

YUN ZHOU

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Updated January 2026

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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|-----------|---|---|
| 2019- | University of Michigan Assistant Professor | Department of Sociology & International Institute |
| | Faculty Associate | Population Studies Center; Center for Chinese Studies; Institute for Research on Women & Gender |
| 2017-2019 | Brown University Postdoctoral Research Associate | Population Studies and Training Center |

EDUCATION

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|------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2017 | Ph.D., Sociology | Harvard University |
| 2011 | B.A., Urdu Literature | Peking University, China |

AREAS OF INTEREST

Social Demography, Gender & Sexuality, Family, Fertility, Population Politics, Political Sociology, Citizenship, Authoritarianism, Inequality & Stratification, Quantitative Methods, Agent-Based Modeling, Mixed Methods, China and East Asia

MONOGRAPH AND BOOK

Forthcoming. *The Incompatibility of Rights*. Cambridge University Press (Elements in Gender and Politics Series).

In progress. *Make or Break: Gender, Fertility, and Selfhood in Autocratic China*.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2024 “How Gendered Lived Experiences Shape Sex Preference Attitudes in Contemporary Urban China.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 87 (1): 365-391.
- 2022 “Gendering the Second Demographic Transition: Gender Asymmetry, Gendered Tension, and Cohabitation in Contemporary Urban China.” *China Population and Development Studies* 6: 351-372.
- 2021 “The Personal and the Political: Gender Equity and Attitudes Toward Birth Restriction in Contemporary Urban China.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 7: 1-15.
- 2020 “‘Good Mothers Work’: How Maternal Employment Shapes Women’s Expectation of Work and Family in Contemporary Urban China.” *Journal of Social Issues* 76 (3): 659-680.
- Media Coverage:* The Washington Post; South China Morning Post, Initium
- 2019b “Economic Resources, Cultural Matching, and the Rural-Urban Boundary in China’s Marriage Market.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 81 (3): 567-583.
- 2019a “The Dual Demands: Gender Equity and Fertility Intentions after the One-Child Policy.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 28 (117): 367-384.
- Media Coverage:* National Public Radio; Bloomberg, France 24

BOOK CHAPTER, DATA VISUALIZATION, & BOOK REVIEW

- Forthcoming. “China’s Age of Ascendance, Ambition, and Atrophy.” *Political Science Quarterly*. DOI: 10.1093/psquar/qqaf129
- Forthcoming. “Mixed Methods Analyses and Displays” in *Handbook of Research Methods and Methodologies for the Social Sciences*. Routledge.
- 2022 “Visualizing Gendered Attitudes toward Same-Sex Sexual Behavior in China over a Decade.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 8: 1-3.

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2023c “The Individuals in the Numbers: Reproductive Autonomy in the Shadow of Population Planning in China and India.” (with Holly Donahue Singh) *Made in China Journal*.

- 2023b “Gender Inequality: A Key to Understand China’s Population Decline.”
Australian Outlook, Australian Institute of International Affairs.
- 2023a “Toward a Feminist Re-problematization of China’s Low Birth Rate.”
Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Georgetown University
Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.
- 2021 “Beijing Wants a Baby Boom. Its New Three-Child Policy Probably Won’t
Make One Happen.” *The Washington Post*, *Monkey Cage*.
- 2018 “Gendered Implications of China’s Two-Child Policy.” *Newsletter of the ASA
Section on Inequality, Poverty, & Mobility* 4 (2).

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2025 **Seed Grant**, Institute for Research on Women & Gender, University of
Michigan
- 2024 **Fellow**, Inaugural Cohort, Association of Population Centers
- 2021 **Large Course Initiative Grant**, University of Michigan
- 2020 **Weiser Faculty Grant**, University of Michigan
Research Grant, Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of
Michigan
Project: “Shockwaves through the Chinese Bureaucracy?: Authoritarian
Governance in the Time of COVID-19” (with Jundai Liu)
- Nominee**, Golden Apple Award, University of Michigan
- 2017 **Dean’s Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship**, Harvard University
Project: “An Agent-Based Modeling Approach to Population Dynamics”
(with Mary C. Brinton)
- 2015 **Travel Award**, International Sociological Association Research Committee
on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC-28)

