

Yueran Zhang 张跃然

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EMPLOYMENT

2024- Assistant Professor of Sociology and the College, University of Chicago

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
Committee: Cihan Tugal (chair), Laura Enriquez, Yan Long, Dylan Riley, Winnie Wong

2018 M.A., Sociology, Harvard University

2015 B.A., Duke University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political economy, political sociology, comparative-historical methods, (de)mobilizations, production and social reproduction, development, global and transnational sociology, theory

PUBLICATIONS

Book-in-progress

“Whither Socialism? Workers’ Democracy and the Class Politics of China’s Post-Mao Transition to Capitalism”

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Bonikowski, Bart and Yueran Zhang. 2023. “Populism as Dog-Whistle Politics: Anti-Elite Discourse and Sentiments towards Out-Groups.” *Social Forces* 102(1): 180-201. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soac147>

Zhang, Yueran. 2022. “What’s Really behind China’s ‘Common Prosperity’ Program?” *New Labor Forum* 31(2): 62-70. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10957960221090978>

Zhang, Yueran. 2020. “Political Competition and Two Modes of Taxing Private Homeownership: A Bourdieusian Analysis of the Contemporary Chinese State.” *Theory and Society* 49(4): 669-707. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-020-09395-0>

- Co-Winner, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for a Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Political Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2019 (awarded to an earlier draft)
- Winner, Reinhard Bendix Best Student Paper Award, Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2018 (awarded to an earlier draft)

Miscellaneous academic publications

- Zhang, Yueran. 2024. "Review of *Civil War in Guangxi: The Cultural Revolution on China's Southern Periphery* by Andrew G. Walder." *Social Forces* 102(3): e23.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soad140>
- Zhang, Yueran. 2023. "Review of *The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China* by Nick R. Smith." *Contemporary Sociology* 52(1): 87-89.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00943061221142074hh>
- Zhang, Yueran. 2022. "1989: Workers on Tiananmen Square." pp. 496-504 in *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labour*, edited by Ivan Franceschini and Christian Sorace. London and New York: Verso.
- Zhang, Yueran. 2021. "Bourdieuian Theory and the Political Logic of 'Populism with Chinese Characteristics'." *ASA Global and Transnational Sociology Section Newsletter* (Spring 2021): 27-29.
- Zhang, Yueran. 2019. "Q&A with Yueran Zhang, Co-Winner of the 2019 Political Sociology Graduate Student Article Award." *States, Power and Societies: ASA Political Sociology Section Newsletter* (Fall/Winter 2019): 22-24.

Academic publications in Chinese

- Zhang, Yueran. 2022. "The Applications of Marxian Approaches in Contemporary North American Political Sociology (in Chinese)." *Chinese Political Science (Zhongguo Zhengzhixue)* 13: 21-37.
- Zhang, Yueran. 2021. "Bringing Class Back into the 'Developmental State': Political Sociology, Historical Sociology and the Theoretical Development in the Social Sciences (in Chinese)." *Sociological Review of China (Shehuixue Pinglun)* 9(6): 175-195.
- Fang, Ran and Yueran Zhang. 2019. "The Peculiarity of Chinese State Capital: On *The Specter of Global China* by Ching Kwan Lee (in Chinese)." *Twenty-First Century (Ershiyi Shiji)* 174: 149-159.
- Zhang, Yueran. 2018. "Society Reflected or Society Articulated? Two Marxian Approaches to the Party-Society Relationship (in Chinese)." *Sociological Studies (Shehuixue Yanjiu)* 195: 216-241.
- Zhang, Yueran and Bai Gao. 2014. "Institutional Analysis and Fiscal Sociology: On *The Politics of Free Markets* by Monica Prasad (in Chinese)." *Chinese Journal of Sociology (Shehui)* 34(1): 229-241.

Translation

- Chinese translation of *The Politics of Production: Factory Regimes under Capitalism and Socialism* by Michael Burawoy, Shanghai People's Press/Horizon Books, co-translated with Xiao Zhou and proofed by Yuan Shen, 2023.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for a Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Political Sociology, American Sociological Association 2019
- Reinhard Bendix Best Student Paper Award, Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, American Sociological Association 2018
- Special Recognition in Political Sociology, General Written Examination, Department of Sociology, Harvard University 2016
- Ida Harper Simpson Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research in Sociology, Duke University 2015
- Odum Award for the Best Undergraduate Student Paper, Southern Sociological Society 2014

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

- Doctoral Fellowship, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (declined) 2023
- Academic Subvention, Kaifeng Foundation 2021
- Research Grant in Modern Chinese History, Esherick-Ye Family Foundation 2021

Internal (selected)

