John Wagner Givens

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Spelman College
Associate Professor, International Studies   August 2022 – Present

Kennesaw State University
Assistant Professor, Political Science and International Affairs   January 2017 – August 2022

Carnegie Mellon University
Teaching and Research Fellow, Modern Languages   June 2016 – December 2016

University of Pittsburgh
Asian Studies Center, Center Associate   February 2014 – October 2016
Adjunct Professor, School of Law   May 2014 – June 2016
Adjunct Professor, School of Public and International Affairs   September 2015 – June 2016

University of Louisville
Center for Asian Democracy, Post-Doctoral Research Associate   August 2012 – January 2014

University of the West of England
Chinese Studies, Associate Lecturer   September 2011 – June 2012

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Department of Politics   July 2013
Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Politics: Dissertation, "Suing Dragons? Taking the Chinese State to Court"
Supervisors: Vivienne Shue and Paul Martin; Examiners: Rana Mitter and William Hurst

University of California, Berkeley, Group in Asian Studies   June 2007
Master of Arts (M.A.), Asian Studies (China)
Committee: Kevin O'Brien (Chair and Supervisor), Stanley Lubman, and You-tien Hsing

Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service   June 2003
Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

John Wagner Givens, "Studying the Future: How Asia can and Should Be a Priority for Study Abroad," *Collaborative Frontiers: HBCUs and Global Academic Programs and Partnerships in Asian Studies and Asia*, Forthcoming.

John Wagner Givens, "What's in a Name? Toward the Study of Names in Political Science." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, February 9, 2026, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096525101479.

John Wagner Givens, Heather Pincock, and Mark Percival, "[Government of the People, by the Blockchain, for the Crypto? The Implausibility of Democratizing Cryptocurrency Governance](#)" *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2025: 1-21.

John Wagner Givens, "[Teaching Across the Straits: Asian Values and Human Rights](#)" *The Geography Teacher*, 2025: 1-6.

Evan Mistur, John Wagner Givens, and Daniel Matisoff, "[Contagious COVID-19 Policies: Policy Diffusion During Times of Crisis](#)" *Review of Policy Research*, Vol. 40, No. 1, 2023: 36-62.

Eun Choi, John Wagner Givens, and Andrew MacDonald, "[From Power Balancing to a Dominant Faction in Xi Jinping's China](#)" *China Quarterly*, Vol. 248, No. 1, 2021: 935-956.

John Wagner Givens and Evan Mistur, "[The Sincerest Form of Flattery: Nationalist Emulation During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Vol. 26, 2021: 213-234.

John Wagner Givens and Debra Lam, "[Smarter Cities or Bigger Brother? How the Race for Smart Cities Could Determine the Future of China, Democracy, and Privacy](#)" *Fordham Urban Law Journal,* Vol. 47, No. 4, 2020: 829-882.

John Wagner Givens, "[On Their Best Behavior? Foreign Plaintiffs in Chinese Administrative Litigation](#)" in *Open Judicial Politics: An Empirical Reader*, edited by Rorie Spill Solberg, Jennifer Segal Diascro, and Eric J. Waltenburg, Oregon State University Press, 2020: 260-288.

John Wagner Givens, "[Justice Online? Lawyers and Legal Advice Websites in the People's Republic of China](#)" *Wisconsin International Law Journal,* Vol. 37, No. 2, 2019: 207-248.

Debra Lam and John Wagner Givens, "[Small and Smart: Why and How Smart City Solutions Can and Should be Adapted to the Unique Needs of Smaller Cities](#)" *New Global Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2018: 21–36.

John Wagner Givens, *[An Analysis of Frank Dikötter's Mao's Great Famine](#),* Routledge, 2017.

Jason Abbott and John Wagner Givens, "[Strategic Censorship in a Hybrid Authoritarian Regime? Differential Bias in Malaysia's Online and Print Media](#)" *Journal of East Asian Studies,* Vol. 15, No. 3, 2015: 455-478.

John Wagner Givens, "[Sleeping with Dragons? Politically Embedded Lawyers Suing the Chinese State](#)" *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2014: 101-140.

Jason Abbott, Andrew MacDonald, and John Wagner Givens, "[New Social Media and (Electronic) Democratization in East and Southeast Asia: China and Malaysia Compared](#)" *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2013: 105-137.

