

## **Taisu Zhang**

Yale Law School, P.O. Box 208215, New Haven, CT 06520

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### **Academic Positions (Primary)**

#### **Yale Law School**

*Professor*, 2019-

*Associate Professor*, 2016-2019

*Irving S. Ribicoff Visiting Associate Professor*, Fall 2015

#### **Duke University School of Law**

*Associate Professor*, 2014-2016

*Visiting Assistant Professor*, 2012-2014

### **Academic Positions (Secondary)**

#### **Yale University, Department of History**

*Professor (secondary appointment)*, 2019-

#### **Yale University, Jackson School of Global Affairs**

*Affiliated Faculty*, 2022-

#### **Peking University Law School**

*Global Faculty Member*, 2018-

*Visiting Instructor*, Fall 2010

#### **Shanghai Jiaotong University, China Institute for Socio-legal Studies**

*Academic Advisory Board Member*, 2022-

#### **Brown University History Department**

*Visiting Lecturer*, Spring 2012

#### **Tsinghua University School of Law**

*Visiting Scholar*, Fall 2011

### **Education**

**Yale University, History Department**, New Haven, CT

Ph.D. (2014)

**Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT

J.D. (2008)  
Articles and Essays Editor, *Yale Law Journal*

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, History and Mathematics (2005)

## **Academic Publications (in print or under contract)**

### **Books**

LEGALITY IN CHINA (Harvard University Press, forthcoming 2027)

THE IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF QING TAXATION: BELIEF SYSTEMS, POLITICS, AND INSTITUTIONS (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Allan Sharlin Memorial Book Award, Social Science History Association (2024)

Included in the “Recommended Bibliography for China Studies, 2005-2025” by the World Conference on China Studies and the National Library of China (2025)

Chinese translation under contract with Sanlian Press (Beijing)

THE LAWS AND ECONOMICS OF CONFUCIANISM: KINSHIP AND PROPERTY IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL CHINA AND ENGLAND (Cambridge University Press 2017).

Presidents Book Award, Social Science History Association (2018)

Gaddis Smith International Book Prize, Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies (2018)

Chinese translation in production with Sanlian Press (Beijing)

### **Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters**

*Legal Internalism: A Behavioral Theory* (with Shyamkrishna Balganesh), 52 *YALE J. INT’L L.* (forthcoming 2026).

*Legality and Legitimacy in Authoritarian Regimes*, in *OXFORD HANDBOOK OF LAW AND AUTHORITARIANISM* (Cora Chan, Madhav Khosla, Benjamin Liebman, & Mark Tushnet eds., forthcoming 2026).

*Falü Wenminghua: Quanqiu Zhixu Chonggou Beijing xia Zhonghua Falü Wenming de Lilun Jiangou yu Shijian Lujing* (法律文明化：全球秩序重构背景下中华法律文明的理论建构与实践路径) [*The Civilizational Nature of Law: The Theoretical Construction and Practical Application of the Concept of “Chinese Legal Civilization” within a Context of Geopolitical Reconstruction*] (with Han Liu), 2026(3) *QINGHUA DAXUE XUEBAO (ZHEXUE SHEHUI KEXUE BAN)* (清华大学学报 (哲学社会科学版)) [*ACADEMIC J. OF TSINGHUA UNIV. (PHIL. & SOC. SCI. EDITION)*] (forthcoming).

*Legal Internalism as a Mode of Reasoning* (with Shyamkrishna Balganesh), 70 AM. J. JUR. 149 (2026).

*Does Legality Produce Political Legitimacy* (with Yiqing Xu and Yiqin Fu), 54 J. LEG. STUD. 257 (2025).

*The Law of Informational States* (with Bridget Fahey and Yuping Lin), 65 VA. J. INT'L L. 371 (2025).

*Property and the 100-Year Life*, in LAW AND THE 100-YEAR LIFE 283 (Abbe Gluck, Anne Alstott & Eugene Rusyn eds., 2025, Cambridge University Press).

“*Natural Hierarchies*,” 35 YALE J. L. & HUMAN. 643 (2024).

*Authoritarianism and Legality*, 32 ASIAN PACIFIC L. REV. 311 (2024).

*Pandemic State-building: Chinese Administrative Expansion Since 2012* (with Yutian An), 42 YALE L. & POL'Y REV. 330 (2024).

*The Modern State and the Rise of the Business Corporation* (with John Morley), 132 YALE L.J. 1970 (2023).

