

BANN SENG TAN

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Education

- 2013 Ph.D. Political Science, City University of New York (CUNY), Graduate Center
Dissertation: “Spear Versus Shield: The Impact of Democracy on Rivalry.”
Dissertation Supervisor: Peter Liberman; Committee members: Ming Xia,
Zachary Shirkey, Stephanie Golob; Outside Committee member: Bruce Bueno de
Mesquita
- 2008 M.A. Political Science, City University of New York, Graduate Center
- 2001 M.Sc. Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies,
Nanyang Technological University.
- 1999 B.A. Political Science, National University of Singapore.

Academic Positions

- 2025-2026 Visiting Research Fellow, Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies
Corvinus University of Budapest.
- 2023-Present [Associate Editor, Asia Europe Journal: Studies on Common Policy Challenges.](#)
- 2019-Present Assistant Professor, Ashoka University, Dept. of Political Science, Dept. of
International Relations, joint appointment (from April 2020).
- 2015-2019 Assistant Professor, Boğaziçi University, Dept. of Political Science and
International Relations.
- 2014-2015 Senior Research Scholar, New York University, Alexander Hamilton Center,
Department of Politics.
- 2012-2014 Visiting Assistant Professor, College of William and Mary, Department of
Government.
- 2009-2012 Adjunct Lecturer, Hunter College, CUNY, Political Science Department.
- 2007-2011 Adjunct Lecturer, Queens College, CUNY, Political Science Department.
- 1999-2001 Research Assistant, Rajaratham School of International Studies, Nanyang
Technological University.

Publications

Books

- 2021 *International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins.*
London: Routledge, Democratization Studies. [Open Access.](#)

Articles

- 2026 “Democracy Aid in Crisis, Not Collapse: A First Cut at the Trump-Era Cuts and Their Consequences” *Taiwan Journal of Democracy* (accepted for publication, December 2026 issue).
- 2024 “The Revenge of ‘Democratic Peace’.” *International Political Science Review*, Special Issue: War in Ukraine, <https://doi.org/10.1177/01925121231200122>
- 2016 “Aid and Democracy Promotion in Asia” *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*. 1(2): 152-170.
- 2013 “Regime Change and Conflict Recidivism within Rivalry: Interludes in Disputes” *Swiss Political Science Review* 19(2): 189-211.
- 2004 “The Consequences of Innovation” *Innovation Journal: The Public Sector* *Innovation Journal* 9(3), available online at <http://www.innovation.cc/peer-reviewed/tan-9-3.pdf>

Book Chapters

- 2025 “The Geopolitics of defending the Liberal International Order”. Palgrave Handbook of Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific, Springer, edited by László Csicsmann, Scott Romaniuk, and Kristian Nielsen (forthcoming 2026).

Working papers & book project:

Principal Investigator, “The Logic of Authoritarian Reaction to Foreign Relief”, funded by Boğaziçi University & APSA Centennial Center.
Spear Versus Shield: Democratization within Rivalry, book project

Research Grants and Fellowships

- 2025-26 Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. Award for project "Spear versus Shield: The Impact of Democracy on Rivalry.", 1 September 2025 to 31 July 2026, (\$37,710)
- 2022-23 American Political Science Association (APSA), Centennial Center, 2022 Spring Centennial Center Research Grants for project "The Logic of Authoritarian Reaction to Natural Disasters", 3 June 2022 to 1 December 2023, (\$2,500)
- 2017 Boğaziçi University Scientific Research Project Fund (\$24,000)
- 2010-2011 [Ralph Bunche Dissertation Fellowship](#), a competitive CUNY fellowship

Awards and Honors

2021	International Studies Association (ISA) Virtual Facilitation Grant
2020	APSA Member Relief Grant APSA Accessibility Grant
2018	APSA Travel Grant APSA First Generation Travel Reimbursement Grant Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Developing Nations Scholarship
2016	MPSA Developing Nations Scholarship
2015	Boğaziçi University Academic Incentive Award
2012	Young Scholar and Researcher Award, Peace Islands Institute
2011	CUNY Adjunct Professional Development Fund
2010	Joseph Murphy Award, for the best conference paper Rustow Travel Fellowship Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY, GC
2009	International Studies Association Travel Grant Award
2008	Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY, GC
2004-2009	Felix Schnur Fellowship.
2001	Work-study Award, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University
2000	Political Science Book Prize (top student in cohort). National University of Singapore (NUS).

