

Zhang, Zhiwei

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Department of Political Science
Kansas State University
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of Political Science, Kansas State University, 2013-2019

Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Political Science, Kansas State University, 2019-2026

Professor (tenured), Department of Political Science, Kansas State University, 2026-present

Education:

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY – Lexington, KY

Ph.D. Public Policy and Public Administration

Graduation:

May 2013

Dissertation Title: "To Produce or To Buy? Exploring Determinants of Local Government Privatization Decisions"

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – Manhattan, KS

Master of Public Administration

Graduation:

May 2009

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF MACHINERY – Beijing, China

Public Administration

Graduated:

June 2006

Research and Teaching Interests

Research Interests:

Public Finance and Budgeting, Fiscal Transparency and Accountability, Public Procurement and Public Private Partnership, Donors' Philanthropy Behavior, Nonprofit Finance and Management

Teaching Interests:

Research Methods, Statistics, Public Budgeting and Financial Management, Nonprofit Management, and Policy Analysis

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Yu, J., Petrovsky, N., Zhang, Z., & Schafer, J. G. (2026). Popular financial reporting increases understanding, interest, and trust: Experimental evidence. *International Public Management Journal*, 29(1), 1-28.

Kim, M. K., Zhang, Z., & Liu, G. (2026). Interdependence of Nonprofit and Public Sectors: A Spatial Analysis of the US Environmental Nonprofits. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, 19(1), 28.

Yu, J., Zhang, Z., Chen, X., & Boward, R. (2025). Mapping Government Budgeting Research: A Systematic Literature Review. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2024.2447080>

Yu, J., Petrovsky, N., Zhang, Z., & Schafer, J. G. (2025). Popular financial reporting increases understanding, interest, and trust: Experimental evidence. *International Public Management Journal*, 1–56. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10967494.2025.2496807>

- Huang, K., Liu, G., Chen, B., & Zhang, Z. (2025). From Relational Stability to Network Resilience: Annual Negotiated versus Competitive Municipal Bond-Issuing Networks. *The American Review of Public Administration*.
- Srithongrung-Kriz, A., Zhang, Z., & Gibson, B. (2024). Do transportation infrastructure contracts enhance spending efficiency? Examining state highway construction programs. *Journal of Infrastructure Policy and Development*, 8(14), 6871. <https://doi.org/10.24294/jipd6871>
- Yu, J., & Zhang, Z. (2023). Local Debt Financing in the Shadow of Storms: Disrupted and Destructed? *Public Performance & Management Review*, 1-28.
- Zhang, Z., Liu, G., Chen, B., & Huang, K. (2022). Social asset or social liability? How partisanship moderates the relationship between social capital and Covid-19 vaccination rates across United States counties. *Social Science & Medicine*, 311, 115325. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115325>
- Wei, W., Zhang, Z., & Yang, K. (2022). Local institutions and public service outsourcing: Managerial professionalism, mayoral strength, and electoral rules. *Public Administration Review*, 82(6), 1095-1123. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13525>
- Zhang, Z. (2019). Do State Characteristics That Would Affect Public Perceptions Matter in Charitable Contributions? An Empirical Analysis of Nursing Homes. *The Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*, 9(3).
- Schafer, J. G., & Zhang, Z. (2019). Who is engaged and why? Testing an instrumental perspective on stakeholder engagement. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 5(2), 155-177.
- Zhang, Z., Gibson, B., & Schafer, J. G. (2018). Reexamining the relationship between fiscal stress and outsourcing. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 41(1), 22-46.
- Zhang, Z. (2018). Contracting out: Exporting lessons for Chinese governance. *Journal of Chinese Governance*, 3(2), 177-196.
- Zhang, Z., & Gibson, B. (2017). Determinants of outsourcing in US Municipalities: Evidence from a municipal spatial network analysis. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, 10(2), 253-269.
- Schafer, J., & Zhang, Z. (2016). The Role of Stakeholders in Municipal Contracting Out. *Public Administration Quarterly*, 40(4), 99-123.
- Zhang, Z. (2013). To Produce or to Buy? Exploring Determinants of Local Government Privatization Decisions.
- Jennings, E. T., Hall, J. L., & Zhang, Z. (2012). The American recovery and reinvestment act and state accountability. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 35(3), 527-549.