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES, AND PANELS (POST PHD)

- 2025 **Expert Conversation: Opportunities and Obstacles for Chinese Youth**,
National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, Jul 17

- “Hardship and Hard Work: Why Do Gender Egalitarian Chinese Women Still Prefer Sons?”**, Centre for Chinese Family Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 23
- 2024 **“Make or Break: Gender, Fertility, and Selfhood in Autocratic China”**, Hopkins Population Center, Johns Hopkins University, Dec 6
- “Gender Equity, Low Fertility, and Gendered Selfhood in Autocratic China”**, *Global South Gender and Sexuality (GS2) Collective*, University of Michigan, Mar 28
- “Riding the Leviathan: Gender, Fertility, and Selfhood in Autocratic China”**, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, Feb 16
- 2023 **Panel: China’s Demographic Challenges**, *Interpret: China*, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Nov 8
- Roundtable: What Direction for Women in China**, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, Apr 21
- “Gendering the Second Demographic Transition”**, *Aging in Asia Conference*, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, Mar 3
- 2022 **Expert Workshop on Queer Parenting in China**, Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School, Oct 7
- “Son Preference Attitudes among Highly Educated Urban Chinese Women”**, *PSC Virtual Brown Bag*, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, Feb 22
- 2021 **“Gendered Precarity and Women’s Sexual Decision-making in Contemporary Urban China”**, *International Institute Conference on Gender and Health in Global, Transnational, and Historical Perspectives*, University of Michigan, Oct 14
- “Fertility Intentions in Contemporary Urban China”**, Timothy Light Center for Chinese Studies, Western Michigan University, Apr 6
- 2020 **“Marriage in China”**, *Gender, Work, and Family in East Asia*, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nov 11
- “The Gendered Pursuit of Individualism”**, *Noon Lecture Series*, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Nov 10

- “What Children Mean in Contemporary Urban China”**, *China Colloquium Series*, Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University, Nov 6
- 2019 **“Incompatible Rights”**, *Deep Dive into Digital and Data Methods for Chinese Studies Series Lecture and Workshop*, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Nov 21-22
- “Gender Inequality in China”**, *CSCC Podcast*, Center for the Study of Contemporary China, University of Pennsylvania, Feb 26
- 2018 **“Reproductive Governance in China”**, *Chinese Politics*, Political Science Department, University of Pennsylvania, Nov 5
- 2017 **“Gender Equity and Fertility Intentions after the One-Child Policy”**, *Workshop on Confronting a Grey Society*, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Aug 23

MEDIA

Op-Ed and Interview

- CBC News - Canada (Sept 10, 2024)
 CNN Newsroom (Sept 8, 2024)
 BBC World News (Sept 6, 2024)
 Reuters (Feb 15, 2024)
 BBC Chinese (Jan 18, 2024)
 Money FM 89.3 - Singapore (Oct 19, 2023)
 The World (May 19, 2023)
 NPR-LAist AirTalk (Apr 14, 2023)
 BBC World Service (Mar 3, 2023)
 The China Project (Jan 23, 2023)
 NPR Morning Edition (Jan 18, 2023)
 Deutsche Welle (Dec 16, 2021)
 NBC Nightly News (Oct 17, 2021)
 The Washington Post (Jun 7, 2021)
 France 24 (May 11, 2021)

Quoted in the News

- The Guardian (Dec 17, 2025)
 Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Dec 4, 2025)
 Channel News Asia (Sept 9, 2025)
 Channel News Asia (Aug 30, 2025)

