

Wing Yu Carter Cheng

Intergenerational Foresight | International Law | Emerging Technologies

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RECENT EXPERIENCES

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF)

Washington, DC

Vice President (Global Operations)

09/2025 – Present

- Drive the strategic development and operations of a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) nonpartisan non-profit and one of the world's leading platforms for emerging foreign policy leaders (**9 global branches** across Washington, Brussels, New York, London, Tokyo, Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Global (virtual); **20,000+ professionals worldwide**)
 - Lead delivery of the G20 Youth Summit 2026, shaping global youth policy engagement at head-of-state level
 - Shape partnerships to strengthen YFPF's role as a global platform for next-generation participation in FP-making
 - Empower branches to design engaging programs, expand membership, and maintain financial sustainability

Managing Director, London Branch

05/2024 – 09/2025

- Led branch relaunch; redesigned program architecture to reposition branch growth and engagement model; expanded membership by >200% within Y1

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

Engagement Coordinator, Democratizing Education for Global Sustainability & Justice

04/2025 – Present

- **Engagement:** Lead global engagement for 9 Cambridge-funded online courses on sustainable development law and policy (**13K+ learners** and **33K+ contacts** from **170+ countries**; **40+ world-leading experts**)
 - Architected a global convening platform to deliver 20+ symposia and expert roundtables
 - Mobilized 15,000+ participants across 160+ countries to strengthen cross-border collaboration in sustainable development law and policy
- **Partnerships:** Manage partnerships with leading institutions and national governments
 - Existing partners: MasterCard Foundation; Chevening Scholarships; Governments of Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Liberia, and Pakistan; Cambridge Bennett School of Public Policy; and Cambridge Rokos School of Government

World Economic Forum

Geneva, Switzerland

Future26 Core Collaborator (Engagement), Global Foresight Network

04/2026 – Present

- Lead Future26 (WEF intergenerational foresight initiative)'s engagement with leading institutions and governments

Future 50 Leader, Global Foresight Network

04/2025 – 03/2026

- Co-authored WEF's inaugural *Intergenerational Foresight Handbook* as Europe & Eurasia Regional Co-Lead
- Led Europe & Eurasia Team's engagement with partners (e.g. UN Foundation, United Nations University, C4UN)

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Bonn, Germany

Regional Focal Point for Europe, UNCCD Youth Caucus

01/2024 – Present

- **Advisory:** Advise UN agencies (e.g., UNCCD Secretariat, FAO, and ECOSOC) and governments on their youth and local community engagement strategies to combat deforestation and desertification

International Lawyers Project

London, UK

Legal Fellow, Environment and Sustainable Development

09/2024 – 09/2025

- **Strategic litigation:** Advised 10+ Indigenous communities to combat economic injustices and land rights violations in clean energy and carbon sequestration projects through strategic litigation at the EACJ and national courts

UK Cabinet Office

London, UK

Policy Advisor, Policy Profession Unit

03 – 04/2025

- Authored a cross-department study (HMRC, DWP, DESNZ, Defra, and DBT) to architect roadmaps to optimize organizational learning for policymaking in the UK Civil Service
- Recommendations endorsed by Head of Policy Systems, informing UK Civil Service-wide policymaking capacity reforms

Spanish Ministry of Youth and Children

Madrid, Spain

Climate Negotiations Advisor

04 – 06/2024

- Chaired negotiations and led the drafting of the Madrid Agreement on Coordinated Youth-led Climate Efforts (signed by 20+ National Youth Councils; endorsed by the Ministry of Youth and Children of Spain)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Beijing, China

Research Lead (Agritech)

09/2017–12/2022

- Led research workstreams for 10+ UN knowledge outputs on agritech innovation policy in Asia and the Pacific
- Co-founded Asia's first agritech research platform to facilitate knowledge exchange among 300+ stakeholders

Peking University

Beijing, China

Yenching Fellow (Tech Law & Geopolitics), Yenching Academy

09/2019 – 07/2021

- Published one of the earliest empirical studies on China's court digitalization and AI-powered courts
- Taught 4 undergraduate/master-level International Relations and Tech Governance courses

PUBLIC SERVICE

Harvard Business Review – Advisory Council Member

04/2024 – Present

FAO World Food Forum Youth Policy Board – Judging Panelist

04/2025

World Economic Forum – Summer Davos 50 Global Shaper Representative

06/2024

World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community – Global Shaper & Impact Officer (London Hub II)