William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Legal History Article of the Year Prize (2024)  
Selected as one of the “Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles of 2023” by the *Corporate Practice Commentator*

*The Private Law Influence of the Great Qing Code*, in THE MAKING OF THE CHINESE CIVIL CODE (Hao Jiang & Pietro Sirena eds., forthcoming 2023, Cambridge University Press).

*Land Law in Chinese History*, in ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO CHINESE LEGAL HISTORY, available at [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3547494](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3547494) (Thomas Buoye & Weiting Guo eds., forthcoming, Routledge).

Cong “*Tang Song Biange Lun*” dao “*Da Fenliu*”: *Yizhong Jiashuo* (从“唐宋变革论”到“大分流：一种假说”) [*From the “Tang-Song Transition” to the “Great Divergence”: A Hypothesis*], 59(4) BEIJING DAXUE XUEBAO (ZHEXUE SHEHUI KEXUE BAN) (北京大学学报 (哲学社会科学版)) [ACADEMIC J. OF PEKING UNIV. (PHIL. & SOC. SCI. EDITION)] 83 (2022).

*Dui Qingdai Caizheng Fazhan Mailuo de Lixing Zhuyi Jieshi: Lun Qi Gongneng yu Juxian* (对清代财政发展脉络的理性主义解释：论其功能与局限) [*Reviewing the Uses and Limitations of Rationalist Explanations for Qing Fiscal Development*], 2021(1) ZHONGGUO JINGJISHI YANJIU (中国经济史研究) [RESEARCH IN CHINESE ECONOMIC HISTORY] 40.

*Legal Internalism in Modern Histories of Copyright* (review essay, with Shyamkrishna Balganesh), 134 HARV. L. REV. 1066 (2021).

*Beyond Information Costs: Preference Formation and the Architecture of Property Law*, 12 J. LEG. ANALYSIS 1 (2020).

*Fiscal Institutions in Imperial China*, in OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA: ASIAN HISTORY, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.134> (2020).

*China's Turn Towards Law* (with Tom Ginsburg), 59 VA. J. INT'L L. 278 (2019).

*The Development of Comparative Law in China*, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF COMPARATIVE LAW 228 (Matthias Reimann and Reinhardt Zimmerman eds., Oxford Univ. Press, 2d ed., 2018).

Chinese translation, with commentary from other scholars: 36 FAZHISHI YANJIU (法制史研究) [STUDIES IN LEGAL HISTORY] 213 (Xiao Weilin trans., 2019).

*Disaggregating the Court: A Methodological Survey of Research on the Supreme People's Court of China*, 2 CHINA L. & SOC. REV. 154 (2017)

Chinese translation: 15(2) FALÜ HE SHEHUI KEXUE (法律和社会科学) [L. & SOC. SCI.] 1 (2017) (Qiu Yaokun trans.).

*Moral Economies in Early Modern Land Markets*, 79 LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROB. 107 (2017).

Chinese translation: 2018(1) SHIDA FAXUE (师大法学) [ECNU LAW REVIEW] 36 (Gao Yining trans.).

*Cultural Paradigms in Property Institutions*, 40 YALE J. INT'L L. 347 (2016).

Featured in JOTWELL (The Journal of Things We Like Lots), May 3, 2017.

*Beyond Methodological Eurocentricism: Comparing the Chinese and European Legal Traditions*, 56 AM. J. LEGAL HIST. 195 (2016).

Chinese translation: 6 FALÜSHI YI PING (法律史译评) [TRANSLATIONS AND COMMENTARY IN LEGAL HISTORY] 278 (Gao Yanguang trans., 2018).

*Do Kinship Networks Strengthen Private Property Rights? Evidence from Rural China* (with Xiaoxue Zhao), 11 J. EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUD. 505 (2014).

*Social Hierarchies and the Formation of Customary Property Law in Pre-Industrial China and England*, 62 AM. J. COMP. L. 171 (2014).

Abbreviated version reprinted in CHINESE LAW: KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICE, AND TRANSFORMATION, 1530S TO 1950S (Madeleine Zelin and Li Chen eds., Brill, 2015).

Chinese translation: 3 FUDAN UNIV. L. REV. 343 (Zhang Shengyue trans., 2016).

Winner of the Kathryn T. Preyer Award, American Society for Legal History (2012).

*The Pragmatic Court: Reinterpreting the Supreme People's Court of China*, 25 COLUM. J. ASIAN L. 1 (2012).

*Property Rights in Land, Agricultural Capitalism, and the Relative Decline of Pre-Industrial China*, 13 SAN DIEGO INT. L.J. 129 (2011).