- Elvera Kwang Siam Lim Fellowship in Chinese Studies, Center for Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley 2020, 2022
- ABD Research Fellowship, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley 2020, 2022
- Catherine and William L. Magistretti Graduate Fellowship, College of Letters and Science, UC Berkeley 2021
- Barbara and Arnold Silverman Graduate Fellowship, College of Letters and Science, UC Berkeley 2020
- Summer Research Grant, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University 2017

TEACHING

- The Logic and Methods of Historical Research, *University of Chicago* (Winter 2025)
- Comparative Socialism Studies, *University of Chicago* (Winter 2025)
- Social Sciences Core: Global Society I, *University of Chicago* (Fall 2024)
- Sociological Reading and Composition, *UC Berkeley* (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)
- Teaching Fellow, “Human Trafficking, Slavery and Other Forms of Servitude in the Modern World”, *Harvard University* (Spring 2018)
- Teaching Fellow, “The Caribbean: Globalization, Socio-Economic Development and Cultural Adaptations”, *Harvard University* (Fall 2017)
- Urbanization in China, *Duke University* (Spring 2015, co-taught with Emily Feng)

INVITED TALKS (selected)

“Workers’ Democracy and Class Politics in China’s Long 1980s”

- Berlin Contemporary China Network, October 2024

“Polanyi Meets Luxemburg in China: Rethinking Xiaohong Xu’s ‘Great Separation’ Thesis from the Perspective of Labor History”

- Department of Sociology, Renmin University of China, September 2024

“The Appearance and Reality of Democratic Practice: Workers in Wuhan amidst Enterprise Reform (1984-1985)”

- Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University, March 2023

“From the Cultural Revolution to 1989: A Labor Perspective on the Political Economy of China’s Transition Period”

- Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, January 2023

“Marxian Political Economy”

- School of Government, Peking University, October 2021

“Workers as the Masters of the World? The Rise and Fall of Democratic Enterprise Management in the Early Reform Period”

- Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University, June 2021

“Political Competition and Two Modes of Taxing Private Homeownership”

- Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University, June 2021
- School of Government, Peking University, April 2021
- Department of Sociology, Renmin University of China, November 2020
- Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, October 2020

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS (selected)

“The Politics of Livelihood and Production: Workplace Democracy and Political Economy in China’s Early Post-Mao Years”

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 2025 (scheduled)

“A Fiscal Crisis Blamed on Workers: Socialist Accounting, the Productivist Bias and the Policy Turn to Undermine Workplace Democracy in the mid-1980s China”

Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 2024 (scheduled)

“Polanyi Meets Luxemburg in China: Rethinking Xiaohong Xu’s ‘Great Separation’ Thesis through the Lens of Chinese Workers (1974-1989)”

Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 2024 (scheduled)

“Workplace Democratization and the Dilemma between Production and Social Reproduction in China’s Early Reform Era”

American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 2024

“The Yugoslav Inspiration: Transnational Socialism and Workers’ Democracy in the Early Post-Mao China”

UC Graduate Student Workshop on the History of China’s Reform and Opening, June 2022

“Workers as the Masters of the World? The Rise and Fall of Democratic Enterprise Management in the Early Reform Period”

Conference on the History and Sociology of China’s Reform and Opening, October 2021

“China’s Contemporary Maoism: How Anti-Democratic Centralism Informs Radical Democratic Aspirations”

Graduate Student Conference on Radical Democracy, New School for Social Research, April 2018

“Preempting ‘No Taxation without Representation’: The Case of Taxing Private Homeownership in China”

ASA Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference, August 2018

Urban China Seminar, MIT, November 2017

Chinese Politics Research Workshop, Harvard University, October 2017

Workshop in History, Culture and Society, Harvard University, October 2017

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2024- **Politics, History and Society Workshop**, Department of Sociology, *University of Chicago*
Faculty Sponsor
- 2024-2025 **Departmental Colloquia Series**, Department of Sociology, *University of Chicago*
Co-organizer
- 2022-2023 **Admissions Committee**, Department of Sociology, *UC Berkeley*
Student Representative
- 2018-2020 **Workshop and Reading Group on “Capitalist Society and Post-Capitalist Futures”**, Department of Sociology, *UC Berkeley*
Student Coordinator
- 2016-2018 **Workshop in History, Culture and Society**, Department of Sociology, *Harvard University*
Student Coordinator
- 2016-2017 **Politics and Social Change Workshop**, Department of Sociology, *Harvard University*
Student Co-founder and Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023-2024 **Member**, Events Committee, Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, American Sociological Association

2021-2023 **Student Representative** (elected), Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, American Sociological Association

2021-2023 **Organizer and Discussant**, Preliminary Book Manuscript Workshop Series for Yige Dong's *The Fabric of Care* (supported by an academic subvention from the Kaifeng Foundation)

Occasional reviewer for: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Socius*, *Development and Change*