

## YANG ZHANG

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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School of International Service, American University  
Associate Professor, Department of Global Inquiry, 2024-  
Assistant Professor, 2016-2024

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago, 2016  
M.A., Sociology, University of Chicago, 2010  
M.A., Public Management, Tsinghua University, 2008  
B.A., Tsinghua University, Graduation with Honors, 2004

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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- Zhang, Yang, and Feng Shi. 2024. "The Micro-foundations of Elite Politics: Conversation Networks and Elite Conflict during China's Reform Era." *Theory and Society* 53(1): 193-237. (*Honorable Mention for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, 2024*)
- Zhang, Yang. 2021. "Why Elites Rebel: Elite Insurrections during the Taiping Civil War in China." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(1): 60-101. (*Charles Tilly Best Article Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, 2022*)
- Zhang, Yang, Molly Bradtke and Madeline Halvey. 2020. "Anxiety and Ambivalence: NGO-Activist Partnership in China's Environmental Protests, 2007-2016." *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* 31(4):779-792.
- Zhang, Yang. 2020. "Broker and Buffer: Why Environmental Organizations Participate in Popular Protests in China." *Mobilization* 25(1): 115-132.
- Zhang, Yang. 2019. "Thinking Counterfactual Sequentially." *Journal of Historical Sociology* 32: e15-e21
- Zhang, Yang. 2018. "Allies in Action: Institutional Actors and Grassroots Environmental Activism in China." *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change* 42: 9-38. (Leading article)

### PEER-REVIEWED CHAPTERS

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- Zhang, Yang. 2024. "Historical Causation and Temporally Sensitive Comparisons," pp. 261-283 in *After Positivism: New Approaches to Comparison in Historical Sociology*, edited by Nicholas Wilson and Damon Mayrl. Columbia University Press.
- Zhang, Yang, and Dingxin Zhao. 2018. "The Ecological and Spatial Contexts of Social Movements," pp. 98-114 in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, edited by David A. Snow, Sarah Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly McCammon. Wiley-Blackwell.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN CHINESE

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- Zhang, Yang. 2022. "The Great Reversal: Why England and Germany Turned Confrontational, How England and America Became Friends." *Sociological Review of China* 10(1):27-51.
- Zhang, Yang. 2009. "Reiterating the Problems of Falsificationism: A Rejoinder to Yin and Pang's Critique." *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 4:148-166.
- Zhang, Yang. 2007. "Is Falsification Possible in Social Science?" *Sociological Studies* 3:136-153.
- Zhang, Yang. 2007. "The State-Society Perspective of Social Movement Studies." *Academia Bimestris* 5:56-62.
- Xue, Lan, and Yang Zhang. 2006. "An Integrated Model of Collective Actions in China." *Jiangsu Social Sciences* 4:112-117.

## BOOK MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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*Empire and its Enemies: Ethnicity, Religion, and Rebellions in Mid-19th-Century China*

## ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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- Zhang, Yang. "Changing China in Sociological Eyes."
- Zhang, Yang. "Seeing like a Sociologist: Studying China through Historical Sociology."
- Zhang, Yang, Yongjun Zhang, and Feng Shi. "The Communicative Structure of Communist Elites in Maoist China, 1949-1976."
- Zhang, Yang. "Insurgence in Interstice: Rebellion Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Revolution."
- Zhang, Yang. "The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under-)Development in Imperial China, 900s-1800s."
- Zhang, Yang. "Historicist Time and Pragmatist Time."

## BOOK REVIEWS

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2025. *Deadly Decision in Beijing: Succession Politics, Protest Repression, and the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre*, by Yang Su (Cambridge University Press, 2023). *Pacific Affairs*, Volume 98, No. 2.
2021. *Agents of Disorder: Inside China's Cultural Revolution*, by Andrew G. Walder (Harvard University Press, 2018). *American Journal of Sociology* 126(4): 1006-1008.
2019. *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment in Africa*, by Ching Kwan Lee (The University of Chicago Press, 2018). *Contemporary Sociology* 48(3): 326-328.
2019. *Activating China: Local Actors, Foreign Influence, and State Response*, by Setsuko Matsuzawa (Routledge, 2019). *Mobilization* 24(4): 530-531.
2018. *Islamophobia and Racism in America*, by Eric Love (New York University Press, 2017). *American Journal of Sociology* 124(2): 569-571.
2016. *The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China*, by Guobin Yang (Columbia University Press, 2016). *Mobilizing Ideas*.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN CHINESE

