

Felix Wiebrecht

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Politics

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Academic Appointments

Lecturer in Politics, University of Liverpool 2023 - Present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg 2022 - 2023

Education

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK 2022
Ph.D. in Government and Public Administration

East China Normal University, Shanghai, CN 2018
M.A., Politics

University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK 2016
M.A. (First Class Hons), Politics and International Relations

Research Interests

Authoritarianism; Policymaking; Institutions; China; Development; Southeast Asia

Academic Publications

- [13] Lundstedt, M., **Wiebrecht, F.**, Lindberg, S.I., Boese-Schlosser, V., Morrison, K., Natsika, N., and Sato, Y. Forthcoming. Impact of Democracy on Economic, Human, and Societal Development. *Humanities and Social Science Communications*.
- [12] Blanken, M., **Wiebrecht, F.**, and Gafuri, A. 2025. [From Aid to Empowerment: The Impact of Democracy Assistance on Civil Society](#). *Journal of Development Studies*, 61(11), 1737–1755.
- [11] Angiolillo, F., **Wiebrecht, F.**, and Lindberg, S.I. 2025. [Party Systems, Democratic Positions, and Regime Changes: Introducing the Party-System Democracy Index](#). *British Journal of Political Science*, 55:e42.
- [10] Nord, M., Angiolillo, F., Lundstedt, M., **Wiebrecht, F.**, and Lindberg, S.I. 2025. [When Autocratization is Reversed: Episodes of U-Turns since 1900](#). *Democratization*, 32(5), 1136–1159.
- [9] **Wiebrecht, F.** 2025. [“Expertise and Responsiveness in People’s Political Consultative Conferences”](#). *The China Quarterly*, 261:216-233.
- [8] Sato, Y., and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2024. [“Disinformation and Regime Survival”](#). *Political Research Quarterly*, 77(3):1010-1025.
- [7] Huang, B., Wu, X., and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2024. [“Environmental Antecedents, Innovation Experience, and Officials’ Innovation Willingness: Evidence from China”](#). *Public Management Review*, 26(12): 3664-3691.
- Excellent Paper Award 2024, Zhejiang Province, China
- [6] **Wiebrecht, F.** 2024. [“Corruption, Elite Contestation, and Parliaments: Why Do Legislatures Become Stronger in Authoritarian Regimes?”](#) *Political Research Quarterly*, 77(1):255-269.
- [5] **Wiebrecht, F.**, Sato, Y., Nord, M., Lundstedt, M., Angiolillo, F., and Lindberg, S.I. 2023. [“State of the World 2022: Defiance in the Face of Autocratization.”](#) *Democratization*, 30(5):769-793.
- [4] **Wiebrecht, F.** 2022. [“Explaining Activity in Authoritarian Assemblies: Evidence from China.”](#) *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 22(3):435-455.

[3] Huang, B., and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2021. “The Dynamic Role of Governments in Adopting Policy Innovations in China.” *Policy & Politics*, 49(4):633-641.

[2] **Wiebrecht, F.** 2021. “Between Elites and Opposition: Legislatures’ Strength in Authoritarian Regimes.” *Democratization*, 28(6):1075-1094.

[1] **Wiebrecht, F.** 2018. “Cultural Co-orientation Revisited: The Case of the South China Morning Post.” *Global Media and China*, 3:32-50.

Working Papers

Parliamentary Elites in Authoritarian Regimes (PEAR): A New Dataset (Under Review)

The House Approves: Policy Outcomes are Better Explained by Legislatures’ Positions Than by Executives’ Preferences (with Fabio Angiolillo)

Authoritarian Parties’ Internal Networks and the Effects on Clientelism (with Fabio Angiolillo)

Elite Turnover and Authoritarian Institutions

In Progress

Policy, Development, and Elites: The Consequences of Turnover in Autocracies (Book Project)

Higher Education Expansion Under Authoritarianism: Evidence from Turkey (with Özlem Tuncel)

Democracies, Autocracies, and the Dynamics of Foreign Policy (with Andrea Ghiselli)

Causes and Consequences of Changes in Legislature Size

The Rise of Valence Politics in Thailand (with Thareerat Laohabut)

Book Chapters

Wiebrecht, F., Angiolillo, F., Lundstedt, M., Nord, M., Sato, Y., and Lindberg, S.I. Forthcoming. The Third Wave of Autocratization. In: T. Ambrosio and Hall, S. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Authoritarianism*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Downes, J.F., **Wiebrecht, F.**, and Chan, E.K.F. 2021. “Disunity within the Ranks? Party Expulsions in the European Radical Right: 2000-2020”. In: E. Leidig (Ed.), *The Radical Right During Crisis* (pp. 325-330). ibidem-Verlag/Columbia University Press.