09/2022 – 06/2024

United World College Great Britain – Governance & Strategy Taskforce Member

04 – 09/2022

United Nations 70th Youth Plenary & 2021 ECOSOC Youth Forum – Chinese Delegation Head

03/2020 – 04/2021

FELLOWSHIPS

Centre for International Sustainable Development Law – Associate Fellow

05/2025 – Present

Royal Society of Arts (UK) – Fellow

09/2022 – Present

UK Aspen Institute – Rising Leaders Fellow

09/2024– Present

Tencent x Viva la Vida THINC Fellowship – THINC Tech for Impact Fellow (UK)

01 – 08/2024

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Local Pathways Fellow (UK)

01 – 12/2023

Centre for Diplomatic Advancement – Nelson Mandela Residential Fellow (UK)

10/2023

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

PhD in Land Economy (Public International Law)

2028 (Expected)

- **Thesis:** The International Law of Environmental Warfare: from Scorched Earth Tactics to the Weaponization of Climate and Space Technologies (Supervisor: Professor Emma Lees)
- **Teaching:** Supervisor, Fitzwilliam College; Supervisor (Paper 2: Public Sector), Department of Land Economy
- **Editing:** Cambridge International Law Journal (Editor & Conference Convenor)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Professional Education in New Space Economy, 100% (YFPF Fellowship)

2026

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

Master of Public Policy, Distinction (John Grantham Scholar; Jennings Prize)

2025

Peking University

Beijing, China

Master of Law, 91.8% (Bai Xian Asian Future Leader Scholar; Chinese Government Scholarship)

2021

University of St Andrews

St Andrews, UK

BA (Hons) International Relations, 2:1 (Dean's List 2016/17)

2017

SELECTED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Carter Cheng, “[Courtroom on the clouds: how online courts are transforming China’s local court performance](#),” *Peking University Law Journal*, vol. 9, January 2022.

BOOK

Carter Cheng, *Digital Justice in China: A Geopolitical Perspective* (Routledge & CRC Press) (forthcoming; book contract)

SELECTED POLICY WRITING

Carter Cheng, Markus Kirchschlager, İrem Bilir & Vikram Jotwani, “Europe & Eurasia – Regional Provocation,” [Intergenerational Foresight: An Approach for Long-Term Responsibility in Governance](#) (World Economic Forum, March 2026).

Carter Cheng, *Improving Organizational Learning through Knowledge and Information Management across the UK Civil Service* (UK Cabinet Office, June 2025).

Carter Cheng, [Policy Brief: Promoting an Enabling Environment for the Private Sector for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization](#) (United Nations ESCAP, July 2020).

SELECTED EDITING

Anshuman Varma, Yue Feng & **Carter Cheng** (eds.), [Mechanization of Agriculture: Market Dynamics in China, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand](#), United Nations ESCAP (December 2020).

Anshuman Varma, Yue Feng & **Carter Cheng** (eds.), [Trade and Investment Policies on Mechanization of Agriculture](#), United Nations ESCAP (December 2017).

WORKING PAPERS

Carter Cheng, “The Hidden Bottlenecks: Institutional Misalignments under China’s State-led Innovation Regime for Emerging Technologies.”

Carter Cheng, “Innovating with Purpose: Improving the Knowledge and Technology Transfer (K&TT) Processes of Chinese Agritech.”

SELECTED OP-EDS & COMMENTARIES

Mary Ongore & **Carter Cheng**, “[Shining a Light in the Shadows: Training Journalists to Expose Illicit Financial Flows](#),” International Lawyers Project, June 2025.

Mary Ongore & **Carter Cheng**, “[The Role of Tanzania’s Legal Profession in Tackling Illicit Financial Flows](#),” International Lawyers Project, May 2025.

Mary Ongore & **Carter Cheng**, “[Reimagining Global Tax Governance Through the UN Tax Convention](#),” *International Lawyers Project*, December 2024.

Carter Cheng, “[Kenya’s Inclusive Climate Action](#),” *International Lawyers Project*, November 2024.

Carter Cheng, “[Kenya’s Road to Just Transition](#),” *International Lawyers Project*, November 2024.

Carter Cheng, "[China's Quest to Attract Foreign Talent](#)," *The Diplomat*, July 2016.

