Andrew J. Kao

Harvard University
Department of Economics
Cambridge MA, 02138

Phone: (617) 335 8987
Email: andrewkao@g.harvard.edu
Website: https://andrew-kao.github.io/

Education

Ph.D., Economics

Harvard University (2022-ongoing)

B.S., Computational and Applied Math and B.A., Economics (with honors)

The University of Chicago (2016-2020)

Research

Publications

"AI-tocracy" with Martin Beraja, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman (2023)

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 138, Issue 3 (August)

"Protests" with Davide Cantoni, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman (2024)

Annual Review of Economics, Volume 16, 519-543

"Evaluating Large Language Models' Ability to Automate Spear Phishing" with Fred Heiding, Simon Lermen, Claudio Verdun, Bruce Schneier, and Arun Vishwanath (2026)

Conference: ICML Workshop on Reliable and Responsible Foundation Models

Publication: Expert Systems with Applications, 131546

"Evaluating AI Models' Capability to Automate Voice Phishing Attacks" with Fred Heiding, Claudio Mayrink Verdun, Simon Lermen, Vitor Albiero, Lauren Deason, Irina-Elena Veliche, and Christine Lehane. (2026)

Expert Systems with Applications, 133620

Working Papers

"Exporting the Surveillance State via Trade in AI" with Martin Beraja, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman (2025)

Resubmission invited, American Economic Review

"Puppetmasters or Pawns? The Power of Congressional Staffers" with Sara Ji (2025)

"Stolen Secrets, Open Firms: Economic Espionage and Knowledge Flows" with Karthik Tadepalli (2026)

"The After Party: Electoral Consequences of Party Bans" with Matthias Weigand (2026)

Affiliations

Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University, Affiliate (2023-present)
Harvard Center for International Development (CID), PhD Affiliate (2024-present)
Harvard Kennedy School Evidence for Policy Design, Research Fellow (2020-2022)

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government Grant (2026)
Molly and Domenic Ferrante Economics Research Fund (2026)
Stripe Economics of AI Fellowship (2025)
Garon and Suh Family Foundation Economics Research Fund (2025)
Kenneth C. Griffin Economics Research Fund (2024)
Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action, Digital Credit Observatory Grant (2023)
Oxford Global Priorities Fellowship (2023)
Center for American Political Studies, Research Seed Grant (2023)
Harvard Data Science Initiative, Azure Credits (2023)
AEFP Roe L. Johns Grant (2022)
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (2021 and 2022)

Seminars, Colloquia, and Conferences

2026: AEA ASSA, APSA Annual Meeting, New England Economics PhD Conference, Subsea Networks World
2025: Brown Northeast Political Economy Conference
2023: Bank of Canada & University of Toronto Conference on the Chinese Economy
2022: AEFP

Policy Articles

"How the surveillance state is exported through trade in AI" with Martin Beraja, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman. VoxDev column (2023)

"Autocratic AI dystopias: From science fiction to social science fact" with Martin Beraja, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman. VoxDev column (2023)

"Autocratic AI dystopias: From science fiction to social science fact" with Martin Beraja, David Yang, and Noam Yuchtman. VoxEU column (2021)

Teaching

Teaching Fellow:

Political Economy of Electoral Democracies (Harvard Economics, 2025, 2027)

Political Economy of Non-Democracies (Harvard Economics, 2024-26)

Quantitative Methods in Economics (Harvard College, 2025)

Advanced Intermediate Microeconomics (Harvard College, 2024)

Academic Service

Referee: Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy: Macro, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Review of Economics and Statistics, The Review of Economic Studies

Harvard Geoeconomics Reading Group, Organizer (2025-present)

Unjournal, Innovation and meta-science Field Specialist (2024-present)

Harvard/MIT Economics Mentoring Program, Mentor (2023-present)

Harvard China Economics Reading Group, Organizer (2023-2024)

Harvard Economics Peer Support Network, Co-leader (2023-2024)

Other Experiences

Predoctoral Fellow, David Yang (2020–2022)

Research Assistant, Leonardo Bursztyn (2018–2020)

UChicago Oeconomica (undergraduate research organization), Treasurer (2019-2020) and Existential Risk Cohort Leader (2018-2019)

UChicago Writer's Workshop, Vice President (2019-2020) and Workshop Leader (2017-2020)

Teach For Hong Kong, Program Development Intern (2018)

UChicago Effective Altruists, Co-President (2017-2020)

Telligent Capital Management, Research Intern (2017)

Rich Sea LLC, Private Equity Intern (2017)