Conference Papers and Presentations

2026	“Spear versus Shield: Critical tests of Democratic Peace”, Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS), 16th CIAS International Workshop, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary. 23 April 2026.
2025	“Spear versus Shield: The impact of democracy on rivalry”, Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS), 14th CIAS International Workshop, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary. 15 October 2025. “Defending the Liberal International Order in Asia.”, International Political Science Association (IPSA) 28th World Congress of Political Science, RC44.11 “The Geopolitics of Defending the Liberal International Order in the Indo-Pacific”, Seoul, South Korea, July 12-16, 2025. “Defending the Liberal International Order in Asia.”, Fourth annual West Point Social Sciences Seminar, United States Military Academy, West Point, USA, Feb 5-6, 2025.
2023	“The Revenge of ‘Democratic Peace’”, International Studies Association (ISA), Asia-Pacific Region 2023 Conference, Waseda University, Japan, August 8-10, 2023. Book Talk “ International Aid and Democracy Promotion ”, by Bann Seng Tan, Geostrata, Interviewed by Asish Singh, 2 February.

- Book Talk “International Aid and Democracy Promotion”, presented as Author with panelists, Suyash Rai (moderator), Rohith Jyothish (discussant), and Quintijn Kat (discussant), PS dept, Ashoka, January 27.
- Host, Book Talk: “Lives Amid Violence: Transforming Development in the Wake of Conflict”, by Mareike Schomerus, PS dept, Ashoka, January 24.
- 2022 Host, Book Talk: “Karl Polanyi and neo-nationalism in the 21st century”, by Oleksandr Svitych, PS dept, Ashoka, October 19.
- Invited participant, “The Case of India's Aid to Africa”, by Chirayu Thakkar, Center for Economic and Social Progress (CSEP) Foreign Policy & Security Tiffin Talks. Research Seminar on Economic Assistance and Strategy, September 28, 2022.
- Host, Book Talk #2: “Ordering Violence: Explaining Armed Group-State Relations from Conflict to Cooperation”, by Paul Staniland, IR Department, Ashoka, February 9.
- 2021 ISA Northeast Pedagogy Workshop. 13 November.
- “American Democracy Promotion in Hard Times.” ISA Northeast Virtual Annual Conference, November 4-6, 2021.
- Host, New IR Conversations #7: “Asia's Failed State, after Afghanistan and N. Korea”, Maung Zarni, IR Department, Ashoka, October 21, 2021.
- ISA, Third Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop. 20 October. 2021.
- “The Limits of Donor Switching”, ISA Annual Conference, 6-9 April, 2021.
- 2020 Rights Talk, [Democracy Promotion, Cheap Talk and Liberalization at the Margins](#) by Bann Seng Tan, Interviewed by Danielle Zach, City College New York, 1 December.
- New Books Network, [International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins](#) by Bann Seng Tan, Interviewed by Medha Prasanna, George Washington University, December 14.
- Ashoka University, IR Dept, Book Talk, *International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins*, Bann Seng Tan, November 20.
- “How to react to the Democratic Deficit in Asia using Foreign Aid.” Presenter and Chair, IPSA RC-SCD 44, Web Forum on “New Threats, New Movements, New Nationalisms: The Risks and Securitization of COVID-19” 17-18 September.
- ISA, Second Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop. 22 June.
- ISA panel, “Security Challenges in Southeast and Northeast Asia: Indigenous experiences and theoretical implications for Global IR.” Hawaii, March 25-28, Panel Presentation recorded, canceled due to Covid.
- 2019 Second Annual Workshop on Empirical and Computational Social Sciences, Trivedi Centre for Political Data (TCPD), participant. December 17th.
- “Comparative Analysis of IR in SE and NE Asia”, Thammasat University Bangkok, Thailand, 25 to 27 June.
- Invited participant, "Trust in democratic societies" roundtable, Project Mosaic, Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul, Turkey, 23 May.
- 2018 “Liberalization at the Margins: How to Promote Democracy in an Age of Populism.” APSA.
- “Why Would They Say No? Authoritarian Reactions to Relief Aid.” (with N. Davis). APSA.