Book Chapters (Peer Reviewed)

- Liu, G., & Zhang, Z. (2024). Improving public service in economic downturns: Strategies from three governance frameworks. In *Handbook Of Public Service Delivery* (pp. 340-358): Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Yu, J., & Zhang, Z. (2023) Future Directions for Research in National and Subnational Government Budgeting. In W. B. Hildreth & K. Dzigbede (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Public Financial Management*. London, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing.
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Policy Briefs and Non-Refereed Publications

- Huang, K., Chen, B., Zhang, Z., & Liu, G. (2024). Social Capital, Partisanship and the Need for Bridging and Linking Social Capital. *National civic review.*, 113(2), 32.
- Zhang, Zhiwei, and Edward T. Jennings, Jr. 2013. A State Comparison about How Employment First Works. Lexington, KY: Martin School of Public Policy and Public Administration, University of Kentucky: Prepared for the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities.
- Zhang, Zhiwei, Elle Hull, and Edward T. Jennings, Jr. 2012. A Follow-Up Report on Adult Abuse Registries. Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky: Prepared for the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities.
- Edward T. Jennings, Jr., and Zhiwei Zhang. 2011. A Brief Report on Recipient Use of Credit Cards in Home and Community Based Services or Supports for Community Living Waiver Programs. Lexington, KY: Prepared for the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Honors and Awards

Christopher Pollitt Prize for Best Paper, International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM), 2023 — Awarded for co-authored paper *From Relational Stability to Network Resilience: Comparing Negotiated versus Competitive Municipal Bond-Issuing Networks in California during 2000–2015*, presented at the IRSPM Annual Conference, Budapest, Hungary.

2014 Kansas State University	\$9,999 Faculty Enhancement Grant	
2014 Kansas State University	\$500 Faculty Development Award	
2012 SECOPA at Florida	Morris Collins Award for the Best Doctoral Student Paper	
2012 ARNOVA at Indiana	Participate in Professional Development Workshop (PDW)	
2007-2008 Academic year	\$1000 John Carlin Public Administration Scholarship	KSU
2005-2006 1 st semester	¥800 2nd Academic Award with Scholarship	BIM
2004-2005 2 nd semester	¥800 2nd Academic Award with Scholarship	BIM
2004-2005 1 st semester	¥800 2nd Academic Award with Scholarship	BIM
2004-2005 Academic year	¥1000 scholarship for excellent students leader	BIM
2002-2003 1 st semester	¥800 2nd Academic Award with Scholarship	BIM
2002-2003 Academic year	¥1000 scholarship for excellent students leader	BIM

Teaching Experience

Kansas State University – Manhattan, KS

Instructor of POLSC 737 Public Budgeting

Instructor of POLSC 735 Public and Nonprofit Management

Instructor of POLSC 507 Introduction to Public Administration

Instructor of POLSC 738 Public Finance

Instructor of POLSC 740 Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations

Instructor of POLSC 377 Introduction to Public Policy

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY – Lexington, KY

Instructor of Math Camp for New Master Students

August 2012

Instructor of Math Camp for New Ph.D. Students

August 2012

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY – Lexington, KY

Instructor of Eco 391: Statistics for Management And Economics Fall 2011
Teaching Evaluation: 3.6/4.0

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – Manhattan, KS
Graduate Teaching Assistant Fall 2007 – May 2009

Invited Talks

Keynote Speaker, The Impact of Natural Disasters on Policy Stability: A Test of Punctuated Equilibrium Theory in China, Fourth Workshop on Public Budgeting and Financial Management — “Local Government Fiscal Capacity and Institutional Development: Theory, Research, and Practice,” School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 2025.

