

ZHANG, YINXIAN

Department of Sociology
Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY)
65-30 Kissena Blvd., Queens, NY 11367
yinxian.zhang@qc.cuny.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

August 2020 - present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Queens College, CUNY
August 2019 - 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation,
Harvard Kennedy School

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Chicago (UChicago), Fall 2019
Dissertation: *Online Opinion and the Nature of the Public Sphere in China*
Special Fields: Political Sociology (*with honors*); Methodology for Social Organization Research;
Certificate in Computational Social Science

M.A. Sociology, University of Chicago (UChicago), Spring 2019

M.Phil. Sociology, The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Summer 2013
Thesis: *Surviving with Conflicting Institutional Demands: A Case of GONGO*
Awarded the *2013 Best Thesis Award* by the Hong Kong Sociological Association

B.A. Sociology (*with distinction*), Renmin University of China (RUC), Summer 2011

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

(online) public sphere; political opinion; ideology; democracy and democratization; regime legitimacy;
state-society relations; computational social science; China studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Publications

(* denotes graduate student collaborators)

Tyner, A. H., Abatayo, A.L., Daley, M., [...], **Zhang, Yinxian** et al. 2026. "Investigating the Replicability of the Social and Behavioral Sciences." *Nature* 652: 143–150. doi: [10.1038/s41586-025-10078-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-10078-y)

Zhang, Yinxian and Di Zhou*. 2025. "One Sentiment, Multiple Interpretations: Official and Popular Anti-Americanism in China." *Sociological Science* 12: 511-536. doi: [10.15195/v12.a22](https://doi.org/10.15195/v12.a22)

Zhang, Yinxian. 2025. "Tracking Ideological Changes in an Authoritarian State – The Case of Chinese Opinion Leaders." *Sociological Methods & Research* Online First. doi:[10.1177/00491241251343580](https://doi.org/10.1177/00491241251343580)

- Zhou, Di* and **Yinxian Zhang**. 2024. “Political Biases and Inconsistencies in Bilingual GPT Models—The Cases of the US and China.” *Scientific Reports* 14 (1): 25048. doi:10.1038/s41598-024-76395-w
- Zhang, Yinxian**. 2023. “Impactful COVID-19 Discoveries from China Are Neglected in the Media.” *Scientometrics* 128: 4523–4539. doi:10.1007/s11192-023-04779-2
- Zhang, Yinxian**. 2022. “Passive Political Legitimacy: Why the Chinese Public Went from Challenging to Supporting the State in the Past Decade.” *The China Journal* 88(1): 29-54. doi:10.1086/719953
- Zhang, Yinxian**, Jiajun Liu and Ji-rong Wen. 2018. “Nationalism on Weibo: Toward A Multi-Faceted Understanding of Nationalism.” *The China Quarterly* 235: 758-783. doi:10.1017/S0305741018000863
- *Awarded the 2018 Gordon White Prize*

Invited Contributions

- Zhang, Yinxian**. 2021. “The Art of Political Control in China. By Daniel C. Mattingly. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020.” *American Journal of Sociology* 127(1): 261-263. doi:10.1086/714849
- Zhang, Yinxian**. 2020. “A Turbulent Decade: The Changes in Chinese Popular Attitudes toward Democracy.” *Ash Center Occasional Paper Series, Harvard Kennedy School* 1-49. (PDF)

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

- Yuting He, Hui Xiong, Jia You, **Yinxian Zhang** and Yutong Chen. “The Invisibility of Journalistic Visibility: Gendered Journalistic Branding and Fandom in China.”
- *Under review*
- Zhang, Yinxian** and Yongjun Zhang. “Parallel Politics: Chinese Diaspora on YouTube and the 2024 U.S. Election”
- *In progress* (Extended abstract)
- Zhang, Yinxian**. “How to Flip a Liberal: The Decade-long Transformation of the Ideological Landscape in China and beyond.”
- *Ongoing book project*

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2026 Henry Wasser Award for Outstanding Research (\$1,000, awarded to 10 junior faculty across all disciplines in 26 CUNY colleges)
- 2025 Asian American/Asian Research Institute Faculty Research Support Award (\$10,000, awarded to 5 faculty in Asian/Asian American studies across 26 CUNY colleges)
- 2025 PSC-CUNY Research Award, Traditional A, Cycle 56 (\$3,499.69)
- 2024 CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (\$3,500)
- 2023 Andrew Mellon Faculty Diversity Enhancement Research Grant (\$13,913)
- 2023 Queens College Research Enhancement Award (\$3,000)
- 2022 PSC-CUNY Research Award, Traditional B, Cycle 53 (\$6,000)
- 2022 Combatting Disinformation in Communities of Color Research Grant, Knight Foundation (*finalist*)
- 2019-2020 Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (*declined*)
- 2017-2019 Hanna Gray/Mellon Fellowship (UChicago)
- 2016 Center for East Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Grant (UChicago)
- 2015 University of Chicago Center in Beijing Research Residency Grant (UChicago)
- 2015-2019 Social Sciences Division Fellowship (UChicago)
- 2013-2015 Center for East Asian Studies Fellowship (UChicago)
- 2011-2013 Postgraduate Full Scholarship (HKU)
- 2010 Fei Xiaotong Scholarship (awarded to the Best Sociology Student of the Year, RUC)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Political Biases in Multilingual GPT Models.” *2026 Annual Conference of the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)*. Honolulu, Hawai’i.
- 2025 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Public Opinion in China.” *China Initiative at CUNY, CUNY Graduate Center*. New York, NY.
- 2025 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Political Biases in Multilingual GPT Models.” *AI & Disinformation Summit, Carnegie Mellon University*. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2024 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Passive Political Legitimacy: The Changes in the Chinese Public Sphere over the Past Decade.” *Navigating the Nexus in Politics, History, and Methodology: Conference in Honor of Professor Dingxin Zhao*. Chicago, IL.
- 2024 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Tracking Ideological Changes In an Authoritarian State – The Case Of China.” *2024 Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association*. Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 **Yinxian Zhang** and Di Zhou. “Political Biases and Inconsistencies In GPT Bilingual Models.” *2024 Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association*. Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 **Yinxian Zhang.** “Biases and Inconsistencies of GPT Models in Bilingual Settings” *Department Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University*. Zhejiang, China.

