

YANG ZHANG

School of International Service
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-8071

Office: SIS 246
Tel: +1 (202) 885-1678
Fax: +1 (202) 885-2494
Email: yangz@american.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University, August 2016-

EDUCATION

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

- Zhang, Yang, and Feng Shi. 2023. "The Micro-foundations of Elite Politics: Conversation Networks and Elite Conflict during China's Reform Era." *Theory and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-023-09530-7>
- 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 Comparative-Historical Sociology Section, 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

- Zhang, Yang. Forthcoming. "Historical Causation and Temporally Sensitive Comparisons," 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*, 2nd edition, edited by David A. Snow, Sarah Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly McCammon. Wiley-Blackwell.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN CHINESE

- 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 MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

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

ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Zhang, Yang. "The Retreat of the State? The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under-)Development in Imperial China, 900s-1800s."
- Zhang, Yang, Yongjun Zhang, and Feng Shi. "The Communicative Structure of Communist Elites in Maoist China, 1949-1976."
- Zhang, Yang. "Why Were the White Paper Protests Possible?"
- Zhang, Yang. "Historicist Time and Pragmatist Time."

BOOK REVIEWS

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

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 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

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 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 |
| 2014 | Summer Research Grant, Social Sciences Division, 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 |
| 2011 | Special Field Exam on "Transnational Dynamics of Politico-Economic Change," Passed with Honors, 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

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

MENTORING

| | |
|-------|---|
| Ph.D. | Lucas Dolan (2018-) Julie Radomski (2019-) Frieder Dengler (2021-) |
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| | Anastassiya Perevezentseva (2021-) |
| | Jiyoung Kwon (2022-) |
| | Lindsay Barclay (2022-) |
| | Monzima Haque (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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|------|---|
| 2023 | “The Genesis of the Modern Chinese Revolution: Ethnic Particularism and Religious Universalism.” The “Qing China: Transnational and Comparative Perspectives” Symposium. Ohio State University. |
| 2023 | “Why Elites Rebel: Elite Insurrections during the Taiping Civil War in China.” The Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University. |
| 2023 | “Empire and its Enemies: Ethnicity, Religion, and Rebellions in Mid-19th-Century China.” The Empires Workshop, The University of Chicago. |
| 2023 | “Empire and its Enemies: Ethnicity, Religion, and Rebellions in Mid-19th-Century China.” The Department of Sociology, The University of Virginia. |
| 2022 | “The Micro-foundation of Elite Politics: Conversation Networks and Elite Conflict during China’s Reform Era.” The Comparative Politics Workshop, George Washington University. |
| 2022 | “The Retreat of the State? The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under-)Development in Imperial China, 900s-1800s.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. |
| 2022 | “Studying the State after the Imperial Turn.” School of International Relations, Renmin University of China. |
| 2022 | “Rhythms of Revolt: Religion, Ethnicity, and Rebellions in the Qing Empire, 1850-1873.” Association for Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference, Honolulu, Hawai’i. |
| 2022 | “The Retreat of the State? The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under-)Development in Imperial China, 900s-1800s.” East Asia: Transregional Histories Workshop, University of Chicago. |
| 2021 | “The Retreat of the State? The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under-)Development in Imperial China, 900s-1800s.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. |
| 2021 | “The Retreat of the State: The Politics of Bureaucratic (Under)Development in Late |