Keynote Speaker, Good News, Bad News: How Financial Reporting Valence Shapes Public Trust in Government, Symposium on “Zero-Based Budgeting in the New Era: Theory, Technology, and Reform Pathways,” Shanghai University, Shanghai, China, 2025.

Keynote Speaker, Simplify, Engage, Empower: Evidence from Three Studies on Financial Transparency, Lecture Series on Public Management and Policy, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai, China, 2025.

Presentations and Conference Proceedings

Chen, C., Yu, J., & Zhang, Z. (2024). *Hurricane Shocks and Local Government Budget Reallocation: A Dynamic Compositional Approach*. Paper presented at the 2024 Annual Conference for Association for Budgeting & Financial Management, Cleveland, OH.

Guo, H. D., Shen, R., & Zhang, Z. (2024). *Local Government Fiscal competition—Horizontal, Vertical or Both?* Paper presented at the 2024 Annual Conference for Association for Budgeting & Financial Management, Cleveland, OH.

Yu, J., Zhang, Z., Schafer, J., Petrovsky, N., & Cummins, S. (2024). *How Simplified Reports of Government Financial Information Affects the Public’s Understanding, Interest, Trust, and Psychological Wellbeing: Lab Experimental Evidence*. Paper presented at the 2024 Annual Conference for Association for Budgeting & Financial Management, Cleveland, OH.

Zhang, Z., Yu, J., & Shi, Y. K. (2024). *Balancing Bonds in the Face of Nature: A Critical Look at How Social Capital Shapes Fiscal Resilience to Natural Disasters in U.S. Local Governments*. Paper presented at the 2024 Annual Conference for Association for Budgeting & Financial Management, Cleveland, OH.

Zhang, Z., Liu, G., Chen, B., & Huang, K., “Twilight Effects of Social Capital: A Necessary Condition Analysis of U.S. County-Level Covid Vaccination Rates” ARNOVA 52nd Annual Conference, November 16-18, Orlando, FL (scheduled)

Yu, J., & Zhang, Z., 2023 "Disasters, Management, and Performance," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 9-11, Atlanta, GA (scheduled)

Yu, J., & Zhang, Z., 2023 "Disasters, Management, and Performance," Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, October 26-28, Denver, CO (scheduled)

Zhang, Z., 2023 Government Budgeting Research: A Review. Invited talk at Sun Yat-Sen University