*Zhongguoren weihe zai Xingzheng Jiufen zhong Pianhao Xinfang* (中国人为何在行政纠纷中偏好信访) [*Why the Chinese Public Prefer Administrative Petitioning over Litigation*], 2009(3) SHEHUI XUE YANJIU (社会学研究) [SOCIOLOGICAL STUD.] 139.

[Translation] Xianglong Zhang, *The Philosophical Feature of Confucianism and Its Position in Inter-Cultural Dialogue: Universalism or Non-Universalism?*, 4 FRONTIERS OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHINA 483 (2009).

[Translation] Xianglong Zhang, *Flowing within the Text: A Discussion on He Lin's Explanation of Zhu Xi's Method of Intuition*, 1 FRONTIERS OF PHILOSOPHY IN CHINA 60 (2006).

### **Book Reviews**

Review of YUN-CHIEN CHANG, *PROPERTY LAW: COMPARATIVE, EMPIRICAL, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSES* (2023), 59 L. & SOCIAL INQUIRY (forthcoming).

Review of WENKAI HE, *PUBLIC INTEREST AND STATE LEGITIMATION: EARLY MODERN ENGLAND, JAPAN, AND CHINA* (2023), 9 J. CHINESE HIST. (forthcoming).

Review of YUHUA WANG, *THE RISE AND FALL OF IMPERIAL CHINA: THE SOCIAL ORIGINS OF STATE DEVELOPMENT* (2022), 129 AM. HIST. REV. 1241 (2024).

Review of JONATHAN J. KINKEL, *GROWTH AND SURVIVAL: AN ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF COURT REFORM IN URBAN CHINA*, 83 J. ASIAN STUD. 429 (2024).

Foreword to book symposium on CLAIRE PRIEST, *CREDIT NATION: PROPERTY LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS IN EARLY AMERICA*, 34 YALE J. L. & HUMAN. 223 (2022).

Review of RON HARRIS, *GOING THE DISTANCE: EURASIAN TRADE AND THE RISE OF THE BUSINESS CORPORATION, 1400-1700* (2020), 81 J. ECON. HIST. 318 (2021).

Review of TING ZHANG, *CIRCULATING THE CODE: PRINT MEDIA AND LEGAL KNOWLEDGE IN QING CHINA* (2020), 11 EAST ASIAN PUBLISHING & SOC. 76 (2021).

Review of CHUN PENG, *RURAL LAND TAKINGS LAW IN MODERN CHINA: ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION* (2017), 84 CHINA J. 149 (2020).

Review of KWAI HANG NG & XIN HE, EMBEDDED COURTS: JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING IN CHINA (2017), 82 CHINA J. 139 (2019)

Review of JOHN O. HALEY, LAW'S POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS: RIVERS, RIFLES, RICE, AND RELIGION (2016), 67 AM. J. COMP. L. 226 (2019).

Review of LI CHEN, CHINESE LAW IN IMPERIAL EYES: SOVEREIGNTY, JUSTICE, AND TRANSCULTURAL POLITICS (2015), 36 L. & HIST. REV. 430 (2018).

Review of ZHANG YONGLE, JIUBANG XINZAO (旧邦新造) [REMAKING OF AN OLD COUNTRY] (2011), 11 FALÜ SHUPING (法律书评) [L. BOOK REVIEWS] 3 (2015).

### **Works in Progress**

CULTURE, LAW, AND ECONOMIC DIVERGENCE (book manuscript in progress)

*Perceiving Techo-Legality: Social Attitudes towards the Judicial Use of Artificial Intelligence in China and the United States* (with Xinbo Lin, Lawrence Liu, Eddie Yang, Jinhua Cheng, and Han Liu) (revise and resubmit at AM. J. COMP. L.).

*The Geopolitics of American Industrial Policy Lawmaking* (with Dan Traficonte)

*The Jurisprudence of Incoherence* (with Ketan Ramakrishnan).

*The Political Economy of Codification* (with Xin Dai and Shitong Qiao).