- Imperial China.” School of Government, Beijing University.
- 2021 “The Micro-process of Politics: Elite Relationships and Political Conflict in China’s Reform Era.” The Workshop of “The Historicity of Crisis.” Duke Kunshan University.
- 2021 “The Puzzle and the Myth of State Capacity Decline in Late Imperial China,” An Interdisciplinary Virtual Forum on “China as Objects and China as Methods.”
- 2021 “Problematizing the ‘Tang-Song Transition’ Thesis from the View of History Sociology,” A Virtual Conference on the “Tang-Song Transition in Interdisciplinary Perspective.”
- 2021 “Bureaucracy and State Capacity in Late Imperial China,” A Virtual Roundtable on “Research Questions and Methodology: Law, Bureaucracy and State Capacity in Imperial and Modern China.” International Society for Chinese Law and History.
- 2020 “The Use and Abuse of Max Weber,” An International Virtual Forum on “Weber, Bourdieu, and the Development of Social Theories.”
- 2020 “Weapons of Historical Sociology and Historical Sociology of Weapons.” A Virtual Forum on Sociological Frontiers. Tsinghua University.
- 2020 “The Great Reversal: The Imperial Expansion of Germany and America and the British Reactions at the Turn of the 20th Century.” A Virtual Forum on “Chinese Empire Among Empires”. Kaifeng Foundation.
- 2020 “Max Weber and German Politics Between Liberalism and Imperialism.” A Virtual Forum in Commemoration of the Centennial of Max Weber’s Death. Zhejiang University.
- 2019 “Historical Causation and Social Change.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 “Factions in Action: Elite Networks and Political Alignment in China’s Reform Era.” The Politics, History, and Society Workshop, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 “Factions in Action: Party Networks and Political Alignment in China’s Reform Era.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2019 “Factions in Action: Elite Networks and Political Alignment in China’s Reform Era.” Mini-Conference of ASA’s Political Sociology Section, “States of Exception?”. New York, NY.
- 2019 “Causation and Contingency in Historical Sociology,” Workshop on Advanced Topics in Historical Sociology, Zhejiang University. Hangzhou, China.
- 2019 “Factions in Action: Elite Networks and Factional Alignment in China’s Reform Era,” The Ninth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on Politics and Competition, The University of Chicago Center in Beijing.
- 2019 “Broker and Buffer: Why Environmental Organizations Participate in Popular Protests in China.” Mobilization Conference on Nonviolence and Social Change: Illiberal Democracies East and West. San Diego, CA.
- 2018 “Factions in Action: Elite Networks and Factional Alignment in China’s Reform Era,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Phoenix, AZ.
- 2018 “Historical Causation and Social Change.” Post-Positivism Comparison Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- 2018 “An Anxious Alliance: NGO Partnership with NIMBY Protests in Urban China.” Mobilization Conference on Nonviolence and Social Change: Race, Ethnicity, and Nonviolence. San Diego, CA.
- 2018 “Factions in Action: A Romance of Reformers and Conservatives in China, 1977-1992.”

- The East Asian Studies Speaker Series, The Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD.
- 2017 “Taming Time: Sequential Causation and Historical Change,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “Old Territory, New State: Studying Nationalism and the State after the Empire Turn,” Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, Beijing.
- 2017 “Insurgent Identities: Ethnicity, Religion, and Rebellions in the Qing Empire,” The Seventh Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on Ideas, Identities, and Ideologies, The University of Chicago Center in Beijing.
- 2016 Panel on “Civil Society in China,” George Washington University. Washington DC.
- 2016 “Allies in Action: Institutional Actors and Grassroots Environmental Activism in China,” Session on “Formal and Informal Strategies of Resistance to Authoritarianism,” American Sociological Association 2016 Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Passing Power: Personnel Power Sharing and Leadership Succession in China.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Coercive Power of the State,” Workshop on State Capacity with Special reference to China, Watson Institute, Brown University. Providence, RI.
- 2015 “Insurgent Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Rebellion, 1847-1853.” American Sociological Association 2015 Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Insurgency in Interstice: Rebellion Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Movement.” Revisiting Remaking Modernity Mini-Conference, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.
- 2015 “Unlimited Rebellions at a Limited State: Dynamics of Insurgent Formation in Qing China.” 2015 Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference, University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame, IN.
- 2015 “Insurgent Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Rebellion, 1846-1853.” Association for Asian Studies 2015 Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 “Oppositional Alignment and Rebellious Formation.” American Sociological Association 2014 Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “Oppositional Alignment and Rebellious Formation: North China, 1851-1855.” American Sociological Association 2013 Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2013 “The Political Logic of Anti-PX Movement in China.” Paulson Institute. Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Revolutionary Ecology and the Rise of Taiping Rebellion, 1846-1853.” American Sociological Association 2012 Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.
- 2011 “Neither Confucian Bureaucracy nor Civil Examination.” Social Science History Association 2011 Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “The Micro-foundation of Elite Politics.” Political Violence and Security Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2020 COVID-19 and International Governance, School of International Service.
- 2020 “Network in Conversations: Elite Interaction and Political Alignment in China’s Reform Era.” Global Economy & Development Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2019 Book Manuscript Workshop, Ethnographies of Empire Cluster, School of Interactional Service.