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2024. "The Imperial Past of Hawaii." *Dushu* 10.
2024. "A Farewell to Xiaohong." *Shanghai Review of Books*, January 11.
2022. "Reflections on the 'Tang-Song Transition' Thesis from the View of History Sociology." *Tang-Song Historical Review* 9:43-47.
2022. "Institution and Culture: Various Weberian Explanations of the Rise of Capitalism." *Tsinghua*

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- Sociological Review* 17:253-257.
2021. "Max Weber Between Liberty and Empires." *Dushu* 12:88-98.
2021. "Did State Capacity Decline in Late Imperial China?" *Shanghai Review of Books*, November 30.
2020. "The Everlasting Duet of Empires and Nations." *Dushu* 2:124-134.
2019. "Causality and Contingency in Historical Change." *Tsinghua Sociological Review* 12:1-11.
2018. "The Death and Life of Great Empires." *Shanghai Review of Books*, January 26.
2017. "Old State, New Mandate: Studying Nationalism and the State after the Imperial Turn." *Tsinghua Sociological Review* 8: 26-33.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2024	Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award (Honorable Mention), Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, American Sociological Association
2024	PhD Mentor Award, School of International Service
2024	Faculty Exceptional Research Award, School of International Service
2023	Faculty Exceptional Research Award, School of International Service
2022	Faculty Exceptional Research Award, School of International Service
2022	Charles Tilly Article Award, American Sociological Association's Comparative Historical Sociology Section
2020-2021	William Cromwell Award for Outstanding Teaching, School of International Service
2019	Conference Travel Award, School of International Service
2018	Conference Travel Award, School of International Service
2018	Dean's Summer Research Awards, School of International Service
2017-2018	Scholarly Grants (\$24,000), Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation
2017	Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
2017	International Travel Award, American University
2016	Graduate Student Research Paper Award for the article, "Insurgency in Interstice: Rebellion Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Movement," American Sociological Association's Section on Asia and Asian America
2015-2016	Dissertation Fellowship (\$18,000), Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation
2014-2015	Charles Henderson Dissertation Fellowship (\$19,000), University of Chicago
2015	Young Scholars in Social Movements, University of Notre Dame.
2015	Robert E. Park Lectureship Award, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago
2013-2014	Dissertation Write-up Fellowship (\$18,000), Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
2012-2013	Research Fellowship (\$10,000), the Paulson Institute
2012	Graduate Student Residency Fellowship, University of Chicago, Beijing Center
2012	Social Science Overseas Dissertation Research Grant, University of Chicago
2010	Pre-Doctoral Research Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
2008-2015	Several Conference Travel Grants, University of Chicago
2008-2013	Five-Year Social Sciences Fellowship (\$20,000 annually), University of Chicago
2008	Fieldwork Grant, China Environmental Culture Promotion Association

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Fall 2016-	<i>Bottom-Up Politics, Contentious Politics, Empire and Imperialism, Empire: Past and Present, Global and Comparative Governance, and PhD Research Design, American University</i>
Winter 2015	<i>Contentious Collective Action, University of Chicago</i>

## MENTORING

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Ph.D.	Lucas Dolan (2018- ) Julie Radomski (2019-24) Frieder Dengler (2021-24) Anastassiya Perevezentseva (2021- ) Jiyoung Kwon (2022-24) Lindsay Barclay (2022- ) Monzima Haque (2023- ) Nuo Xu (2023-) Zhen Wei (University of Edinburgh, external examiner, 2022)
M.A.	Erica Benjamin (2017-18) Zitian Sun (2018-20) Robert Forsberg (2019-20) Frederic Lestina (2020-21) Abel Morais (2022-23)
B.A.	Jack Ramsey (2017-18) Chelsey Cao (2017-19) Ren Xiang (2017-19) Chuyan Cheng (2018-20) Fengyue Zhang (2019-21) Chaitanya Venkateswaran (2021-22) Alfred Dilissio (2022-23) Ziwen Zhang (2023- ) Jack Cooksey (2023- )

## CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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2024	Social Science History Association (SSHA) Annual Meeting, University of Michigan (twice), University of Chicago (twice), New School for Social Research, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, Peking University, Yunnan University, Zhejiang University, McGill University, Harvard University, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting.
2023	SSHA Annual Meeting, Ohio State University, Tsinghua University, University of Chicago, University of Virginia.
2022	George Washington University, American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Renmin University, AAS Annual Meeting, University of Chicago.
2021	SSHA Annual Meeting, Beijing University, Duke Kunshan University, International

	Society for Chinese Law and History.
2020	Tsinghua University, Kaifeng Foundation, Zhejiang University.
2019	SSHA Annual Meeting, University of Chicago, ASA Annual Meeting, Zhejiang University, University of Chicago Center in Beijing, <i>Mobilization</i> Conference on Nonviolence and Social Change.
2018	SSHA Annual Meeting, Yale University, <i>Mobilization</i> Conference on Nonviolence and Social Change, The Johns Hopkins University.
2017	SSHA Annual Meeting, Tsinghua University, The University of Chicago Center in Beijing.
2016	George Washington University, ASA Annual Meeting, Brown University.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICES

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2023-	PhD Faculty Adviser, Department of Global Inquiry, School of International Service.
2021-	Member, PhD Committee, School of International Service.
2023-24	Member, AU Core Socio-Historical Inquiry Committee, American University.
2023-24	Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service.
2022-23	Member, Faculty Actions Committee, School of International Service.
2022-23	Chair, the Global Governance & International Organization Concentration, PhD Committee, School of International Service.
2021-22	Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service.
2020-22	Member, Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, American University.
2017-21	Co-Lead, Historical International Studies Research Cluster, School of International Service.
2019-20	Member, Faculty Actions Committee, School of International Service.
2019-20	Member, Faculty Committee on Evaluating Teaching Beyond the SETs, School of International Service.
2018-19	Member, Faculty Senate Honors Advisory Committee, American University.
2017-18	Member, “Social Networks” Assistant Professor Search Committee, School of International Service.
2017-18	Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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2024-	Executive Committee Member, Social Science History Association
2024-	Consulting Editor, <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>
2024-25	Member, Distinguished Contribution Article Award Committee, American Sociological Association’s Section on Collective Behavior & Social Movements
2022-	Co-founder, “THiS: Theory, History, Society.”
2024	Co-organizer, Four Panels “Commemorating Xiaohong Xu,” The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.
2024	Co-Organizer, “The Value and Vision of Comparison” Workshop, Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Beijing.
2022-23	Member, Committee for the Charles Tilly Article Award, American Sociological Association’s Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology.
2021	Co-organizer, Virtual Forum on “China as Objects and China as Methods.”
2020	Co-organizer, An International Virtual Forum on “Weber, Bourdieu, and the Development

- of Social Theories.”
- 2020 Co-organizer, A Virtual Forum on “China Among Empires.” Kaifeng Foundation.
- 2020 Co-organizer, “A Virtual Forum in Commemoration of the Centennial of Max Weber’s Death.” Zhejiang University. China.
- 2019 Co-Organizer, The Ninth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on “Politics and Competition.” University of Chicago Center in Beijing, China.
- 2018 Co-Organizer, The Eighth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on “Globalizations: Continuity, Change, and Challenges.” University of Chicago Center in Beijing, China.
- 2017-18 Member, Committee for the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association’s Section on Collective Behavior & Social Movements.
- 2017 Co-Organizer, The Seventh Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on “Ideas, Identities, and Ideology.” University of Chicago Center in Beijing, China.

### ANONYMOUS REVIEWER

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- 2012- *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Theory and Society, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Poetics, Social Science History, Journal of Historical Sociology, Mobilization, Social-Economic Review, Social Currents, European Journal of Sociology, Voluntas, World Politics, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Chinese Sociological Review, China Quarterly, The China Journal, Modern China, and Asian Perspective*
- 2011- Peer-reviewed journals in Chinese: *Sociological Studies, Chinese Journal of Sociology, and Sociological Review of China*

### MEDIA INTERVIEWS

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- 2022- Associated Press, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN, The Economist, Financial Times, New York Times, Reuters, South China Morning Post, Times, Vox Media, and Washington Post.

### MEMBERSHIP

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American Sociological Association  
 Social Science History Association  
 Association for Asian Studies

### LANGUAGES

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English (proficient), Chinese (native)