

GUANCHI ZHANG

VERMONT LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vermont Law and Graduate School, South Royalton, VT

Associate Professor of Law, July 2025 to Present, Law School

Assistant Professor of Law, July 2023 to June 2025, Law School

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D., Ph.D. equivalent), May 2023, Law School

Master of Laws (LL.M.), May 2016 (requirement fulfilled, degree waived), Law School

Peking University, Beijing, China

Master of Laws (LL.M.), Constitutional and Administrative Law, July 2015, Law School

Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.), July 2013, National School of Development

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) with Honors, July 2013, Law School

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- *The Territorial Paradox of Metropolitan Reform* (under review)
- *Urban Commons on Uncommon Ground: Experimenting with Co-Governance in China's Global Cities*, 23 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY GLOBAL STUDIES LAW REVIEW 91 (2024).
- *Rescaling the Socialist State: Territorial Politics and City-region Restructuring in Maoist China*, 102 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY 102846 (2023).
- *The City as a Legal Concept— A Genealogy of Local Government Law Studies*, 19 LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE 27 (2021) (in Chinese).
- *Regulating Regional Administrative Monopoly: Chinese Style*, 16 PUBLIC LAW STUDY 1 (2016) (in Chinese).

Works in Progress

- *Community by Contract: Land Use Deals in U.S. and China*
- *Megacities and Constitutional Orders: Lessons from East Asian Megacities* (with Masahiko Kinoshita and Il-Young Jung)

INVITED TALK

- 2025 “Community, Capital, and City Hall: Navigating Contested Urban Spaces in Rising Property Markets”
Institutional and Organizational Economics Academy Annual Conference, Corsica, France, May 9
- 2025 “Takings in Urban Renewal: The U.S. and China Comparison”
Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, March 28
- 2023 “Bringing the Community back in: Urban Redevelopment in Chinese cities”
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, March 8
- 2021 “Towards a Territorial Understanding of Chinese Political Economy”
Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Southern California, Virtual, March 25
- 2019 “Transformation of Local Government Law”
Global Lecture Series, Guanghuang Law School, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, June 14
- 2019 “Where the Transformation Locates: Reexamining China’s Urban Policy in the Great Leap Forward”
Asia Fellows Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, April 1

SELECTED CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “Community Benefit Agreements as Urban Social Contract”
Association of Law and Political Economy Inaugural Conference, Richmond, February 6
- 2025 “The Rise of Techno-Cities: Regulatory Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective”
American Society of Comparative Law Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, October 17
- 2025 “Peak Metropolis: The Underbounding of Great American Cities”
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Chicago, May 24
- 2025 “Grafting Techno-Cities”
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, March 15
- 2024 “Rightscaling Cities: Comparing Territorial Changes of American and Chinese Local Governments”
10th International and Comparative Urban Law Conference, London, United Kingdom, July 20
- 2023 “The Promises and Pitfalls of Community-Based Urban Redevelopment”

- Harvard East Asia Society Annual Conference, Cambridge, February 18
- 2022 “Do We Need Megacities as a Constitutional Concept? Lessons from East Asia”
8th International and Comparative Urban Law Conference, Vancouver, Canada, July 16
- 2022 “The Territorial Foundation of Market Transition”
American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Online, February 27
- 2021 “(B)ordering: How China Utilizes Boundaries to Battle the Long Pandemic”
International Society of Public Law Annual Conference (ICON-S), Online, June 6
- 2021 “The Territorial Foundation of Market Transition”
Cambridge Chinese Politics Research Workshop, Online, May 7
- 2021 “State-Rescaling and Territorial Politics in Pre-Reform China”
American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Online, April 6
- 2020 “Boundaries Not Made: City Secession in China from 1990 to 2010”
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in Asia (AAS-in-Asia), Online, September 1
- 2019 “Decentering Property Rights”
The World Congress of International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (IVR), Lucerne, Switzerland, July 12
- 2019 “Anti-Urbanism, or the Space of Accumulation? Reexamining China’s City Empowerment in the late 1950s”
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 30

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vermont Law and Graduate School

Property (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

State and Local Government (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

Torts (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

AI in Legal Practice (co-designer, Spring 2025)

Harvard University

Law School

Why Law? Lessons from China (Teaching Fellow), Spring 2018, Spring 2022

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Contemporary Chinese Society (Teaching Fellow), Department of Sociology, Fall 2020

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FUNDING

2021-2023	Fairbank Center Graduate Student Associate, Harvard University
2022	Outstanding Student Paper Award, China Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers
2021	Research Grant, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
2020	Distinction in Teaching Award, Harvard University
2019	Research Grant, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
2017-2018	Graduate Program Fellowship, Harvard Law School,
2017	East Asia Legal Study Research Funding, Harvard Law School,
2016	F.Y. Chang Fellowship, Harvard Law School,
2016	Dean's Scholar Prize, Harvard Law School
2014	Alumni Scholarship of 1985, Peking University,
2014	Jing Jiang Scholarship, Peking University

SERVICE

To Universities

Vermont Law and Graduate School

Faculty Development Committee, 2023-present

Deans' Advisory Committee, 2024-present

Faculty Appointments Committee, 2025-present

Faculty Advisor, Environmental Law Society, 2025-present

Mentor for student research papers, moot court competitions, and Vermont Environment Law Journal

Harvard University

Law School

LL.M. Student Advisor, 2017-2018

Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies

Undergraduate Grants Adjudication Committee, 2022

To the Professions

Urban China Seminar Series

Co-organizer, 2018 to 2023

Sponsored, variously, by the MIT China Future City Lab, the MIT Sustainable Urbanization Lab, the Harvard Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the University of British Columbia School of Community and Regional Planning, and the Ashoka University Centre for China Studies.

American Society of Comparative Law

Member, Younger Comparativists Committee, 2025-present

Law and Society Association

Discussant, panel on “Spatial Justice: Housing, Urban Development, and the Political Economy of Place,” 2025 Annual Conference, Chicago

Association of Law and Political Economy

Organizer, panel on “The Legal Architecture of Crisis: Power and Reform in Urban Property Market,” 2026 Inaugural Conference, Richmond

Association for Asian Studies

Organizer, panel on “Cities Without Limits: Reimagining Governance for China’s Mega-city Future,” 2025 Annual Conference, Columbus

Organizer, panel on “Place, Power, and Publics in Metropolitan China: Toward Burgeoning Social-Economic Orders,” 2020 AAS-in-Asia Conference, online

Peer Reviewer: *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*

PROFESSTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies

Law and Society Association

American Association of Geographers

International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights

Association of Law and Political Economy Conference

BAR ADMISSION

New York State (UBE exam passed 2023)

People’s Republic of China (exam passed 2013)

SKILLS

English (fluent); Chinese (native)

Geographic Information Systems and related software (ArcGIS, intermediate)

Statistical software (Stata, intermediate)