- Panel: International Factors and Democratization. Discussant. APSA.
 “Getting what you paid for: Rohingya refugees and Myanmar’s political liberalization.” MPSA.
 “Why Would They Say No? Authoritarian Reactions to Relief Aid.” (with N. Davis). MPSA.
 “Explaining Authoritarian Reactions to Relief Aid.” (with N. Davis). New York State Political Science Association Conference.
 “Explaining Authoritarian Reactions to Relief Aid.” (with N. Davis). Eurasian Peace Science (EPS) 7th Meeting, Ozyegin University. January 20th-21st.
 “Liberalization at the Margins in the Age of Trump.” Empirical Studies in Political Analysis (ESPA) 3rd annual workshop, Gaziantep. January 24th -26th.
- 2017 “The Political Economy of natural disasters in Asia”, ISA International Conference, Hong Kong University.
 “Liberalization at the margins: A regional comparison.” International Conference: Development in the face of Global Inequalities. Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI, Spain).
 “What explains authoritarian reactions to foreign relief?” (with N. Davis). EPSA 2nd annual workshop, Izmir.
- 2016 “The Logic of Authoritarian Reaction to Foreign Relief” (with N. Davis). APSA.
 “After the shock but before the vote: Authoritarian reaction to Foreign Relief” (with N. Davis). MPSA.
- 2014 Panel: Comparative Politics of Economic Development. Discussant. MPSA.
 “How do donors choose who to pressure: a critical test of the salience of aid recipients.” MPSA.
 “Evaluating Three Theories of Democratization in the Middle East and North Africa” (with N. Davis). MPSA.
- 2013 Panel: Foreign Aid. Discussant. MPSA.
 AidData Research Consortium, 1st Annual Meeting, AidData.
 “Democratization at the margins.” APSA.
 “How Foreign Aid can end up promoting Democracy in all the wrong cases.” MPSA.
- 2012 Panel: Re-thinking Theories on Democratization, MPSA, Discussant.
 “Aid Conditionality and Democratization: Democracy at the Margins.” MPSA.
- 2011 “The effects of regime change on the interlude between militarized disputes.” MPSA.
- 2010 “Democratization in the Context of Rivalry.” MPSA.
 “Dyadic Regime Change and the Interlude between disputes.” ISA.
- 2009 “Dyadic Regime Change and Rivalry De-escalation.” Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association.
- 2008 “A Restricted Theory of Democratic Rivalry Change.” 2th Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY.
- 2007 “The Impact of Democracy upon Rivalry: Escalation, Maintenance or De-escalation?” MPSA.
 “The Political Economy of Democracy: A Review of the Median Voter Theory, the Selectorate Theory and the Saliency Theory.” 1st Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY.

Invited Seminars/Presentations

- 2025 “On Hedging”, Invited Speaker, The ASEAN and the EU in a Changing World Order Roundtable Conference, Corvinus University of Budapest, 24 November 2025.
- “International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins”, Invited Speaker at the 24th Global Platform Governance Forum, Graduate School of Governance, Sungkyunkwan University (성균관대학교 국정전문대학원), Seoul, South Korea, 11 July 2025. Funded by the BK21 FOUR Program and the Korean Ministry of Education.
- “Democracy Aid in Crisis, Not Collapse: A First Cut at the Trump-Era Cuts and Their Consequences.” Invited Speaker at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) panel at the 22nd EATS Annual Conference in the Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 20–22 June 2025. Funded by the TFD.
- “Liberalization at the Margins”, Invited Speaker, Book Talk, at Global Development Policy ([GLODEP](#)) Conference, Department of Development and Environmental Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 25 June, 2025.
- 2024 “Liberalization at the Margins” Guest Lecture, Min-Hua Huang’s course, “Seminar on the Methodology of Area Studies”, National Taiwan University, Taiwan, 20 May 2024.
- “Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”, Invited Speaker at the 4th Asian Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, University of Nottingham-Taiwan Research Hub, Asia Research Institute, The College of Social Sciences of National Chengchi University, the OSCE Academy, and Asian Political and International Studies Association, held at the National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, 20 – 27 MAY 2024.
- 2023 “Foreign Aid and Political Gains Workshop (invitation only)”, hosted by the University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel, 30 July to 1 August 2023.
- “Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”, Invited Speaker at the [3rd Asian Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy](#), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, the OSCE Academy, Asian Political and International Studies Association, the Asia Research Institute, and the Center for the Study of Parties and Democracy. held at the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, 20 August, 2023.
- “GSCIS Author Symposium: Building a Stronger Collaborative Relationship Between Author and Editor (invitation only)”, ISA 64th Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada. March 14, 2023.
- 2022 “Democracy Promotion: An Appraisal”, Guest Lecture, Fernando Casal Bertoa’s course. “The Battle for Democracy?”, University of Nottingham, 9-12-22.
- “Foreign Aid and Democracy”, Book talk with discussant, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Chicago Center on Democracy, University of Chicago, 2 December 2022. Online at <https://vimeo.com/777469128>.
- “Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”, Invited Speaker at the [2nd Asian Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy](#), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy, OSCE Academy in