### **Honors and Distinctions**

Inclusion in the “Recommended Bibliography for Global China Studies Research, 2005-2025” by the World Conference on China Studies and the National Library of China (2025)

Allan Sharlin Memorial Book Award, Social Science History Association (2024)

William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Legal History Article of the Year Prize (2024)

“Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles of 2023” selection by the *Corporate Practice Commentator* (2024)

Public Intellectuals Program Fellow, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (2019-2020)

Presidents Book Award, Social Science History Association (2018)

Gaddis Smith Book Prize, Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies (2018)

Elected President of the International Society for Chinese Law and History (2018)

Arthur and Mary Wright Dissertation Prize, Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2014)

Kathryn T. Preyer Award, American Society for Legal History (2012)

Yale University Prize Fellowship (2011-12)  
Arthur F. Wright Fellowship (2011-12)  
Distinction in Ph.D. field examinations (2010)  
Fan Family Fellowship (2010-11)  
Overbrook Fellowship (2008-2009)  
Williams Essay Prize, Yale University Council for East Asian Studies (2005)  
Robert D. Gries Senior Essay Prize, Yale University History Department (2005)  
Deforest Prize, Yale University Mathematics Department (2005)  
Phi Beta Kappa (2005)  
Distinction in the History Major (2005)  
Distinction in the Mathematics Major (2005)

### **Editorial Responsibilities**

Studies in Legal History Book Series, Cambridge University Press (Co-Editor, 2021-)  
*Asian Journal of Law and Society* (Special Issue Editor, 2021-22)  
*American Journal of Legal History* (Board Member, 2015- )  
*China Law and Society Review* (Board Member, 2014- )

### **Select Academic Presentations**

#### **Legality in China/The Authoritarian Functions of Law**

Stanford Law School (2027), New York University School of Law (2026), American Society for Legal History (2026), Peking University (2026, 2025), Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (2026), University of Chicago Law School (2026), Columbia University (2026), University of Toronto (2026, 2024), American Political Science Association (2025), University of Washington (2025), Yale Law School (2025, 2024), Harvard Law School (2024)

#### **Legal Internalism**

Peking University (2026), American Society for Legal History (2025), American Bar Foundation (2025), Columbia University (2025)

#### **Social Scientific Theories and Historical Writing**

Tsinghua University (2026), Peking University (2026), Social Science History Association (2024), Peking University (2023)

#### **The Normative Incoherence of Property Law**

Yale Law School (2024), Harvard Law School (2024)

#### **Chinese Administrative Expansion in the Xi Jinping Era**

Hong Kong University (2023), University of Pennsylvania School of Law (2023), Yale Law School (2023)

### **The Cultural and Legal Origins of Economic Divergence**

Stanford University (2024), Peking University (2023), University of Chicago (2023), New York University Law School (2022)

### **The Ideological Foundations of the Qing Fiscal State**

Stanford University (2024), University of California, San Diego (2024), University of California, Irvine (2024), American Society for Legal History (2023, 2017, 2015), Hong Kong University (2023), Renmin University (2023), Peking University Yenching Academy (2023), University of Michigan (2023), Duke University (2023), Harvard University (2022), University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School (2022), Chinese University of Hong Kong (2022), Peking University (2022), Shanghai Jiaotong University (2022), Princeton University (2022), University of Chicago (2022), Yale University (2022, 2015), Yale Center in Beijing (2021), “Rethinking Cultural Constructions of Law in East Asia” Online Speaker Series (hosted by Yale Law School, Cornell Law School, and the University of Toronto, 2020), Tel Aviv University (2020), Northwestern University (2019), Cornell University (2019), World Economic History Congress (2018), Peking University (2018), Hong Kong University (2017), University of Wisconsin, Madison (2016), Duke University School of Law (2016, 2015), International Society for Chinese Law and History (Roundtable, 2015), Triangle East Asia Colloquium (2015)

### **Legality and Legitimacy in China**

University of California, San Diego (2024), Hong Kong University Faculty of Law (2023), Yale Law School (2022), American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting (2022), City University of Hong Kong (2021), University of Washington (2020), University of Michigan Law School (2019)

### **Legal Internalism in Modern Histories of Copyright**

Peking University (2021), Renmin University Law School (2020), Notre Dame Law School (2020), University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School (2020)

### **State Building and the Rise of the Modern Corporation**

Max Planck Institute-Tel Aviv University Transnational Legal History Workshop (2022), Peking University (2022), Sichuan University (2022), Fordham Law School (2021), Quantitative History Webinar Series (2021), Yale Law School (2021), American Society of Comparative Law Annual Conference (2020), Hong Kong University Faculty of Law (2020), Peking University Law School (2020), USC Marshall Business School (2020)

### **Beyond Information Costs: Preference Formation and the Architecture of Property Law (under various titles)**

New York University Law School (2019), American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting (2018), Renmin University Law School (2018), Tsinghua University Law School (2018), Brooklyn Law School (2018), Yale Law School (2017)