- 2023 **Yinxian Zhang** and Di Zhou. “Political Biases in Multilingual GPT Models.” *The Sociology of Culture Workshop, New York University*. New York, NY.
- 2023 **Yinxian Zhang** and Di Zhou. “The Long-term Trend of Chinese Online Sentiments toward America.” *2023 Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 **Yinxian Zhang**. “The Media Prefers COVID-19 Discoveries from Certain Countries Over Others.” *Immigration Working Group, CUNY Graduate Center*. New York, NY.
- 2021 **Yinxian Zhang**. “More Information, More Questioning: Popular Attitudes Toward Democracy in China.” *Honors Lecture, Department of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem*. Israel.
- 2021 **Yinxian Zhang**. “State-Society Relations in the Social Media Era.” *HKS China Study Group, Harvard University*. Cambridge, MA.
- 2021 **Yinxian Zhang**. “Chinese Online Discussion Around Democracy in the 2010s.” *Computational Social Science Workshop, University of Chicago*. Chicago, IL.
- 2020 **Yinxian Zhang**. “What Does Democracy Mean to Chinese People?” *116th Annual Meeting of American Political Science Association*. San Francisco, CA.
- 2020 **Yinxian Zhang**. “A Turbulent Decade: Public Perceptions of Democracy in China.” *Ash Center Virtual Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School*. Cambridge, MA.
- 2019 **Yinxian Zhang**. “The Ideological Spectrum of Opinion Leaders in China.” *114th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association*. New York, NY.
- 2019 **Yinxian Zhang**. “Democracy Envisioned: The Political Values of the Chinese Public.” *77th Annual Conference of Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 **Yinxian Zhang**. “Opinion Leaders in China.” *Sociology Colloquium*. Department of Sociology. Zhejiang University. Hangzhou, China
- 2017 **Yinxian Zhang**. “Is Chinese Nationalism Really Running High? - An Empirical Analysis Based on Social Media data.” *The 7th Political Sociology Workshop*. University of Chicago Center in Beijing. Beijing, China.
- 2017 **Yinxian Zhang**. “What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Big Data - Social Sciences Research in the Era of Big Data.” *Sociology Colloquium*. Department of Sociology. Zhejiang University. Hangzhou, China
- 2016 **Yinxian Zhang**. “Chinese Online Nationalism Revisited.” *East Asia Workshop: Politics, Economy and Society*. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

TEACHING

Queens College, CUNY

- Data Visualization with Python (Graduate level)
- Python Fundamentals for Social Sciences (Graduate level)
- Introductory Analytics (Jumbo class at undergraduate level)

SERVICE

Queens College, CUNY

- 2025 - Committee Member, Self-Study Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2024 - Seminar Co-organizer, Sociology Academic/Career Seminar, Department of Sociology
- 2021 - Workshop Co-organizer, Department Seminar Series, Department of Sociology
- 2021 - 2023 Delegate Senator, College Wide At-Large Division, Academic Senate
- 2021 - 2023 Committee Member, Personnel and Budget (P&B) Committee, Department of Sociology

University of Chicago

- 2024 Committee Member, Organizing Committee, Navigating the Nexus in Politics, History, and Methodology: Conference in honor of Prof. Dingxin Zhao.
- 2016 - 2017 Workshop Organizer, East Asia Workshop

Academic Editor

- 2023 - Editorial Board Member, *Scientific Reports*

Peer Reviewer

- *American Journal of Sociology, Information, Communication and Society, Social Media + Society, Big Data & Society, Social Science Research, Political Behavior, China Quarterly, Frontiers, Perspectives on Politics, and others*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

- Political Sociology Section
- Communication, Information Technologies & Media Sociology Section
- Asia and Asian America Section
- Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages

- Python: numpy, pandas, scipy, scikit-learn, NLTK, matplotlib, plotly, tensorflow
- R: dplyr, tidyr, ggplot2, stm, ca
- SPSS, Stata
- L^AT_EX