John Wagner Givens, "[The Beijing Consensus is Neither: China as a Non-Ideological Challenge to International Norms](#)" *St Antony's International Review* Vol. 6, No. 2, 2011: 10–25.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

John Wagner Givens, "[Taiwan, the Almost Invisible Not Quite Country](#)" *China Currents*, Vol. 22, No. 2, 2023.

John Wagner Givens, "[Helping China Learn the Putin Lesson](#)" *China Currents*, Vol. 21, No. 3, 2022.

John Wagner Givens, "[China Ostrichism: Why Didn't the World Prepare for China's Rise?](#)" *China Currents*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2022.

John Wagner Givens, "Is the World Ready for China Risen?" *China Currents*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2022.

John Wagner Givens, "Taiwan is Not Ukraine; it is its Opposite" *Global Policy*, April 2022.

William Morrisey and John Wagner Givens, "The Measure of a Country: America's Wonkiest Competition with China" *War on the Rocks*, August 2020.

Debra Lam and John Wagner Givens, "Domo Arigato, Mr. Roboto: Humans Negotiating Autonomous Vehicles Is the New Driver's Ed" *Newsweek Magazine,* January 2019.

John Wagner Givens and Andrew MacDonald, "Squeezing the Same Old Stone: Suing the Rural Chinese State and the Shift from Tax Reform to Land Seizures" *China Currents*, Vol. 17, No. 2, 2018.

Jason Abbott and John Wagner Givens, "A Comparative Analysis of Online and Print Media During the 2013 Malaysian General Election: A Research Note" *Berita Newsletter*, November 2014.

John Wagner Givens, "Fleshing out the Third Plenum: the Direction of China's Legal Reform" *China Brief,* March 2014.

John Wagner Givens, "Why Google Should Stay in China" *Good,* January 2010.

INTERVIEWS

Interviewed by Los Angeles Times: "On global stage, 'RuPaul's Drag Race' Taiwanese winner says the word China hates" May 2024.

Interviewed by TVBS, Taipei, Taiwan, June 2023

Interviewed for *Fox 42 KPTM*, Omaha, April 2023

Interviewed by *Grid News*, September 2022

Interviewed by the *Academic Times*: "Countries with nationalist leaders 'emulated' one another's COVID-19 response" December 2020.

Interviewed by *Georgia Public Broadcasting*: "'Don't Invent Any Viruses': Atlanta-Area Asian Students Face Rise in Hate Speech" December 2020.

Interviewed by *Georgia Public Broadcasting*: "KSU Professor: Loeffler 'Attila the Hun' Political Ad Is Historically Inaccurate" September 2020.

Interviewed by Chinese Central Television News, March 2013.

SELECTED GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Governor's Teaching Fellows Program, hosted by the Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia, May 2025

Sloan Data Science Faculty Fellows Program, 2024-2025

Propel Faculty Fellows Program (supported by Apple), 2024-2025

Awareness Raising Workshop, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Jan 2025

Fulbright Seminars Abroad Fellow, Summer 2023 and Summer 2024

Research Grant, Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education, Summer 2023

Internationalization of the Curriculum Grant, Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education, Spring 2023

Outstanding Early Career Faculty Award, Kennesaw State University, Spring 2022

Manuscript Completion Program, Kennesaw State University, Spring 2021

Graduate Research Assistant Competitive Stipend, Kennesaw State University, Summer 2018 & 2020-2021

Department of Politics and International Relations Studentship, University of Oxford, 2011-2012

Research Award, Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business, Indiana University, 2011-2012

Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2010-2011

Research Grant, Leverhulme Trust, 2007-2011

Clarendon Fund Scholarship, University of Oxford, 2007-2010

Contemporary China Studies Studentship, University of Oxford, 2007-2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spelman College, Associate Professor, 2022-present
Special Topics: China in Asia; Diplomacy and the United Nations System; World Politics, Honors World Politics; Introduction to International Studies

Assistant Professor, Kennesaw State University, 2017-2022
American Government in a Comparative Perspective; Politics of East Asia; International Law and Organization (graduate and undergraduate); International Political Economy; Understanding Asia; Global Issues; Intro to Asian Studies

Teaching Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University, 2016
Topics in Chinese History: The Politics, Foreign Policy, and Economics of China's Rise

Adjunct Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh, 2014-2016
Chinese Legal Institutions for the US Lawyer

Adjunct Professor, School of Public & International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, 2015
China in the World: The Politics, Foreign Policy, and Economics of China's Rise

Associate Lecturer, University of the West of England, 2011-2012
China's Relations with the World; Business in Contemporary China; Chinese Culture and Social Identity

Tutor, Department of Politics, University of Oxford, 2011 Government and Politics of China

Instructor, Department of Politics, University of Oxford, 2009, 2011: Research Methods for Comparative Government

Tutor, St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford, 2009: Government and Politics of China

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

"Indo-Pacific Roundtable" Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, May 2025.

