Elise Pizzi

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Department of Political Science
University of Iowa
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242

Elise-Pizzi@UIowa.edu
(319) 335-2360
www.elisepizzi.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Iowa
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2023-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2016-2023

Disasters, Migration, and Violence (DMV) Lab Co-Director, 2020-present
Policy Research on Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Lab Co-Director, 2021-2022

Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Working Group: Water and Society 2024-present
Center for Social Science Innovation fellow, University of Iowa, 2024-2027
Governance and Local Development Institute Program Fellow, 2024
University of Iowa Public Policy Center Research Fellow, 2020-2024
Water Sustainability Initiative

RESEARCH AREAS

Public goods provision, politics of natural disasters, human development, rural development, migration, ethnic politics, China.

EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder, Ph.D. in Political Science, December 2015
Dissertation: "Drinking Water Provision in Rural China."
University of Colorado Boulder, M.A., Political Science, 2010
Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, B.A, Political Science with honors, 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Pizzi, Elise, Alex Bezhaler, and Haofeng Ma. 2026. "Language Policies of Ethnic Autonomous Regions." *Regional Studies*.

Binici, Simal, Jeongho Choi, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, and **Elise Pizzi**. 2025. "A Text Analysis of News Media Framing of Government Response to the 2023 Türkiye-Syria Earthquake." *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*.

Mitchell, Sara, **Elise Pizzi**, Carly Millerd, and Jeongho Choi. 2024. "Does Government Response to Natural Disasters Explain Violence? The Case of the Sendero Luminoso and Conflict in Peru." *Social Science Quarterly*.

Mitchell, Sara and **Elise Pizzi**. 2024. "Patterns of Government Disaster Policy Response in Peru." *World Development*.

Pizzi, Elise, Kylah Hedding, Kajsa Dalrymple, and Sam Harper. 2024. "Preparing for Flexibility in Response to Extreme Weather Events in Iowa." *State and Local Government Review*.

Yao, Jielu, Yuehong Tai, and **Elise Pizzi**. 2022. "Policy Adoption and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis." *Journal of Asian Public Policy*.

Pizzi, Elise and Hu Yue. 2022. "Does Government Policy Shape Migration Decisions? The Case of China's *Hukou* System." *Modern China*.

Hu Yue and **Elise Pizzi**. 2022. "Breaking through the Language Barrier: The Role of Language Policy in Migration Decision." *China: An International Journal*.

Badashvili, Madea, Anastasiya Byelousova, Parth Gupta, Amy H. Liu, **Elise Pizzi**, Michael Sanchez, Lela Shenglia, Mariana Unapokoshvili, Lyndsey Wang, and Katherines Wierschke "A Spatial-Based Explanation for Institutional Trust in Georgia: Evidence from the Maternal Healthcare System." 2022. *Journal of Eurasian Studies*.

Pizzi, Elise and Wenfang Tang. 2021. "Managed Mobilization: Ethnic Identity and Participation in China." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*.

Pizzi, Elise. 2021. "Labor Migration and Rural Development in China" in *The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Studies*. Chris Shei and Weixiao Wei, eds.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and **Elise Pizzi**. 2020. "Natural Disasters, Forced Migration, and Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses." *International Studies Review*.

Burch, Michael, and **Elise Pizzi**. 2020. "Strategic Targeting: The Islamic State Use of Violence in Iraq and Syria." *Terrorism and Political Violence*.

Pizzi, Elise. 2020. "Ethnicity and Government Provision of Drinking Water Infrastructure in Rural China" *Asian Survey*.

Nelson-Nuñez, Jami and **Elise Pizzi**. 2018. "Governance and Water Progress for the Rural Poor." *Global Governance*.

Pizzi, Elise. 2018. "Does Labor Migration Improve Access to Public Goods in Source Communities? Evidence from Rural China." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*.

Dilling, Lisa, **Elise Pizzi**, John Berggren, Ashwin Ravikumar, and Krister Andersson. 2017. "Drivers of Adaptation: Responses to weather- and climate-related hazards in 60 local governments in the Intermountain Western U.S." *Environment and Planning A*.

Liu, Amy and **Elise Pizzi**. 2016. "The Language of Economic Growth: A New Measure of Linguistic Heterogeneity." *British Journal of Political Science*.