Carter Cheng, "[How China Can Benefit from Brexit](#)," *The Diplomat*, June 2016.

Carter Cheng, "[The Hidden Benefits of China's Counterfeiting Habit](#)," *The Diplomat*, June 2016.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS, PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

[Coalition for the UN We Need: European Futures Forum 2026](#), March 2026

"Civil Society Perspectives on the Implementation of the Pact for the Future and the Future of Multilateralism"
(*Panel Speaker, WEF Future50 Europe & Eurasia Team*)

[UN Foundation Our Future Agenda: Impact Coalition for Future Generations Membership Call](#), March 2026

"Intergenerational Foresight: A European and Eurasian Perspective" (*Principal Presenter, WEF Future50 Europe & Eurasia Team*)

[UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention](#), December 2024

"[Youth Panel Press Conference](#)" (*Moderator*)

[IUCN Congress 2025: Joint Thematic Session](#), October 2025

"Soil Health for Nature Conservation and Resilience" (*Invited Speaker*)

[YOUNGO Nature Working Group 2025 Biodiversity Academy](#), October 2025

"Navigating the Rio Conventions" (*Invited Speaker*)

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy London Open Dialogues on Climate Change, October 2025

"Resilience in Uncertainty: Sustainable Land, Biodiversity, Climate Futures Amidst U.S. Climate and Environmental Policy Reversals" (*Moderator*)

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy London Open Dialogues on Climate Change, September 2025

"Beyond Carbon and Toward COP30: Sustainable Land, Biodiversity, Climate Futures" (*Moderator*)

Life of Pachamama: Path Towards Democratization of the Global South Program, August 2025

"COP16 to COP30: Lessons and Progress" (*Panel Speaker*)

[Centre for International Sustainable Development Law – Expert Roundtable](#), June 2025

"Live from Bonn 2025: UNFCCC SB62 Negotiations" (*Moderator*)

[Commonwealth Youth Council – Climate Justice Workshop](#), June 2025

"Climate Justice: Levelling the Playing Field" (*Panel Speaker*)

[UNCCD COP16 Forum Session](#), December 2024

"Advancing Finance and Strategic Partnership for Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought" (*Moderator*)

UNCCD COP16 International Lawyers Project Interactive Workshop, December 2024

"The Neglected Sides of Carbon Projects: Indigenous Rights and Legal Strategies" (*Principal Presenter*)

Future Leaders Network-Young Professionals in Foreign Policy Panel Series, December 2024

"Climate Diplomacy in Crisis? Panel Discussion with 2024 G7, G20, and COP29 Youth Delegates" (*Moderator*)

Future Leaders Network-Young Professionals in Foreign Policy Panel Series, November 2024
“Youth Diplomacy in the Changing World: Panel Discussion with 2024 G7, G20, and COP29 Youth Delegates”
(*Moderator*)

HKUST Web 3.0 Lab-Carbon Care Innovation Lab-Climate Solutions Labs Panel Series, October 2024
“AI Innovation on Climate Action” (*Panel Speaker*)

UK Open Dialogues on Climate Change, September 2024
“AI and Climate Action: How the Burgeoning Use of AI is Changing Decarbonization Efforts” (*Moderator*)

Tencent x Viva la Vida THINC Fellowship Tech for Impact Webinar Series, February 2024
“Tech and International Development: Opportunities and Challenges” (*Panel Speaker*)

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE CONVENING & COORDINATION

[15th Annual Cambridge International Law Journal Conference](#), April 2026
“Reimagining International Law: Critical, Regional, and Trans-Disciplinary Perspectives” (*Conference Convenor*)

[Cambridge Bennett School of Public Policy 2026 Annual Conference](#), March 2026
“The Right Kind of Growth Fairly Shared” (*Conference Organizing Committee*)

[Cambridge Bennett School of Public Policy 2025 Annual Conference](#), March 2025
“Public Policy Challenges Facing Governments and Citizens Today” (*Conference Organizing Committee*)

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Solicitor Regulatory Authority (UK) – <i>Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 & 2</i>	2025
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) – <i>Member</i>	2022
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) – <i>International Arbitration M1 Certificate</i>	2022
Harvard Business School – <i>Global Business Certificate Program</i>	2022
CFA Institute – <i>CFA Level 1</i>	2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (Native), Cantonese (Native), Mandarin (Native) | **Interests:** Fencing, kitesurfing