

# YANG ZHANG

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago, 2016

Dissertation: *Insurgent Dynamics: The Coming of the Chinese Rebellions, 1850-1873*

Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements

M.A., Sociology, University of Chicago, 2010

M.A., Public Management, Tsinghua University, 2008

B.A., Tsinghua University, Graduation with Honors, 2004

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## BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

*Rhythms of Revolt: Religion, Ethnicity, and Rebellions in Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century China*

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## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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)

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## BOOK CHAPTER

Zhang, Yang, and Dingxin Zhao. Forthcoming. "Ecological and Spatial Contexts of Social Movements," pp. 98-114 in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, 2<sup>nd</sup> version, edited by David A. Snow, Sarah Soule, Hanspeter Kriesi, and Holly McCammon. Wiley-Blackwell.

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## ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

"Why Elites Rebel? Elite Insurrections during the Taiping Civil War in China."

"Leadership Successions and Patterns of Power Sharing in China." (With Junyan Jiang)

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## ARTICLES MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

"Insurgency in Interstice: Rebellion Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Movement."

"An Anxious Alliance: NGO Partnership with Environmental Protests in Urban China." (With Molly Bradtke)

"Taming Time: Historical Causation and Social Change."

"Factions in Action: Elite Networks and Political Alignment in China's Reform Era." (With Feng Shi)

"Thinking Counterfactual Sequentially."

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN CHINESE

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Zhang, Yang. 2009. "On the Problems of Falsificationism Again: 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.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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2018. *Islamophobia and Racism in America*, by Eric Love (New York University Press, 2017). *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 124(2).

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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2018. "The Death and Life of Great Empires." *Shanghai Review of Books*, January 26, 2018.

2017. "Old State, New Mandate: Studying Nationalism and the State after the Empire Turn." *Tsinghua Sociological Review* 8: 26-33.

2008. "The Knowledge Foundation to Understanding the Formation of the Chinese Empire." *The 21st Century* 4: 137-144.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2018 Dean's Summer Research Awards, School of International Service, American University

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 Robert E. Park Lectureship Award to design and teach my own course entitled Contentious Collective Action, 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

2004 Graduation with Honors, Tsinghua University  
2000-2008 Several First-Class Fellowships and Awards, Tsinghua University

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Fall 2016- Instructor, *Empire and Imperialism, Empire: Past and Present, Contentious Politics*, and *Bottom-Up Politics: Models and Methods*, American University  
Winter 2015 Instructor, *Contentious Collective Action*, University of Chicago  
2010-2014 Teaching Assistant, *Power, Identity, & Resistance* (College Core), *Colonization* (College Core), *Social and Political Movements*, and *Political Sociology*, University of Chicago

### CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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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.” 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 2017 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 discussion 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**

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- 2018 “Factions in Action: A Romance of Reformers and Conservatives in China, 1977-1992.” Complex Governance Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 2018 “Taming Time: Historical Causation and Social Change.” Historical International Studies Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 2018 “Why Elites Rebel? Elite Insurrections during the Taiping Civil War in China.” Political Violence and Security Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 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-19<sup>th</sup> Century China.” Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Insurgent Dynamics: Elite Insurrections in Mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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, 1846-1853.” 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.

## MENTORING

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Ph.D. Locus Dolan (2017- )  
M.A. Erica Benjamin (2017-2018)  
B.A. Jack Ramsey (2017-2018)

## EDITORIAL SERVICES

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2013-2014 Associate Student Editor, Manuscript Assignment Board, *American Journal of Sociology*  
2012-2013 Associate Student Editor, Book Review Board, *American Journal of Sociology*  
2012-Present Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*,  
*Theory and Society*, *Sociological Studies*, and *Chinese Journal of Sociology*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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2018- Member, Faculty Senate Honors Advisory Committee, American University  
2018 Organizer, Paper Session “Crisis Politics: Leveraging Legitimacy and Ambiguity in Troubled Times.” The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Phoenix.  
2018 Co-Organizer, The Eighth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop on “Globalizations: Continuity, Change, and Challenges.” University of Chicago Center in Beijing, China.  
2018 Session Facilitator, “Non-Democratic Mobilization.” Conference on Nonviolence and Social Change: Race, Ethnicity, and Nonviolence. San Diego, CA.  
2017-2018 Member, Committee for the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association’s Section on Collective Behavior & Social Movements.  
2017- Co-Lead, Historical International Studies Research Cluster, School of International Service, American University.  
2017-2018 Committee Member, “Social Networks” Assistant Professor Search Committee, School of International Service, American University.  
2017-2018 Faculty Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service, American University.  
2017- Member, Asian Studies Advisory Council, American University.  
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 *The China Boom*, The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago.

## MEMBERSHIP

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American Sociological Association  
Social Science History Association  
International Studies Association

## LANGUAGES

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English (proficient), Chinese (native)