- Yu, J., Petrovsky, N., Zhang, Z., & Schafer, J., 2022 Citizen Use of Government Fiscal Information: A Survey Experimental Design. Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Miami, FL.
- Yu, J. & Zhang, Z., 2019. Emergency Debt Management: Natural Disasters and Municipal Government Borrowing in Annual Western Social Science Association Conference, San Diego, CA, April 24-27, 2019.
- Yu, J. & Zhang, Z., 2019. Emergency Debt Management: Natural Disasters and Municipal Government Borrowing in Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Zhang, Z., Schafer, J., & Exline, M., 2018. Fiscal Transfer and the Performance of Local Public Libraries in the U.S. In Association for Budgeting & Financial Management. Denver, Colorado.
- Zhang, Z. (2018). *Comparative Public Administration in the U.S. and China*. Invited Talk at Beijing Information Science & Technology University, Beijing, China.
- Zhang, Z. (2018). *Regional decentralization and the performance of local public libraries in the United States*. Invited Talk at City University of Hong Kong.
- Zhang, Z. (2017). *Spatial Interdependence of Nonprofit Sector and Governmental Activities* Paper presented at the The 6th Chinese Schoar Forum on Public Administration HangZhou City, China.
- Zhang, Z. (2017). *Spatial Interdependence of Nonprofit Sector and Governmental Activities* Paper presented at the APPAM International Conference, Brussels, Belgium.pu
- Zhang, Z., Guo, H. D., & Cheng, S. (2016). *A Potential Solution to Financial Self-Sufficiency of Local Governments? -- An Empirical Assessment of Small Business Establishment in Florida*. Paper presented at the Western Social Science Association 58th Annual Conference, Reno, NV.
- Srithongrung, Arwiphawee, Zhiwei Zhang, and Bryan Gibson. 2015. "Does Transportation Infrastructure Privatization Enhance Efficiency?_" American Society of Public Administration Chicago, Illinois March 6-10, 2015.
- Zhang, Zhiwei, and Bryan Gibson. 2014. "Revenue Diversification and Outsourcing: Do Local Revenue Structures Impact Outsourcing Levels?" Association of Budgeting and Financial Management Grand Rapids, MI, October 2nd-5th.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. 2014. "Managing Nonprofit Organizations in a Digit Era -- Does Perception alter Donor Behavior?" The 7th Sino-US International Conference for Public Administration, Beijing, China, June 5th - 7th.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. 2014. "Empirical Analysis of Municipal Outsourcing Decisions from Transaction Cost and Revenue Volatility Perspective." 56th Annual WSSA Conference Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 3-5.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. October 2013. Produce or Buy? An Analysis of Government Outsourcing Decisions from the Transaction Cost and Revenue Volatility Perspectives. Association for Budgeting & Financial Management. Washington DC.
- Zhang, Zhiwei, and Longjin Chen. November, 2012. Determinants of Privatization in the U.S. Municipalities -- New Evidence from Spatial Study of Policy Diffusion. In Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management. Baltimore, MD.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. October, 2012. Is Privatization a Response to Revenue Volatility? In Association for Budgeting & Financial Management. New York City, New York.
- Zhang, Zhiwei, and Longjin Chen. October, 2012. What Drives Privatization in U.S. Municipalities. In Southeastern Conference of Public Administration. Coral Springs, Florida.

- Zhang, Zhiwei, and Jr. Edward T. Jennings. October, 2012. How Nonprofits' Professionalism and Quality Affect Donations -- An Empirical Analysis of Nursing Homes. In Southeastern Conference of Public Administration. Coral Springs, Florida.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. 2011. An Empirical Analysis of Americans' Charitable Giving with Respect to Income. In *Association of Budgeting and Financial Management*. Washington, D.C.
- Edward T. Jennings, Jr., and Zhiwei Zhang. September, 2011. Explaining the Service Levels of Home and Community Based Waiver Programs: A Comparative State Policy Analysis Redux. In *Southeastern Conference of Public Administration*. New Orleans, LA.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. September, 2011. Does Public Perception Matter in Charitable Contributions - An Empirical Analysis of Health Care Nonprofit Organizations. In *Southeastern Conference of Public Administration*. New Orleans, LA.
- Edward T. Jennings, Jr., Jeremy L. Hall, and Zhiwei Zhang. March, 2011. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and State Accountability. In *Center for Accountability and Performance Symposium, ASPA*. Baltimore, MD.
- Edward T. Jennings, Jr., and Zhiwei Zhang. October, 2010. Explaining the Service Levels of Home and Community Based Waiver Programs: A Comparative State Policy Analysis. In *Southeastern Conference of Public Administration*. Wilmington, NC.
- Zhang, Zhiwei. June, 2010. Produce or Buy? A Theoretical Analysis of Government Procurement from a Transaction Cost Perspective. In *2010 Sino-US International Conference on Public Administration (5th)*. Xiamen, China.
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Review Service

Public Performance and Management Review, Public Administration Review, American Review of Public Administration, State and Local Government Review, Chinese Public Administration Review

Editorial Board

American Review of Public Administration

Membership

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
Section on Chinese Public Administration (SCPA), ASPA
China-America Association for Public Affairs