Channel News Asia (Jul 11, 2025)
Channel News Asia (Mar 10, 2025)
AFP (Jan 17, 2025)
Reuters (Jan 17, 2025)
The Straits Times (Dec 7, 2024)
Reuters (Nov 5, 2024)
BBC (Sept 30, 2024)
AFP (Sept 18, 2024)
Bloomberg (Sept 10, 2024)
The New York Times (Sept 6, 2024)
Reuters (Aug 21, 2024)
Reuters (Aug 20, 2024)
Nikkei Asia (Aug 12, 2024)
Reuters (Feb 15, 2024)
NRC (Feb 8, 2024)
Nikkei Asia (Jan 17, 2024)
Reuters (Jan 17, 2024)
Reuters (Jan 9, 2024)
Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Aug 28, 2023)
BBC Chinese (Jun 20, 2023)
The Guardian (Jun 13, 2023)
The China Project (May 11, 2023)
Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Apr 29, 2023)
Nikkei Asia (Mar 22, 2023)
Marketplace (Mar 17, 2023)
The Guardian (Mar 9, 2023)
Nikkei Asia (Feb 28, 2023)
BBC Chinese (Feb 27, 2023)
The Washington Post (Jan 30, 2023)
Deutsche Welle (Jan 26, 2023)
Axios (Jan 24, 2023)
The Washington Post (Jan 23, 2023)
Financial Times (Jan 20, 2023)
National Public Radio (Jan 17, 2023)
The New York Times (Sept 27, 2022)
Quartz (May 12, 2022)
Quartz (Jul 8, 2021)
Initium (Jun 9, 2021)
South China Morning Post (May 19, 2021)
South China Morning Post (Nov 1, 2020)

Bloomberg (Jan 22, 2020)

South China Morning Post (Oct 2, 2017)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (POST PHD)

- 2025 “Gendered Root of the Chinese Communist Party’s Wartime Regime Building, 1938-1948.” (with Jundai Liu)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, September
- “Between the State and Medicine: Women’s Experiences of Gynecological Violence in a Pro-Natalist Authoritarian Context.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August
- “The Limits of Education and Cohorts as Agents of Social Change: Unraveling the Persistence of Gender Inegalitarian Ideology in Contemporary China.” (with Feinian Chen & Jundai Liu)
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April
- 2024 “Rights at Odds: Gender Essentialism, Market Primacy, and Women’s Work-Family Conflict in an Autocracy.”
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, April
- 2023 “Gender Inequality and Sex Preference in Contemporary China: A Mixed-Methods Approach.”
RC28 Summer Meeting, Ann Arbor, August
- 2022 “Hardship and Hard Work: How Experiences of Gender Inequality Shape Sex Preference Attitudes in Contemporary Urban China.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, August
- 2021 “Make or Break: Fertility Aspirations as Gendered Constructions of Self.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Virtual Session, August
- “What Children Mean: A Comparative Qualitative Analysis in Spain, Japan, and China.” (with Mary C. Brinton & Xiana Bueno)
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Virtual Session, May
- 2020 “A Comparative Qualitative Analysis of the Meanings of Children in Spain, Japan, and China.” (with Mary C. Brinton & Xiana Bueno)
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) International Conference on Family and Fertility, Virtual Session, December
- “Gender Equity and Reproductive Rights under Changing Population Control in Urban China.”
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Virtual Session, April

- 2019 “Paradoxical Autonomy: Gender Equity, Reproductive Rights, and Attitudes toward Population Control in Urban China.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August
- “Low Fertility in Japan: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach.”
(with Mary C. Brinton)
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, April
- 2018 “The Dual Demands: Gender Equity and Fertility Intentions after the One-Child Policy.”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April
- “Agent-Based Modeling of Inter-Racial/Ethnic Mate-Search Heuristics.”
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Course Instructor

- SOC 547* *Sociology of Gender and Sexuality*
(Fall 2022, Winter 2025, Fall 2025)
- SOC 495* *Population Politics: Redefining Marriage in the Modern World*
(Winter 2023, Fall 2023, Winter 2026)
- SOC 428* *Sociology of Contemporary China*
(Winter 2023)
- SOC 426* *Gender and Family in East Asia*
(Fall 2020, Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2025, Winter 2026)
- SOC 330* *Population Problems: Dating, Marriage, and Fertility*
(Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- SOC 210* *Introduction to Statistics for Social Science*
(Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022)

Graduate Mentoring

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|------------------|--------|---|
| Kelsi Caywood | Chair | Publishable Paper Committee |
| | Mentor | Population Studies Center NICHD Traineeship |
| Wenliang Han | Member | Dissertation Committee (Anthropology) |
| Charles Katulamu | Member | Dissertation Committee |

