

Zachary Sedefian

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Education

M.A. Political Science	Brooklyn College CUNY	June 2026
Specialization: International Affairs and Global Justice		
B.A. Computer Science	University at Albany SUNY	2018
B.A. Linguistics	University at Albany SUNY	2014
B.A. Anthropology	University at Albany SUNY	2014

Research & Publications

Sedefian, Zachary. "Platform Labor as Economic Imperialism: Unequal Exchange and the Challenge of Chinese Digital Sovereignty." Forthcoming in *Journal of Labor and Society*.

Sedefian, Zachary. "Advancements in AI-Enhanced Remote Warfare as a Result of the Russia-Ukraine War." Manuscript in preparation for academic publication.

Research Interests: International political economy; development and underdevelopment; digital and gig economy; imperialism and anti-imperialism; platform labor.

Conference Presentations

Sedefian, Zachary (2026, March). "Peripheralizing the Service Economy: Digital Platforms and the Virtual Mobility Fix." Union for Radical Political Economics, 68th World Social Science Association Conference.

Sedefian, Zachary (2026, January). "Online Labor Platforms as Economic Imperialism: Unequal Exchange in the International Digital Economy." Unequal Exchange in the 21st Century: A Conference on the Political Economy of Imperialism, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

Sedefian, Zachary (2025, November). "Crowdsourcing as Economic Imperialism." APPEAL / LPE Collective, John Jay College.

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Lecturer, POLS 1002: Introduction to Global Politics, Brooklyn College, CUNY Fall 2026

- Instructor of record for an introductory course on global politics, international relations, and comparative approaches to world affairs
- Designed lectures, assignments, and course materials covering major theories of international politics, global inequality, and contemporary geopolitical issues

English Instructor, K to 4th grade, Youfuxijie Primary School, Nanjing, China 2014–2015
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Phonology, University at Albany 2012

Peer Review Activities

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Labor and Society* (2026). Completed two anonymous peer reviews for manuscripts submitted to the journal.

Journalistic Publications

Sedefian, Zachary. "CIA Sees Ukrainian Paramilitary Fighters the Way They Saw Right-Wing Cubans in 1959—Ripe Fodder to Carry Out U.S. Empire's Dirty Work Across the Globe." *CovertAction Magazine*. Forthcoming September 2026.

Sedefian, Zachary. "Neo-Nazi Battalions Are Awarded 'E-Points' for Kill Videos That Feed Into CIA Surveillance Networks." *CovertAction Magazine*. Forthcoming August 11, 2026.

Analytical & Technical Skills

- Data visualization for academic publication: created all figures and graphs for Ness (2026), *Dialectics of Chinese Labor*
- Data analysis and visualization: R, Python, Excel, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator
- Data organization and database management: SQL, NoSQL
- Software engineering: Java, AWS, JavaScript, etc.
- Qualitative and comparative-historical analysis
- Ethnographic and interview-based research methods
- Technical writing and structured analytical reporting
- Experience producing policy briefs, presentations, and research summaries for mixed audiences
- Graduate courses in Global Governance, Modern International Politics, Comparative Politics, Human Rights in Theory and Practice, Global North-South Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy

Additional Research & Analytical Experience

Behavioral Cybersecurity Study, University at Albany, 2017

- Assisted in experimental research on behavioral factors in data security and geopolitical risk
- Collected, organized, and prepared data for analysis in controlled laboratory settings

Language Documentation Project, University at Albany, 2014

- Conducted field data collection and developed a structured linguistic database
- Organized qualitative data for long-term research use and accessibility

Anthropological Fieldwork, University at Albany, 2013

- Conducted independent ethnographic research using interview-based methods
- Synthesized qualitative findings into structured analytical outputs

Cognitive Psychology Lab Assistant, University at Albany, 2013

- Assisted in participant testing and data collection for experimental research

Languages

English	Native
Spanish	Fluent/Advanced
Chinese (Mandarin)	Intermediate
Portuguese	Reading proficiency only
French	Reading proficiency only

Professional Experience

Senior Software Engineer, Paychex, Rochester, NY 2023–2024

- Developed and maintained large-scale data systems supporting payroll and work-force analytics
- Translated complex data outputs into structured formats for internal reporting and decision-making

Software Engineer, Ford Autonomous Vehicle, Detroit, MI 2020–2023

- Worked with large datasets and real-time systems requiring precision, documentation, and cross-team coordination
- Contributed to system-level analysis and technical reporting in a high-stakes operational environment

Associate Software Engineer, AutoMate Dealership Systems, Albany, NY 2018–2020

- Supported development and maintenance of enterprise software systems
- Assisted in data handling, system documentation, and structured problem-solving workflows

Selected Honors and Awards

Graduate Political Science Award	2026
Most Outstanding Graduating Senior in Linguistics (Francine Frank Award)	2014
Presidential Undergraduate Award for Research	2014
Magna Cum Laude	2014
Dean's List	2011–2014, 2018