

BULELANI JILI

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SUMMMARY

Bulelani Jili is a Ph.D. student with Harvard's African and African American studies department. His research interests include Africa-China relations, Cybersecurity, ICT development, African Political Economy, Internet Policy, and Privacy Law. He is also conducting research with the China, Law, Development project at Oxford University, funded by the European Research Council, is a 5-year, interdisciplinary and multi-sited research project that aims to understand the nature of order that underlies China's new globalism. He has also advised and supported the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Human Rights Initiative at a large, which investigates the spread of facial recognition technology in Africa. His recent paper, *Chinese surveillance tools in Africa*, particularly discerns the exportation of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa. He has also written about the Chinese guiding cases system (*Peking University Law Journal*, 2019) with Guo Li, Professor of Law and Vice Dean at Peking University Law School.

As a researcher of Africa-China relations, his writing has appeared in leading African publications like the *Mail & Guardian*, *Africa is a Country*, and *The Elephant*.

At Harvard, Mr Jili is a Teaching Fellow for Samantha Power, Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, serves as a board of director and policy team member on the Harvard COVID-19 Taskforce Students vs Pandemics initiative, Department Representative and Funding Committee Member on the Graduate Student Council, Graduate Student Council Executive Board member (as at-Large representative for Interdisciplinary Programs), Board Member of the Radcliffe Institute Student Advisory Board, Resident Tutor at Eliot House (Harvard College), Mentor in the Greener Scott Scholars Program, and Publishing Editor on the HKS Africa Policy Journal.

Prior to attending Harvard, Mr. Jili worked at the Wits institute for Social and Economic Research, in South Africa, as a Visiting Researcher. He earned an M.Phil. from Cambridge University, where he studied as a Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholar. In 2016, he was awarded a Yenching Scholarship to study at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, where he received a M.A. in Economics. Studying with Prof. He Yafei, former Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Prof. Jiang Guo Hua, he studied Chinese global governance strategies and economic approaches. He holds a A.B. *honors*, in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (College of Social Studies), from Wesleyan University (CT), where he was a Pfeiffer Scholar.

EDUCATION

PhD, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of African and African American studies, Boston USA *August 2019 – Present*

- Committee: William P. Alford, John Comaroff, Jean Comaroff, and Daniel Agbibo

MPhil, University of Cambridge, Magdalene College, Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge UK *October 2018*

- Courses included: Politics of Development, Theoretical and methodological issues in African studies, Politics and digital technologies
- Standard Bank Africa Chairman’s Scholarship: full-ride scholarship (Magdalene College, 2017)

MA, Peking University, Yenching Academy, Department of Economics, Beijing, China

January 2018

- Courses included: Chinese financial systems, China’s global diplomacy, U.S.-China relations, China in Transition: Law in the era of reform
- Yenching Scholarship: full-ride scholarship (2016)

BA, Honors, Wesleyan University, College of Social Studies, Middletown, CT USA

May 2016

- Certificates (multidisciplinary minors): Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory & International Relations.
- Courses included: Applied Data Analysis, International Politics, Political Economy, Money, Banking, Financial Markets, American Constitutional Law, National Security Law, Political Theory and Transitional Justice
- Pfeiffer Scholarship: full-ride scholarship (2012)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Africa-China relations, ICT development, African Political Economy, Internet Policy, Privacy Law, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

WORK EXPERIENCE

China, Law, Development project of Oxford University Oxford, UK | May 2020 – *Present*

Research Associate

- Support the project’s interdisciplinary research, which aims to understand the nature of order that underlies China’s new globalism, an order that has multiple sources, one of which is law.
- Develop links with my own research on the development of Chinese Information and Communication infrastructure (ICT) in Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa and its consequences for data privacy, practices and capabilities.
- Collect and share data to inform the global debate over Beijing’s global ambitions, cyber capabilities, practices, and intentions.

The Africa Policy Journal of HKS

Cambridge, US | Sept. 2019 – *Present*

Publication Editor

- Review and edit submissions to the journal.
- Support the publication of areas around: African governance; science and technology; finance and economics.
- Communicate with authors and recommend edits to pieces.
- Flag potential pieces for the final print.

Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research JHB, SA | *Sept. 2018 – Sept 2019*

Visiting Researcher

- Conduct personal research on the development of Chinese Information and Communication infrastructure in Ethiopia.
- Prepare materials for submission to agencies and foundations that fund research.
- Manage and reply to project-related correspondence.
- Assists with the editing and preparation of manuscripts.
- Analyze data using statistical software.
- Convert complex data and findings into digestible tables, graphs and written reports.
- Prepare and present reports to supervisors and other faculty members.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Harvard COVID-19 Taskforce Students vs Pandemics initiative US | March 2020 – *Present*

Internal Affairs Committee

Policy Committee

- Worked with the internal affairs team, Board of Directors, which is responsible for the overall governance of the group. I was primarily responsible for leading and putting together a committee which directed the writing and implication of the code of conduct, By Laws, and orientation program.
- Designed, coordinated, and conducted research on a policy memorandum covering economic relief strategies. Namely, supporting State Senator Eric Lesser and his staff, I collected documents and compiled data from various sources (government, think-tanks, non-profits, newspapers) on the state of Ohio, Kentucky, Connecticut, and West Virginia.

