourable and Robust in China”, from The University of Hong Kong. Co-PI, HK\$55,460.

2018, John Templeton Foundation Grant, for “The Institutional Diversity of the Redevelopment of Urban Villages in China”, from Centre for the Study of Governance and Society at King’s College London. PI, £ 10,000.

2017, Charles Koch Foundation, for “The Institutional Diversity of the Redevelopment of Urban Villages in China”. PI, US\$5,000.

2018, Adam Smith Fellowship, from Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

2017, Humane Studies Fellowship, from Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

2017, Hayek Fund, from Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

2017, Adam Smith Fellowship, from Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

2016, IHS PhD Scholarship, from Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

2012-2014, National Fellowship for Master Student, from Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

2012, Excellent Graduate of Guangdong University of Finance & Economics, from Guangdong University of Finance & Economics.

2011, Second Prize of Tenth "Challenge Cup" Academic Competition in Guangdong.

Invited Lectures

Birkbeck University of London, Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies. November 2024.

Zhejiang Agriculture & Forestry University, School of Humanities and Law. November 2023.

Sun Yat-sen University, School of Government. September 2023.

Sun Yat-sen University, Law School "Young Scholar Forum". June 2023.

Zhejiang Agriculture & Forestry University, The 1st International Forum of Humanities and Law. December 2022.

University of Oxford, China Centre, "Mandarin Forum". October 2022.

Guangzhou Urban Planning & Design Survey Research Institute, Shenzhen Research Center. Seminar. August 2022.

Renmin University of China, "Workshop for Junior Scholars in Public Administration". Keynote speech. June 2022.

The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, "Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar". October 2021.

Field Research

The Operation of E-commerce in China, 2021–present

Conducted 20 interviews with e-commerce sellers and buyers. Gathered data online and in the municipality of Yiwu in Zhejiang Province.

The Governance of Internet Gambling Markets in China, 2021–2023

Conducted 60 interviews with bookmakers, operators, players, police officers, and prosecutors involved in internet gambling operations. Gathered data in the municipalities of Meizhou, Chaozhou and Guangzhou in Guangdong Province and Shangrao in Jiangxi Province.

Knowledge Sharing in the Mining Industries in China, 2021-2022

Conducted 35 interviews with investors, engineers, and workers in the iron and gold mining industries. Gathered data in the municipalities of Ganzhou and Shangrao in Jiangxi Province.

The Redevelopment of Urban Villages in China, 2018

Conducted 58 interviews with villagers, members of village committees, government officials, and real estate developers. Gathered data in 12 urban villages in the cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Beijing.

Teaching

King's College London: Principles of Economics (undergraduate)

The University of Hong Kong: Contemporary China Studies (undergraduate)

The University of Hong Kong: Corruption and Anticorruption in China (undergraduate)

Sun Yat-sen University: State, Society, and Law (graduate)

Sun Yat-sen University: Law and Economics (graduate)