Bishkek, and the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, held at OCSE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 26 June, 2022.

“A realistic take on Democracy Promotion”, Guest Lecture, Fernando Casal Bertoa’s course. “From Dictatorship to Democracy – and Back?”, University of Nottingham, 9-5-22.

2021 “Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”, Invited Speaker at the [1st Asian Winter School on Political Parties and Democracy](#), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy, OSCE Academy, and the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, 10 December, 2021.

“[Democracy Promotion: an Appraisal](#)”, Invited speaker, Symposium at Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy (REPRESENT), hosted by University of Nottingham and the University of Birmingham, 27 October, 2021.

“Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”, Invited Speaker at the [1st Asian Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy](#), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy, OSCE Academy, and the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, 9 September, 2021

“[Examining Links: International Aid and Democracy Promotion](#)”, Invited Talk, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, India, 15 March, 2021.

“[Liberalization at the Margins: Myanmar and Donor Switching](#)”. Invited Talk, "Asia Talks Series.", Bogazici University Asian Studies Center, 19 February. 2021.

2019 “Liberalization at the Margins”, Invited Workshop, Department of International Relations, Ozyegin University, 12 April, 2019.

2018 “[Liberalization at the margins: International Aid Donors and Democracy Promotion](#)”. Ralph Bunche Institute, CUNY Graduate Center, 10 April 2018.

2017 “Liberalization at the margins.” Koc University IR Seminar speaker, 2 May, 2017.

“Liberalization at the margins.” Sabanci University Brown Bag Speaker, 12 April 2017.

2015 “The use of foreign aid to promote democracy in Asia”, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy Roundtable Speaker, 12th European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. 8-10 April 2015.

2014 “Liberalization at the margins”, National University of Singapore, Political Science Departmental Seminar, 16 October 2014.

2012 “Aid Conditionality and Democratization”, College of William and Mary, Government Departmental Colloquium, 16 November 2012.

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Ashoka University

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2024.

Regime Type and War, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023.

International Conflict Analysis, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025.

Democratic Peace, Fall 2019.

Democratization and Foreign Aid, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025.
Master Level: Thesis Supervision Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

Assistant Professor, Boğaziçi University

Master Level: Research and Reading in Research Methods, MIR Thesis supervision, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019.

Selected Topics in International Relations (Democratic Peace), Spring 2016.

International Conflict Analysis, Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019.

Diplomatic History, Foreign Policy, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019.

Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of William and Mary

The Democratic Peace, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014

Introduction to International Politics, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014

Introduction to Comparative Politics Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014

Adjunct Lecturer at Hunter College, CUNY and at Queens College, CUNY

International Relations: Conceptual Foundations and Current Events, Fall 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2010.

Politics of International Economy, Summer 2011, Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2008.

Comparative Political Economy Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Spring 2008.

Introduction to International Politics, Spring 2010, Fall 2009.

US Foreign Policy, Spring 2012.

The Democratic Peace, Spring 2012.

Politics of Global Economy, Summer 2011.

International Security, Spring 2010.

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2007.

Teaching Assistant at Hunter College, CUNY

American Government: A Historical Introduction, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

International Relations: Conceptual Foundations and Current Events, Spring 2011

Teaching evaluations before Ashoka, [click here](#).

Teaching evaluations at Ashoka, [click here](#).

Research Skills

2019 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Kadir Has University, June 16 to June 29.