Graduate Student Council, Harvard University Cambridge, US | September 2019 – *Present*

At-Large representative for Interdisciplinary Programs

April. 2020 – Present

Department Representative

Sept. 2019 – May. 2020

- To serve as the official representative of the student body to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) at Harvard University.
- Help manage a \$160000-dollar budget, which is responsible for awarding funds to student organizations, research projects, and conferences.

- To organize, promote and assist Graduate Student Groups and Departmental Graduate Student Organizations.

Standard Bank Africa Chairman’s Scholarship Network JHB, SA | *Jan. 2019 – Present*

Vice President *October 2019 – Sept. 2020*
Global coordinator *Jan. 2019 – Oct. 2019*

- Design the yearly strategy with the support and input from executive committee members.
- Communicate elements of the strategy to the committee, the alumni body, and Standard Bank.
- Work with other committee members to setup the means to execute committee goals for the year.
- Prepare the end of the year report.

Radcliffe Institute Student Advisory Board Cambridge, US | *November 2019 – May 2020*

- *Board Member*
- The board aims to shape the direction of student-related programs and experiences at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; furthermore, to inform the Harvard community about the events and resources made available at the institute.

Greener Scott Scholars Program Cambridge, US | *September 2019 – May 2020*

Mentor

- A Harvard mentorship and enrichment program designed for African Americans students seeking career advice and support in pursuing further tertiary education.
- I support students with aspects of academic and social life.

Honor Board, Wesleyan University Middletown, US | *August 2014 – May 2016*

Co-Chairperson

- The board manages and recommends sanctions on suspected academic code violations. As chair, I lead the board in helping maintain the academic codes of the university.

PUBLISHED WORK (**denotes equal authorship*)

* Guo, Li and **Bulelani Jili**. “The emergence of guiding cases in China.” *Peking University Law Journal* 6.2 (2018): 273-281.

Jili, Bulelani. 2020. “Chinese Surveillance tools in Africa.” *China, Law, and Development Project* of Oxford University, Oxford, UK. Retrieved from <https://cld.web.ox.ac.uk/publications#tab-1222491>

Manuscript

Jili Bulelani. “Chinese Social Credit initiatives and African Surveillance States.” (Targeted journal: *Information, Communication and Society*)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jili, Bulelani. *China’s Economic development and its global impact.* **Oral presentation** at the “Beijing Forum”, Beijing, China, November 2016.

Jili, Bulelani. *Bridging China’s Education Gap.* **Oral presentation** at the “Yenching Social Innovation Program”, which explores the political and economic issues that surround China’s Education Gap between rural and urban populations, Peking University, Beijing, China, December 2016.

Harvard Project For Asian and International Relations. This conference aims to analyze Asia’s changing role in the global market and explore ways for Asia to lead the global narrative into the next great economic transition of the century, Harvard University, Boston, U.S., February 2018

Jili, Bulelani. *Chinese social scoring and the exporting of authoritarianism?* **Paper presented** at the “FUTUREID3: Automated Decision-making” at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, March 2019

Jili, Bulelani. *The Chinese social Credit System.* **Paper presented** at the “Between Cyberutopia and Cyberphobia: The Humanities on the African continent in the Era of Machine Learning”, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg, South Africa, March 2019

Jili, Bulelani. *Chinese Social Scoring and African Surveillance States.* **Paper presented** at the “Coming Out of Crisis Conference” at Wits University with the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg, South Africa, May 2019

The 5th Annual Meeting of the ID4Africa Movement. The Johannesburg id4Africa conference, which aims to promote the responsible adoption of modern digital identity systems as drivers of socio-economic development, June 2019.

Jili, Bulelani. *Chinese Social Credit initiatives and African Surveillance States?* **Paper presented** at the “Anthropology of Science and Technology Group” at Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, November 2019

Jili, Bulelani. *Law, Education, and Justice Research Working Group.* **Research Presentation** at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Boston, U.S., January 2020

Jili, Bulelani. *Our African Futures.* **Presentation** at 2020 Standard Bank Chairman’s Alumni Conference, South Africa, Johannesburg, December 2020 (Coming Up)

Jili, Bulelani. *Locating African Agency in Africa-China Relations.* **Paper presented** at the 2020 China Africa Research Initiative Annual Conference at John Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA, April 2020 (Postponed to following year)

PUBLIC WRITING AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Jili, Bulelani. “[Locating African agency in Africa-China relations](#)”, *Africa is a Country*, April 2020

Jili, Bulelani. “[Locating African agency in Africa-China relations](#)”, *The Elephant*, April 2020

Jili, Bulelani. “[Tuning surveillance software with African faces](#)”, *Mail and Guardian*, July 2019

Jili, Bulelani. “[Is Africa following China into a techno-dystopian future?](#)”, *LinkedIn*, May 2019