Burch, Michael and **Elise Pizzi**. 2014. "Local Fights in National Conflicts: Understanding Patterns of Violence during Intrastate Conflict." *Civil Wars.*

WORKING PAPERS & PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

"Border Disputes as Potential Barriers to Disaster Response." With Adam Lappe and Sara Mitchell. Presented at European Political Science Association. 2024. Resubmitted after *Revise and Resubmit status* (6/25).

"Framing Natural Hazards and Disasters in Political Party Manifestos." With Tianhui Wu and Tracy Osborn.

"Reducing Post-Disaster Conflict Risk through Migrant and Diaspora Networks." With Tianhui Wu and Sara Mitchell. Presented at European Political Science Association. Madrid, Spain, 2025. *Under Review* (3/26).

"Disaster Relief After Autonomy Agreements in the Philippines." With Alex Bezhaler, Adam Lappe, and Sara Mitchell.

BOOK REVIEWS

Liu, Amy H. *The Language of Political Incorporation: Chinese Migrants in Europe.* (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2021), 188p. $110.50 hardback; $34.95 paperback. *Journal of Chinese Political Science.* 2022.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Governance and Local Development Institute Program Fellow. University of Gothenburg. 2024.

"Preparing for the Unknown: Exploring Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Communication in Iowa." Public Policy Center Summer Fellowship for Qualitative Research. University of Iowa. With Kylah Hedding. 2023.

National Science Foundation (SES-2148845) Grant Award: $525,516. "How Government Policies Reduce Security Threats from Environmental Shocks." Co-PI. Co-PI: Sara Mitchell. University of Iowa. 2022-2025.

National Science Foundation Supplemental Research Experience for Undergraduates Grant Award: $19,979 "How Government Policies Reduce Security Threats from Environmental Shocks." Co-PI. Co-PI: Sara Mitchell. 2023-2025

"Iowa Healthy Lakes Initiative: A multi-dimensional approach to measuring, informing and solving Iowa's Harmful Algal Bloom Challenge." Jumpstarting Tomorrow Seed Grant. Office of the Vice President for Research. University of Iowa. 2022.

"Preparing for the Unknown: Assessing factors that impact community disaster preparedness." Public Policy Center Summer Scholar. University of Iowa. With Kylah

Hedding and Kajsa Dalrymple. 2021.

"Research Experience for Undergraduates: Interdisciplinary Geospatial Approaches to Watershed Science." National Science Foundation. (Faculty Mentor) (2018-2020)

University of Iowa Center for Asian Studies: Faculty Research Award: "Migration and the State: Development and Politics in Rural China." 2018

Old Gold Research Fellowship. University of Iowa. 2017

Fulbright Research Grant, China. 2013-2014

Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA), Chinese language. 2013

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship, Chinese language and history. 2012-2013

University of Colorado Grants

United Government of Graduate Students, Individual Travel Grant. 2014
Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant, dissertation fieldwork in China. 2013
Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant, pre-dissertation fieldwork in China. 2012

University of Colorado Political Science Department Grants

Summer Writing Grant. 2015
Conference Travel Grant, Midwest Political Science Association Conference. 2014
Field Research Grant, dissertation fieldwork in China. 2013
Field Research Grant, pre-dissertation research in China. 2012
Field Research Grant, research on forced migration, Republic of Georgia. 2010

GRANTS APPLIED FOR

2025 "Disasters, Migration, and Violence: How Policy Responses by Governments and Third Parties Can Reduce Security Threats from Natural Hazards" Co-PI. NSF. $641,321. *Under Review.*

2025 "Disasters, Migration, and Violence: How Policy Responses by Governments and Third Parties Can Reduce Security Threats from Natural Hazards" Co-PI. NSF. $608,933. *Not funded.*

2021 "How Government Policies Reduce Security Threats from Environmental Shocks" Co-PI. Department of Defense. Office of Naval Research: Minerva Program. *Not funded.*

2020 "Environmental Shocks, Migration, and Civil Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses." Co-PI. NSF. $484,903. *Not funded.*

2019 "Environmental Shocks, Migration, and Civil Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses." Co-PI. Department of Defense. Office of Naval Research: Minerva Program. $989,717. *Not funded.*

2018 "A Coupled Process-Based Approach for a Sustainable Food, Energy, and Water Nexus at the Watershed Scale." Co-PI. NSF/NSFC. *Not funded.*

2017 "Actionable Science for Smart and Connected Watershed Communities." NSF. (Senior Personnel). $5 million. *Not funded.*

2017 "Water Security in South India: A Coupled Socio-Hydrological Analysis of Community Decision Making and Ecosystem Services." NSF Coupled Natural and Human Systems. (Co-PI) $1.5 million. *Not funded.*

CONFERENCES

2026 "Reducing Post-Disaster Conflict Risk through Migrant Remittances." Political Economy of International Organizations. Segovia, Spain.