Downes, J.F., Chan, E.K.F, and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2020. “From ‘Challengers’ to ‘Incumbents’: The Populist Radical Right in Government.” In: E. Leidig (Ed.), *Mainstreaming the Global Radical Right* (pp. 121-127.). ibidem-Verlag/Columbia University Press.

Book Reviews

Wiebrecht, F. 2024. “Lobbying the autocrat: the dynamics of policy advocacy in nondemocracies, edited by Max Grömping and Jessica C. Teets.” *Democratization*, 31(3):686-688.

Wiebrecht, F. 2019. “Illiberal China – the ideological challenge of the People’s Republic of China, by Daniel F. Vukovich.” *Democratization*, 26(2):348-350.

Wiebrecht, F. 2018. “Book review: *The Perfect Dictatorship: China in the 21st Century*.” *China Information*, 31(2):262-263.

Wiebrecht, F. 2017. “Review of ‘Chinese Migration and Economic Relations with Europe’, by Marco Sanfilippo and Agnieszka Weinar (ed.)”, *East Asian Integration Studies*, 10(5).

Data

Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell...and Daniel Ziblatt. 2025. *Varieties of Democracy* v15.

Selected Other Publications

Wiebrecht, F. Forthcoming. 25 Jahre weltweite Autokratisierung?. *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*.

Wiebrecht, F. 2025. "Taking Consultation in China Seriously: The People's Political Consultative Conferences". *SOAS China Institute Blog*.

Reprinted at *China Observers in Central and Eastern Europe (CHOICE)*.

Lundstedt, M., **Wiebrecht, F.**, Boese-Schlosser, V., Morrison, K., Natsika, N., Nord, M., Papada, E., Sato, Y., and Lindberg, S.I. 2023. "Case for Democracy Report". *V-Dem Institute*.

Papada, E., Altman, D., Angiolillo, F., Gastaldi, L., Köhler, T., Lundstedt, M., Natsika, N., Nord, M., Sato, Y., **Wiebrecht, F.**, and Lindberg, S.I. 2023. "Democracy Report 2023: Defiance in the Face of Autocratization." *V-Dem Institute*.

Wiebrecht, F. 2023. "La resistencia democrática frente al avance del autoritarismo." Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, *International Yearbook 2023*.

Wiebrecht, F. 2022. "The black box of authoritarian legislatures." *The Loop*.

Reprinted at *Political Studies Association Parliaments Blog*.

Huang, B., and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2021. "The dynamic role of governments in adopting policy innovations in China." *Policy & Politics Journal Blog*.

Reprinted at *Apolitical*.

Wiebrecht, F. 2021. "Parliaments' Power in Authoritarian Regimes." *Political Studies Association Parliaments Blog*.

Zeng, C., and **Wiebrecht, F.** 2020. "Taiwan's minor parties a force to be reckoned with?" *East Asia Forum*.

Wiebrecht, F. 2017. "The People's Republic of China entering a new era." *Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung* (in German).

Wiebrecht, F. 2016. "Military remains key player – Myanmar's political landscape after the 2015 elections." *südostasien* (in German).

Wiebrecht, F. 2016. "Myanmar on Track to Democracy?" *Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Southeast Asia*.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

Specialist Group of the Year 2025/26 Prize - Autocracy and Regime Change, Political Studies Association

Summer Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2025, USD 2,000

Development Fund 2, The British Academy, 2025, GBP 300 (USD 400).

Excellence and Impact Fund, Political Studies Association, 2025, GBP 2,000 (USD 2,700).

Expense Support, Institute for Humane Studies, 2025, USD 4,000.

Summer Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2024, USD 1,970.

Collaboration Fund, University of Liverpool, 2024, GBP 1,065 (USD 1,450).

Excellent Paper Award, Zhejiang Province, China, 2024.

Conference Grant, Center for Inter-American Policy and Research (CIPR), 2023, USD 10,000.

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship, Irish Research Council, 2022, EUR 96,150 (USD 103,095) (declined).

Reaching Out Award, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2022, HKD 10,000 (USD 1,250).

Doctoral Support Program Funding, Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University, 2022.

Lion Dr. Francis K. Pan Scholarship, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2022, HKD 4,000 (USD 500).

SUPRA Nordic Scholarship, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, 2022.

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, 2018 - 2021, HKD 669,540 (USD 86,200).

Exemplary Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Government and Public Administration, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2019.

Chinese Government Scholarship, Ministry of Education, CN, 2016-2018, RMB 72,000 (USD 11,100).

Award for Academic Excellence, East China Normal University, 2017.