The Beijing Hour. “[African Continental Free Trade Area](#)”, *China Radio International*, July 2019

The Point. “[How does the ‘uniqueness’ of ‘Chinese model’ work in its economy?](#)”, *China Global Television Network, ,CCTV International*, October 2017

BRICS 2017. “[Can BRICS stand the test of time?](#)” *China Global Television Network, CCTV International*, September 2017 (South African Panel Expert)

Dubé François. “[Grooming Leaders](#)”, *Beijing Review*, October 2016

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Julian Bond Research Travel Fund: \$5000 travel research grant is awarded to students who are committed to intellectual rigor; moreover, conducting work on transnational reform movements. (5/ 2020)

GSAS Summer School Tuition Fellowship: \$6680 predissertation research fellowship for Harvard doctoral students in the social sciences to engage in language study (Chinese) at the Harvard Summer School. (5/2020)

Oppenheimer Graduate Fellowship Fund: \$88542 fellowship is awarded to graduate students whose research focuses on the study of aspects of sub-Saharan Africa. (2/2020)

Laura Bassi Scholarship: The award provides editorial assistance to graduate academes whose research focuses on neglected subjects of study. I received a partial fee waiver set at twenty-five percent. (4/2020)

Duke Corporate Education Certificate: Certificate was awarded after completing work and exercises on strategy and leadership, which aim to develop models of change in business and politics. (9/2018)

Harvard University (HPAIR) Conference Scholarship: For excellent academic achievement and performance. And so, selected as a scholarship recipient for the 2018 Harvard Conference. (2/2018)

Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholarship Award: \$62000 scholarship awarded to academically outstanding African students pursuing an MPhil program at Cambridge, Oxford, and the LSE who wish to enhance and contribute to the future growth of Africa. (6/2017)

Yenching Scholarship Is an elite interdisciplinary graduate leadership program at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, China. The highly selective program provides full scholarship to study towards a master's degree. The scholarship is awarded to individuals who exemplify leadership and academic excellence. (2/2016)

Pfeiffer Scholarship (Wesleyan): \$250 000 scholarship granted to one student based on academic excellence and leadership achievement. (4/ 2012)

Davenport Scholarship: \$4000 awarded to students who demonstrate intellectual and moral excellence, and a great concern for public affairs. (4/2015)

Top Crowdfunding Campaign Award: Raised 20000 RMB (\$2915) for a Beijing NGO (Plan C) dedicated to promoting civic education across China. (6/2017)

Bridge Builder Award: Awarded to Middletown Potluck (my organization) for excellent work done in strengthening the community. (4/2012 and 4/2015)

United States Achiever Program Scholar: Awarded to the nation's best students based on academic, service, and leadership excellence. (8/ 2011)

Center for the Humanities fellow: The fellowship is offered to students whose Honors thesis research demonstrates a high level of intellectual rigor, creativity, and meets the centers set theme. (4/2015)

EducationUSA opportunity program funding: \$4000 grant is awarded to highly qualified students of very limited financial means with the cost of applying and getting to U.S. universities. (9/ 2010)

Butterfield Prize (nominee): This prize is awarded to the graduating senior who has exemplified character, leadership, intellectual commitment and concern for the Wesleyan community. (4/2016)

Wesleyan Memorial Prize (nominee): Awarded to a member of the Junior Class outstanding in qualities of character, leadership, and scholarship. (4/2015)

Senior Legacy Award (nominee): The Senior Legacy Award is presented to a graduating senior who has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout their entire career at Wesleyan University. (4/2016)

TEACHING AND ADVISING

GEN Ed 1102: Making Change When Change is Hard (Undergraduate) *Fall 2020*

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Resident Tutor at Eliot House, Harvard College *2020 – Present*

Graduate Student Council Executive Board (as at-Large representative for Interdisciplinary Program) *2020 – Present*

Board Member, Radcliffe Institute Student Advisory Board, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University *2019 – May 2020*

Mentor, Greener Scott Scholars Program, Harvard College *2019 – May 2020*

Funding Committee Member, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University *2019 – May 2020*

Department Representative, Department of African and African American Studies, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University *2019 – May 2020*

Law, Education, and Justice Research Working Group Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University *2019 – May 2020*

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Researcher, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Human Rights Initiative *Summer 2020*

Harvard Summer School, Harvard University *Summer 2020*

Alumni Interviewer, Wesleyan Admission Office, Wesleyan University (CT) *2016 – 2020*

Mentor, Yale Young African Scholars Program, Yale University *2017 – 2020*

Delegate, ID4Africa *2018 – 2019*

AFFILIATIONS

Yenching Academy, Peking University (PR of China)

African Studies Center, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (South Africa)

SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Zulu (native), Chinese (Conversant), Swahili (Basic), Amharic (Basic)

Data Analysis: Proficiency in Stata, Microsoft Office Suite, and R

Field research & travel: China (2016, 2016, 2017, 2021) South Africa (2019, 2021) Ethiopia (2021) Uganda (2021)

Workshops and Facilitation: Professional Communication Program (2019) Leadership Skills and People Management (2018), Media and Press Training (2017)