2005 & 2008 Methods courses at Inter-University Consortium for Political Science Research, University of Michigan

Professional Service

- 2025 Reviewer: Government and Opposition
- 2024 Reviewer, [Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research](#), 2025-2026 cycle.
Reviewer: Critical Studies on Security
- 2023 Reviewer: Comparative Political Studies; Globalisation, Societies and Education
- 2022 Reviewer: Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- 2021 Reviewer: Time and Society.
- 2015- present Reviewer: Contemporary Politics; Political Studies; International Journal of Peace and Development Studies; International Studies Quarterly, Asian Journal of Comparative Politics.
- 2019 Graduate Admissions Committee, Boğaziçi University
- 2018 Faculty Recruitment Committee, Boğaziçi University
- 2017 Summer Program Recruitment Committee, Boğaziçi University
- 2015-2018 MIR Executive Committee, Boğaziçi University
- 2015 Reviewer: International Interactions.
- 2013 AidData Research Consortium Hiring Committee.
Reviewer: *Principles of International Politics*, 5th edition by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, CQ Press.
- 2012 Reviewer: Taiwan Journal of Democracy
Reviewer: Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

- 2023 “[Democracy Promotion in a Time of War](#)”, Indian Policy, Commentary, Human Rights Program, [The Carter Center](#), 15 February.
- 2022 “[Populism in Russia: The Populous vs The Elite](#)”, [Conversation in Development Studies](#) (CDIS), Center for New Economic Studies (CNES), O.P. Jindal Global University, Vol 4, Issue 2 , pp. 27-34.
- 2021 E-International Relations, “[Interview – Bann Seng Tan](#)”, Interviewed by Stacey Bellido, Associate Features Editor, 7 February.
- “[‘Prep-ing’ for a New Course](#)”, *Samvad*, 27 October 2021
- 2020 “[Liberalization at the Margins in Hard Times](#)” OpenAxis, 7/10/20.
“The Politics of Persecution: Why it is unrealistic to expect Aung San Suu Kyi to act on behalf of the Rohingya” [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#). *Ashoka Journal of International Relations*. 3/8/20.

Public Engagement and Commentary

- 2026 “International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins”, Interviewed by Deepak Bhatt, [Business Talk, Online](#), 12 January, 2026.
- 2024 “Liberal International Order in the Indo-Pacific”, Interviewed by Ritwij Shandilya, The Prode, [Online Interview](#), 2 October, 2024.
“Preferences of Leaders and States”, Ashoka’s Young Scholar’s Programme (YSP) [Economics, Policy and Society](#), Faculty Seminar, 12 June, 2024.

- 2023 Working Lunch Meeting with potential donors, Shiv Dalvie & his family, 16/11/23. Organized by Ashoka University.
- 2022 Invited Speaker (as representative of the Poli. Sci. dept.). “[Meet The Professors: History, IR and Pol Science at Ashoka](#)”, 30 September.
 “[Ashoka faculty Bann-Seng Tan awarded prestigious grant](#)”, [Ashoka reflections](#) July 2022.
 “Using foreign aid to do good in a realistic way”, Shepherd.com, [Book Recommendations](#), May 23, 2022.
 “The Revenge of the Democratic Peace”, Closing address of Second Annual A.S.I.A. student conference, Ashoka Society for International Affairs (A.S.I.A), April, 28, 2022.
 “Russia Ukraine Crisis Explained: The Role of the West”, Interviewed by Ritwij Shandilya, The Prode, [Online Interview](#), March 21, 2022.
- 2020 Ashoka Book Tower, [Book Interview](#).
 Participation in Ashoka Research Quest:
[Democratic Peace and its Importance in International Relations Scholarship](#), On [Facebook](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#); [Instagram](#).
- 2019 [Unpacking the Democratic Peace](#), Inter-Linked: A Global Affairs Podcast, Centre for New Economic Studies (CNES), Jindal Global University. 6/9/19.
- 2011 Presented on the ICPSR Summer Program in a Professional Development Workshop, CUNY, GC.
- 2009 Participated as a Judge for a speech competition on “Why Voting is Important?” organized by jointly the NYTV8 (a television company) and Columbia University Asia Society.

Affiliations

- 2026 Member, Community of Practice, Center on Global Democracy, Cornell University (2026; by invitation); Political Studies Association, Specialist Group on Autocracy and Regime Change (ARC)
- 2024 Economics of National Security Association ([ENSA](#))
- 2012-present [AidData Research Consortium](#), AidData, College of William and Mary
- 2020 International Political Science Association (IPSA) Research Committee on Security, Conflict and Democratization (RC-SCD 44)

References available upon request.