### **China’s Turn Towards Law**

University of Virginia (2019), Yale Law School (2018)

**The Laws and Economics of Confucianism (book talk or interview)**

Social Science History Association (2019), American Society for Legal History (2018), Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies (2018), New York University (2018), New Books Network (2018), ChinaFile (2017), University of California, Los Angeles (2017), Yale Law School (2017)

**Limited Liability and Capital Formation in Republican China**

Berle XI Symposium, Seattle University (2019), Triangle Legal History Seminar (2015), American Historical Association (2014)

**Disaggregating the Court: A Methodological Survey of Research on the Supreme People's Court of China**

Supreme People's Court of China (2016)

**Land Markets in Early Modern Economies**

George Washington University Law School (2016), Tsinghua University (2016), Duke University School of Law (2016)

**Cultural Paradigms in Property Institutions**

University of Minnesota (2017), Peking University (2016); Renmin University (2016); New York University Law School (2016), Harvard Law School (2014), Duke University School of Law (2014)

**Kinship and Property in Pre-Industrial China and England (under various titles)**

Stanford University (2016), Duke University School of Law (2013), Triangle Legal History Seminar (2013), American Historical Association (2013), American Society for Legal History (2012), Columbia University (2012), Harvard East Asia Society (2012)

**Lineage Politics in Qing and Republican Litigation**

American Society for Legal History (2013)

**Do Kinship Networks Strengthen Private Property Rights? Evidence from Rural China**

New York University School of Law (2014), American Law and Economics Association (2013), Duke-UNC Junior Faculty Workshop (2012)

**The Pragmatic Court: Reinterpreting the Supreme People's Court of China**

Yale University (2012)

**Property Rights in Land, Agricultural Capitalism, and the Relative Decline of Pre-Industrial China (under various titles)**

American Historical Association (Roundtable, 2011), American Society for Legal History (2010), Yale University (2010), Yale China Law Center (2010)

**Why the Chinese Public Prefer Administrative Petitioning over Litigation**

Law and Society Association (2009), Yale China Law Center (2008)

**Legal Experience**

**Supreme People's Court of China, Institute of Applied Legal Studies**

*Research Clerk*, Summer 2009, Fall 2010

**Davis Polk and Wardwell (New York and Hong Kong Offices)**

*Summer Associate*, 2007

**Federal Defenders of New York (Manhattan Office)**

*Summer Clerk*, 2006

**Other Publications and Media Appearances**

Written or contributed to opinions, essays, reports, or interviews in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, BBC News, Bloomberg News, *Foreign Policy*, *Huffington Post*, *ChinaFile*, *Lawfare*, *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, *Caijing*, *Dushu*, *Pengpai Xinwen* (The Paper), *Wenhua Zongheng* (Beijing Cultural Review), *Qinghua Shehuixue Pinglun* (Tsinghua Review of Sociology), *Fazhi Ribao* (China Legal Daily), and *Renmin Fayuan Bao* (People's Court Daily).

**Languages**

Chinese (native speaker, fluency in classical Chinese)

Japanese (good reading skills, basic conversational skills)

Latin (intermediate reading skills)

Ancient Greek (basic reading skills)

**Professional Membership**

American Historical Association

American Law & Economics Association

American Society for Legal History (Editor, *Studies in Legal History*, 2022-)

American Political Science Association

Asian Law and Society Association

Economic History Association

International Society for Chinese Law and History (Board of Trustees, 2020- ; President, 2018-2020; Board Member, 2013- )

Law and Society Association

Social Science History Association

### **Peer Review Service**

Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Michigan University Press, Cornell University Press, *Journal of Legal Studies*, *Yale Law Journal*, *Harvard Law Review*, *Columbia Law Review*, *Stanford Law Review*, *American Journal of Comparative Law*, *American Journal of International Law*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, *American Law and Economic Review*, *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Law and History Review*, *American Journal of Legal History*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *Law and Society Review*, *Comparative Legal History*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Economic History Review*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *China Quarterly*, *Late Imperial China*, *Chinese Historical Review*, *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, *Asia Pacific Law Review*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *Washington International Law Journal*, *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, *Lishi Yanjiu* [Historical Studies], *Shehuixue Yanjiu* [Sociological Studies], *Zhongguo Jingjishi Yanjiu* [Research in Economic History], *Xin Shixue* [New Historical Studies], *Si yu Yan* [Thought and Language], *Huanqiu Falü Pinglun* [Global Law Review], *Shehui* [Society]

### **Bar Admissions**

New York (inactive)