

YANG ZHANG

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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

BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

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

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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 Article Award, American Sociological Association's Comparative-Historical Sociology Section)

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)

BOOK CHAPTER

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.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Zhang, Yang, and Feng Shi. "The Micro-foundations of Politics: Conversation Network and Elite Conflict in China's Reform Era."

"Causation and Comparison in Time," in *Comparison after Positivism*. Columbia University Press.

ARTICLES MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- “Insurgency in Interstice: Rebellion Ecology and the Rise of the Taiping Revolution.”
 “A Tale of Three Rebellions: Religion, Ethnicity, and Muslim Mobilizations in Qing China, 1850-1873.”
 “The Politics of Bureaucratic Devolution and Development in Late Imperial China.”
 “Studying the State after the Imperial Turn.” (With Frieder Dengler)

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. “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

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.
 2021. “China Among Empires” (Roundtable in Chinese). *Tsinghua Sociological Review* 16:235-259.
 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.
 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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| 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, |

	American University
2019	Conference Travel Award, School of International Service, American University
2018	Conference Travel Award, School of International Service, American University
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	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
2004	Graduation with Honors, Tsinghua University
2000-2008	Several First-Class Fellowships and Awards, Tsinghua University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2016-	Instructor, <i>Bottom-Up Politics, Contentious Politics, Empire and Imperialism, Empire: Past and Present, Global and Comparative Governance</i> , and <i>PhD Research Design Seminar</i> , American University
Winter 2015	Instructor, <i>Contentious Collective Action</i> , University of Chicago
2010-2014	Teaching Assistant, <i>Power, Identity, & Resistance</i> (College Core), <i>Colonization</i> (College Core), <i>Social and Political Movements</i> , and <i>Political Sociology</i> , University of Chicago

MENTORING

Ph.D.	Lucas Dolan (17-) Julie Radomski (19-) Frieder Dengler (21-) Anastasiya Perevezentseva (21-)
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- M.A. Erica Benjamin (17-18)
 Zitian Sun (18-20)
 Robert Forsberg (19-20)
 Frederic Lestina (20-21)
- B.A. Jack Ramsey (17-18)
 Chelsey Cao (17-19)
 Ren Xiang (17-19)
 Chuyan Cheng (18-20)
 Fengyue Zhang (19-21)
 Chaitanya Venkateswaran (21-22)

CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 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. Beijing, China.
- 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. Beijing, China.
- 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. Hangzhou, China.

- 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.”

- 2015 Revisiting Remaking Modernity Mini-Conference, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.
 “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

- 2020 COVID-19 and International Governance, School of International Service, American University
- 2020 “Network in Conversations: Elite Interaction and Political Alignment in China’s Reform Era.” Global Economy & Development Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 2019 Book Manuscript Workshop, Ethnographies of Empire Cluster, School of Interactional Service, American University.
- 2018 “Broker and Buffer: Why Environmental Organizations Participate in Popular Protests in China.” Environment+ Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 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-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, 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.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

- 2022-2023 Member, Faculty Actions Committee, School of International Service, American University.
- 2021- Member, PhD Committee, School of International Service, American University.
- 2021- Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service, American University.
- 2020-2022 Member, Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, American University.
- 2017-2021 Co-Lead, Historical International Studies Research Cluster, School of International Service, American University.
- 2019-2020 Member, Faculty Actions Committee, School of International Service, American University.
- 2019-2020 Member, Faculty Committee on Evaluating Teaching Beyond the SETs, School of International Service, American University.
- 2018-2019 Member, Faculty Senate Honors Advisory Committee, American University
- 2017-2018 Committee Member, “Social Networks” Assistant Professor Search Committee, School of International Service, American University.
- 2017-2018 Mentor, Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service, American University.
- 2017- Member, Asian Studies Advisory Council, American University.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 2021 Co-organizer, An Interdisciplinary Virtual Forum on “China as Objects and China as Methods.”
- 2021 Discussant, 2021 Annual Tri-School Ph.D. Research Conference, American University
- 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. Beijing, China.
- 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.
- 2017-2018 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 *The China Boom*, The Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

- 2012- Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Theory and Society*, *Poetics*, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, *Social-Economic Review*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Social Currents*, *European Journal of Sociology*, *Voluntas*, and *The China Journal*.
Occasional reviewer for peer-reviewed journals in Chinese: *Sociological Studies*, *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, and *Sociological Review of China*.

MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association
Social Science History Association
Association for Asian Studies

LANGUAGES

English (proficient), Chinese (native)