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| Wenyuan Yu | Member | Qualifying Examination Committee (Kinesiology) |
| Breonna Slocum, M.D. | Chair | Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Fellowship Thesis Committee (Michigan Medicine), 2024 |
| Minha Noh | Member | Dissertation Committee, 2023 |
| Lester Sim | Member | Dissertation Committee (Psychology), 2022 |

Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis

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| Qiyang Feng | Expected 2026 |
| Wendy Qian | 2024 |
| Willow Zhou | 2023 |
| Jade Parker | 2022 |

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

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| 2021- | Editorial Board Member | Journal of Marriage and Family |
| Ad-Hoc | Reviewer | American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Asian Women, Comparative Studies in Society & History, Demography, Demographic Research, Feminism & Psychology, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of Family Studies, Journal of Marriage and Family, Law & Society Review, Sociology of Education, Social Forces, Sociological Forum, Sociological Perspectives, Socius, The Sociological Quarterly |

Service to the American Sociological Association

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| 2022 | Member | Distinguished Book Award Committee, Sex & Gender Section |
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Professional Annual Meetings

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| 2025 | Discussant | <i>“Demography and the Future of Work”</i> American Sociological Association |
| | Discussant | <i>“Law, Public Policy, and Marriage”</i> & <i>“Gender, Sexuality, and Fertility”</i> Population Association of America |

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| 2023 | Discussant | <i>“Motherhood and the Labor Market”</i> Population Association of America |
| 2022 | Session Organizer | <i>“Fertility and Reproductive Access”</i> American Sociological Association |
| | Discussant | <i>“Mixed Methods Research”</i> Population Association of America |
| 2021 | Discussant | <i>“Family Patterns and Population Change”</i> American Sociological Association |
| 2020 | Table Presider | <i>“New Perspectives on Gender in China”</i> American Sociological Association (Cancelled due to COVID-19) |
| 2019 | Discussant | <i>“Persistent Gender Inequality”</i> American Sociological Association |
| 2016 | Discussant | <i>“Qualitative and Quantitative Innovations in Family Research”</i> Population Association of America |

University and Departmental Service

University of Michigan

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| 2025-2026 | Chair, Accessibility and Belonging Committee, Department of Sociology Brown Bag Committee, Population Studies Center |
| 2024-2025 | Executive Committee (Elected), Department of Sociology Population Studies Center Situational Review Committee, Institute for Social Research Masters in International and Regional Studies (MIRS) Chinese Studies, Admissions and Fellowships Committee, International Institute |
| 2022-2024 | Executive Committee (Elected), Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies Executive Committee, Institute for Research on Women & Gender |
| 2022-2023 | Dean’s Working Group on Supporting LSA’s LGBTQ+ Community, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panelist, Community Listening Session, Nov 6, 2023 Brown Bag Committee, Population Studies Center Committee on the Administration of Graduate Affairs (CAGA), Department of Sociology (Fall 2022) Winter Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology |
| 2021-2022 | Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology |
| 2020-2021 | MaPPS (Mentorship and Professional/Personal Support) Mentor for LGBTQ+ Students, Spectrum Center |

Misc. Postdoc Recruitment, Population Studies Center (Reader, 2022-)
Social Demography Prelim Committee, Department of Sociology (2021-)
Gender & Sexuality Prelim Committee, Department of Sociology (2023-)
Inequality and Social Demography Workshop, Department of Sociology
(Faculty Co-Facilitator, 2020-2023; 2025-2026)
Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program
(Panelist, June 2021, June 2022; Mentor, June 2023)
Teaching Academy, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
(Panelist, August 2022, October 2025)

Brown University

2017-2018 Coordinator, Postdoctoral Writing Workshop,
Population Studies and Training Center

Harvard University

2016-2017 Student Representative, Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology
2014-2016 Student Coordinator, Workshop on Mixed Methods of Empirical Analysis
2013-2014 Department Representative, Harvard Graduate Student Council

LANGUAGES, SOFTWARE, AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Languages: Chinese (Native), Urdu (Fluent)
Software: R, STATA, NetLogo, Dedoose, LaTeX
Training: Introduction to Agent-Based Modeling (Santa Fe Institute 2017)
Workshop on Formal Demography (Berkeley Population Center 2022)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member Population Association of America
American Sociological Association
American Political Science Association