"Perspectives on China's Rise" China Goes Global, Emlyon Business School, Paris, France, November 2024.

"How Accurate Were Predictions of China's Rise?" Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2024.

"Panel discussion: Taiwan as a factor in US-China relations" Spelman College, Atlanta, November 2023.

"Justice Online: Legal Advice Websites and Rule of Law in China" Center for the Study of Contemporary China, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, September 2023.

"Rule by Law or Rule by Campaign: Do Laws on the Books Matter in China?" Northeast Corridor Chinese Law, Washington, DC, July 2023.

"Taiwan is Not Ukraine; it is its Opposite" China Research Center, Atlanta, GA, October 2022.

"The War in Ukraine: What it means for China" A Virtual Panel Discussion Sponsored by the China Research Center, September 2022.

"The 1989 Tiananmen Square Protests in Context" Marietta Rotary Club, Marietta, GA, August 2022.

"Begging the Environmental Question" Northeast Corridor Chinese Law Workshop, Washington, DC, July 2022.

"Is the World Ready for China Risen?" China Research Center, Atlanta, GA, December 2021.

"Leadership Promotion in Xi's China?" China Research Center, Atlanta, GA, August 2020.

"Smart Cities and Urban Innovation in Asia," Asia Business Conference, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA, March 2020.

"Protected by Technology or Law? China, Liberal Democracies, and Smart Cities Skeptics," Cooper-Walsh Colloquium, Fordham University School of Law, New York City, NY, October 2019.

"One Platform Four Legal Systems: How Legal Advice Websites link Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, and Mainland China," Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai, China, May 2019.

"Digital Justice Delivery? Lawyers and Legal Advice Websites in the People's Republic of China" Wisconsin International Law Journal's Annual Symposium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, April 2019.

"Can Legal Advice Websites Facilitate Challenges to the Chinese State?" China Research Center, Atlanta, GA, August 2017.

"关于人权律师的域外理论与实践 [Global Human Rights Lawyering in Theory and Practice]" University of Hunan Law School, Changsha, China, November 2014.

"The Beijing Consensus is Neither: Is a Rising China Really Trying to Challenge the Washington Consensus?" Louisville Committee on Foreign Relations, Louisville, KY, February 2014.

"Tax Reforms, Land Seizures, and Protests in Rural China" University of Pittsburgh, February 2014.

"Suing Dragons? Taking the Chinese State to Court" Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, November 2013.

"Sampling: Studying the Chinese State More Systematically" *Understanding Contemporary China: Glancing Back and Looking Forward, Oxford Contemporary China Studies Program*, University of Oxford, July 2012.

"Sleeping with Dragons? Politically Embedded Lawyers Suing the Chinese State" *Wisconsin International Law Review Symposium*, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; also: Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2012.

"法律在美国解决社会纠纷中所扮演的角色 [The Role of Law in Resolving Social Problems in the US]" Training Talk for Chinese Judges, Police, and Prosecutors, Hunan University, December 2010.

"Roundtable on Asian Cause Lawyers" *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, June 2011.

"美国遗产规划市场的简介 [An Introduction to the US market for Estate Planning]" & "Perceptions of China in the Western Media" Gansu Zhengtianhe Law Firm, May 2010.

SELECTED SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY

Expert Witness in Federal and State Asylum and Criminal Cases, 2019-Present

Community Speaker: Great Decisions; Marietta Rotary Club; Senior Enriched Learning, 2022-Present

Reviewer (2007–present): Norton; *Chinese Journal of Political Science*; *Comparative Political Systems*; *Contemporary Politics*; *CITY Journal; Environment and Planning D;* Macat*; Online Information Review;* University of North Georgia Press*; Problems of Post-Communism; Law & Society Review; Law & Social Inquiry; China: An International Journal; Texas National Security Review; China Quarterly.*

Conference Co-Organizer, The *Everyday Digital Politics of China*, October 2016

Conference Co-Organizer, Law *and the Legal Profession in China*, February 2015

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS
Languages: English, Mandarin, Spanish

Software: Microsoft Office, STATA and R statistical software, Adobe Photoshop, Basic HTML and Python