Affiliations and Research Visits

V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg
Research Associate, 2023 -

Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, Central European University

Visiting Researcher, January – June 2022

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen
Virtual SUPRA Programme, February – March 2022

Skills

R, Jamovi, STATA, SPSS, LyX

German (native); English (fluent); Mandarin (intermediate); Spanish (intermediate); Cantonese (beginner)

Certificates

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (United Kingdom)

Conferences

International Political Science Association (IPSA): 2025

Authoritarian Political Systems Group (APSG): 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023

European Political Science Association (EPSA): 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020

American Political Science Association (APSA): 2023, 2021

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA): 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020

International Studies Association (ISA): 2023

Political Studies Association (PSA): 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022

WhoGov Workshop on Political Elites: 2025

PSA Parliaments: 2023

Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA): 2023

Italian Political Science Association (SISP): 2022

European Consortium for Political Research General Conference (ECPR): 2020

Hong Kong Political Science Association (HKPSA): 2020, 2019

Chinese Forum on Public Administration: 2019

International Institute of Administrative Sciences Conference: 2019

Invited Presentations

Westminster Foundation for Democracy, November 2023, April 2026

Magdalen College, University of Oxford, May 2025

University of Nottingham, March 2025

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), December 2024

All Souls College, University of Oxford, April 2024

Demscore, June 2023
University of Exeter, March 2023
Swedish Council for Higher Education, November 2022
University of Rostock, January 2022, June 2022

Media Engagement & Coverage (Selection)

Le Soir, March 2026. “[Pourquoi les guerres de « changement de régime » sont rarement fructueuses](#)”
Jacobin, October 2025. “[After No Kings, It’s Time to Escalate](#)”
Vox, October 2025. “[Can America recover from Trump? Here’s what new data says.](#)”
Brookings, October 2025. “[Global democracy is more resilient than you may think](#)”
The Conversation, March 2025. “[US swing toward autocracy doesn’t have to be permanent – but swinging back to democracy requires vigilance, stamina and elections](#)”
Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, May 2024. “[Dubai Unlocked: How Dirty Money Finds a Home in Dubai Real Estate](#)”
South China Morning Post, May 2019. “[Xi congratulates Naruhito as Japan enters a new era](#)”

Teaching

University of Liverpool

Public Administration and Policy Research Skills and Methods, Postgraduate, 2025-
Comparative Politics, Undergraduate, 2023-
Foundations in Politics, Undergraduate, 2023-
Quantitative Methods and World Politics, Postgraduate, 2024-
Research Methods in Politics, Postgraduate, 2024
Studying Politics Successfully, Undergraduate, 2023

University of Gothenburg

Varieties of Democracy and Democratization, Postgraduate, 2023

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Rise of Populism in Europe, Undergraduate, 2020 (TA)
Comparative Asian Politics, Undergraduate, 2019 (TA)
Governance of the European Union, Undergraduate, 2019-2020 (TA)

Supervision

18 Undergraduate Theses (University of Liverpool & University of Gothenburg)
12 Master’s Theses (University of Liverpool & University of Gothenburg)

Service

Discipline

Co-Founder and Organiser/Convener: [Authoritarian Political Systems Group \(APSG\)](#); [PSA Specialist Group](#)
[Autocracy and Regime Change](#)

Journal Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science* (x2), *British Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics* (x2), *Public Management Review*, *Democratization*, *The China Quarterly*, *Government and*

Opposition (x2), *Administration & Society*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Journal of Chinese Governance* (x2), *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *China: An International Journal*, *Contemporary Politics*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*

Monograph Reviewer: *Cambridge University Press*

Conference Organiser: Authoritarian Politics Conference (2026, 2025); [New Faces and Methods in Authoritarian Politics](#) (2024); [Pre-EPISA Mini-Conference on Authoritarian Politics](#) (2024, 2023)

Panel Organiser: Political Studies Association (2026, 2025, 2024); American Political Science Association (2023); Swedish Political Science Association (2023); Italian Political Science Association (2022)

Discussant: WhoGov Workshop on Political Elites (2025); APSG (2026, 2025, 2024, 2023); PSA (2026, 2025); EPISA (2024); ISA (2023); SWEPSA (2023); SISP (2022); Annual Doctoral Conference, Central European University (2022)

University of Liverpool

Department Deputy Postgraduate Research Lead 2026-

Department Alumni Lead 2026-

Department Research Seminar Series Organiser 2024-

Department Student Engagement Lead 2023-

Xi'an Jiatong Liverpool University 2+2 Academic Advisor 2023-

Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University External Moderator 2023-

Department Impact Lead 2025

Professional Experience

Consultant, Westminster Foundation for Democracy Philippines, 2025

Consultant, Westminster Foundation for Democracy & Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption, 2024

Intern, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, China Regional Office, Beijing, 2018

Intern, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Shanghai Representative Office, Shanghai, 2017

Intern, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Asia Unit, Berlin, 2015