- 2018 “Broker and Buffer: Why Environmental Organizations Participate in Popular Protests in China.” Environment+ Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2018 “Factions in Action: A Romance of Reformers and Conservatives in China, 1977-1992.” Complex Governance Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2018 “Taming Time: Historical Causation and Social Change.” Historical International Studies Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2018 “Why Elites Rebel? Elite Insurrections during the Taiping Civil War in China.” Political Violence and Security Cluster, School of International Service.
- 2016 “Muslim Mobilization during the Taiping Civil War in the Qing Empire.” Social Theory Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Insurgent Dynamics: Elite Insurrections in Mid-19th Century China.” Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Insurgent Dynamics: Elite Insurrections in Mid-19th Century China.” East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Fragmentizing State, Oppositional Alignment, and Rebellion Formation in Qing China, 1853-1862.” Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Insurgent Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Rebellion, 1846-1853.” Politics, History, and Society Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2014 “The Origins and Continuous Formation of Rebellions under Qing Empire, 1850-1873.” The Fourth Political Sociology Workshop on Empire: Past and Present, University of Chicago, Beijing Center.
- 2014 “Rebellion Ecology and Insurgent Formation: Qing China 1850-1873.” East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2012 “‘Bureaucrats’ in the Bureaucratic State of Late Imperial China.” The Second Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on State Building, University of Chicago, Beijing Center.
- 2012 “Revolutionary Ecology and the Rise of Taiping Rebellion, 1846-1853.” East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2011 “Insurgent Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Rebellion.” The First Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on Social Movements, University of Chicago, Beijing Center.
- 2011 “The Political Logic of Anti-PX Movement.” East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

-
- 2023- Member, AU Core Socio-Historical Inquiry Committee, American University.
- 2023- Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service.
- 2021- Member, PhD Committee, 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

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| | 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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| 2022-23 | Member, Committee for the Charles Tilly Article Award, American Sociological Association’s Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology. |
| 2022-2022 | Co-founder, “THiS: Theory, History, Society,” A Platform for Interdisciplinary Dialogues Organizer, Author Meets Critics Session for <i>Clash of Empires: From ‘Chimerica’ to the ‘New Cold War’</i> , The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago. |
| 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 | Session Organizer and Chair, “Parties, Networks, and Field: New Data, New Methods.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. |
| 2020 | Session Co-Chair, “Boundary Making and Resistance: Categorization and Classification Struggles in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. |
| 2020 | Session Organizer, “Sociology of Political Elites,” Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco CA. |
| 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 | Chair and Discussant, Paper Session on “New Frontiers in Comparative Development,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. |
| 2019 | Co-Organizer, The Ninth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on “Politics and Competition.” University of Chicago Center in Beijing, China. |
| 2018 | Organizer, Paper Session “Crisis Politics: Leveraging Legitimacy and Ambiguity in Troubled Times.” The Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Phoenix AZ. |
| 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. |
| 2016 | Organizer, Author Meets Critics Session for <i>The China Boom</i> , The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago. |

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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| 2012- | Occasional reviewer for <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> , <i>American Sociological Review</i> , <i>Social Forces</i> , <i>Theory and Society</i> , <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> , <i>Poetics</i> , |
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Journal of Historical Sociology, Social-Economic Review, Social Currents, European Journal of Sociology, Voluntas, World Politics, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Chinese Sociological Review, China Quarterly, and The China Journal

2011- Occasional reviewer for peer-reviewed journals in Chinese: *Sociological Studies, Chinese Journal of Sociology, and Sociological Review of China*

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

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

American Sociological Association
 Social Science History Association
 Association for Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

English (proficient), Chinese (native)