2025 "Economic Inequality and Language Policy Changes in Regions of Ethnic Autonomy." European Political Science Association. Madrid, Spain.

2025 "Reducing Post-Disaster Conflict Risk through Migrant and Diaspora Networks." European Political Science Association. Madrid, Spain.

2025 "Border Disputes as Potential Barriers to Disaster Response." With Adam Lappe and Sara Mitchell. Southern Political Science Association.

2025 "Framing Natural Hazards and Disasters in Political Party Manifestos." With Tianhui Wu. Southern Political Science Association.

2024 "Languages of regional autonomy." With Alex Bezhaler. Challenges of Plural Societies, International Political Science Association research committee colloquium.

2024 Journal of Development Studies paper workshop at the University of Gothenburg.

2024 Governance and Local Development Annual Conference. University of Gothenburg.

2023 "Natural Disasters in Peru: The Effect of Government Response on Migration and Violence." With Sara Mitchell.
Southern Political Science Association CWC on Disasters and Politics.
American Political Science Association.

2022 "Variations in Government Responsiveness: Policy Innovation and Diffusion during the Covid-19 Crisis." With Tai Yuehong and Yao Jielu. Understanding China's Covid-19 Pandemic workshop. University of Glasgow.

2022 "Preparing for the Unknown: Assessing the importance of preparation, flexibility and resilience as communities respond to extreme weather events." With Kylah Hedding, Samuel Harper, and Kajsa Dalrymple. Presented at Southern Political Science Association.

2021 "Preparing for the Unknown: Assessing factors that impact community disaster preparedness and communication." With Kylah Hedding and Kajsa Dalrymple. Presented at American Political Science Association.

2021 "Gotta have Faith? The influence of news sources and trust on views of government response to COVID-19." With Kylah Hedding and Kajsa Dalrymple. Presented at American Political Science Association.

2021 "The Burden of Public Health: Variations in COVID-19 Policy Diffusion in China." With Jielu Yao and Yuehong Tai. Presented at Midwest Political Science Association and American Political Science Association.

2021 "Breaking through the Linguistic Barrier: Government Language Policy and Migration in China." With Hu Yue. Presented at International Political Science Association.

2020 "Variations in Government Responsiveness: Policy Innovation and Diffusion during the COVID-19 Crisis." With Jielu Yao and Yuehong Tai. Association of Chinese Political Studies.

2019 "Breaking through the Linguistic Barrier: Government Language Policy and Migration in China." With Hu Yue. Association of Chinese Political Studies and American Political Science Association.

2019 "Destination Choices for Migration within China." With Hu Yue. Midwest Political Science Association.

2018 "Destination Choices for Migration within China." With Hu Yue. Association of Chinese Political Studies.

2018 "Environmental Shocks, Migration Patterns, and Civil Conflict." With Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. ISA-FLACSO, Quito, Ecuador.

2018 "Political Action by Ethnic Minorities in China." With Wenfang Tang. Midwest Political Science Association.

2017 "Water for the Rich or the Poor? The Politics of Progress in Water." With Jami Nelson-Nuñez. American Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association.

2017 "How Ethnic Identity Affects Perception of Social Status and Mobility in China." With Yu "Erico" Dong. Midwest Political Science Association.

2016 "How Out-Migration Improves Access to Drinking Water Provision in Rural China." Association of Chinese Political Science.

2016 "Public Goods Spending and Ethnic Identity in Rural China." American Political Science Association.

2016 "Strategic Targeting: The Islamic State Use of Violence in Iraq and Syria." With Michael Burch. Midwest Political Science Association.

2015 "Migration and Public Goods Provision in Rural China." Midwest Political Science Association.

2014 "Linguistic Standardization and Economic Growth." International Political Science Association, with Amy Liu.

2014 Colorful Guizhou International Indigenous Culture Forum, Panel Discussant.

2012 "Local Fights in National Conflicts: Understanding Patterns of Violence during Intrastate Conflict." Midwest Political Science Association, with Michael Burch.

2011 "Linguistic Standardization and Economic Growth." American Political Science Association, with Amy Liu.

INVITED TALKS

2021 Invited Speaker. Johnson County League of Women Voters. "China's Efforts to Combat Climate Change."

2018 Invited Speaker. Iowa State University. "Political Action among Ethnic Minorities in China."

2018 Invited Speaker. Iowa City Foreign Relations Council. "Political Action among Ethnic Minorities in China."

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

2018 APSA Women's Research Mentoring Workshop.

2018 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR). Syracuse University.

2018 "Environmental Protection as Development: Policy, Poverty, and Land Use in Rural China." Southwest Workshop on Multi-Methods Research.

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP: DISSERTATION CHAIR

Haofeng Ma. "Understanding the Role of Language and Geography in Public Opinion." Political Science. Co-chair with William Reisinger. Ph.D. 12/2024

Bezhaler, Alex. "Hydroelectric Dam Construction and National Identity in Georgia." Political Science. *ABD*. Co-chair with Marina Zaloznaya.

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP: COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dainty, Thomas. "Unequal Destruction: Strategic Repositioning in the Wake of Natural Disasters." Political Science.

Choi, Jeongho. "Political Representation and Public Support for Populism." Political Science. 2025.

Yu, Jianjun. "Why do Chinese local governments communicate to the people: The dual purposes of government communication in Authoritarian regimes." Political Science. 2024.

Yu "Erico" Dong. "Online Courtroom Live Broadcast and Its Effects on Juridical Independence and Public Legal Consciousness" Political Science. 2023.

Ahmad S. Qabazard. "Partisan Trust: How Political Parties Determine Levels of Popular Trust in Institutions." Political Science. 2022.

Ge Zhu. "Taking Responsibility for Your Own Health: Understanding China's Health Television Programs." Journalism and Mass Communication. 2022.

Mehrnaz Khanjani "Political Power and News Sourcing of the Syrian conflict." Journalism and Mass Communication. 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Iowa

Undergraduate Courses

Politics of Natural Disasters.
Global Development.
Comparative Environmental Policy.
Revolutions and Political Violence.

Graduate Courses

Ethnic Politics.
Comparative Core.
Global Development.
Chinese Politics.

University of Colorado

Revolutions and Political Violence.
Problems in International Relations: The Illicit Economy.

Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado, Participant. 2008-2015

English Teacher, Intensive Language Training Center, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China.
2004-2005

SERVICE

2026-2028	Editorial Board Member. *State and Local Government Review*.
2024-2026	Graduate Studies Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2025-2026	Promotion and Tenure Working Group. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2025	Comprehensive Exam Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2025	American of Political Science Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants reviewer.
2025	European Political Science Association. Discussant.
2023	Southeast Asia Research Development Group. American Political Science Association. Discussant.
2023-2024	Speakers Coordinator. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2018-2023	Comprehensive Exam Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2018-2025	Fulbright Faculty Committee. University of Iowa.
2022-2023	Executive Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2022	Environment, Climate, and Sustainability CLAS review committee member.
2022	"Corruption, the Rise of Populism, and the Future of Democracy" Symposium. University of Iowa. Discussant.
2021-2023	C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and Hua Hsia Distinguished Chair in Chinese Culture and Institutions Search Committee Member.
2021-present	International Political Science Association Research Committee 50: Politics of Language. Board Member.
2020-present	Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee, University of Iowa Political Science Department.
2020-present	Iowa Women Studying Politics, Political Science Department.

2019 Discussant. Midwest Political Science Association. Grassroots Politics in China.

2019-2020, 2022 Interdisciplinary, Scalable Solutions for a Sustainable Future Advisory Committee.

2018-2020 Stanley International Programs Awards. University of Iowa. Grant Reviewer.

2018-2019 Executive Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department.

2018-2019 Graduate Climate and Professionalization Committee. University of Iowa Political Science Department

2017 & 2018 Invited Speaker. Undergraduate Political Science Association. University of Iowa.

2017-2018 Speaker's Committee, University of Iowa Political Science Department.

2017-2019 University of Iowa and Guizhou Normal University. Contact Liaison.

2017 Invited Speaker. Kohn Colloquium. Geography Department. University of Iowa.

2016-2017 Alumni Relations Committee, University of Iowa Political Science Department.

2011 Recruitment Coordinator, University of Colorado Political Science Department.

2008-2009 Mentors in Political Science, University of Colorado Political Science Department.

Reviewer: American Political Science Review, World Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Political Science, International Studies Perspectives, Asian Survey, PLOS ONE, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Journal of Air and Waste Management, Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, Journal of Asian Public Policy, Political Studies Review, Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences, State and Local Government Review, Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management, World Development, Conflict Management and Peace Science.