

CHANG (RITA) YU

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

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EDUCATION

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2026 (expected) | Ph.D., Sociology
University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, U.S.
<i>Dissertation:</i> Understanding Cognitive Aging in China: Cognitive Measures, Life Course Factors, and Historical Contexts
<i>Committee members:</i> Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk (Chair), Ashley B. Barr (Member), Kristen Schultz Lee (Member) |
| 2022 May | M.A., Sociology
University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, U.S. |
| 2019 June | Bachelor of Management, Public Administration and Policy
Hunan Normal University, China |
| 2017 July | Exchange Student, Sociology
University of California, Berkeley, U.S. |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Aging and life course, social demography, cognitive health, chronic pain, data harmonization, causal inference, large language model (LLM) and scoping review method

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Yuanyuan Wu, **Chang Yu**, Kristen S. Lee. 2025. "Voluntary Participation and Life Satisfaction among Chinese Older Adults: A Propensity Score Analysis." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences and Psychological Sciences*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbaf127
- Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Rui Huang, **Chang Yu**, Yu-An Chen, Sirat Kaur, Merita Limani, Ting-Hui Lin, Anna Zajacova, Zachary Zimmer, Penney Cowan, Roger B. Fillingim, Jennifer S Gewandter, Ian Gilron, Adam T. Hirsh, Gary Macfarlane, Salimah H. Meghani, Kushang V Patel, Ellen L. Poleshuck, Eric C. Strain, Frank J. Symons, Ursula Wesselmann, Robert H Dworkin, Dennis C Turk. 2025. "Over Fifty Years of Research on Social Disparities in Pain and Pain Treatment." *PAIN*. doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000003676 (Editor's choice article)
- Yuanyuan Wu, Meng Cai, **Chang Yu**. 2025. "Depression and Internet Use before and after the COVID-19 Outbreak Among Chinese Middle-aged and Older adults: A Network Analysis." *BMC Psychology*. doi: 10.1186/s40359-025-03119-8

Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr. 2025. "Social Activities and Dimensions of Cognitive Functioning Across Mid- and Late-Life: Evidence from China." *The Gerontologist*. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnaf014

Qian Liu, Yuanyuan Wu, **Chang Yu**, Yaolin Pei. 2024. "Social Activities and Depressive Symptoms Among Migrant Middle-aged and Older Adults in China: A Network Analysis." *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1376180

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr, Yulin Yang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "Beyond Pain Presence: The Impact of Multisite Pain and Pain Interference on Cognitive Functioning among Middle-Aged and Older Adults." Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences and Psychological Sciences*

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Chang Yu, Jiaowei Gong, Emma Zang. "Intergenerational Relationship Trajectories in Multi-Child Families and Depressive Symptoms of Older Parents in China" [Full draft available]

Chang Yu. "The Divergent Roles of Childhood Literacy and Food Availability in Cognitive Aging: Evidence from Two Chinese National Longitudinal Datasets" [Full draft available]

Chang Yu, Mo Han, Rui Huang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Gongda Yu. "Human vs. AI in Conducting Scoping Reviews: Evaluating Large Language Model Accuracy Across Article and Question Types"

Chang Yu. "Examining the Validity and Reliability of Cognitive Domains in China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study"

Chang Yu. "Age at Exposure to China's Great Famine and Later-Life Cognitive Trajectories: Patterns and Mechanisms"

BOOK CHAPTERS

Chang Yu, Ziyi Zhou, et al. (2016) "Study on the Targeted Poverty Alleviation of Poverty-stricken Areas in Luoxiao Mountain—Take Yizhang County and Yanling County as Examples." Zhigang Zheng (Ed.), *Research Report Collection of Youth China Tour* (pp. 51-73). Beijing: Guangming Daily Press. (In Chinese)

POLICY REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Da Huo, **Chang Yu**. (2020) "Foundation Development Independent Research Report". Produced for the China Foundation Center, Beijing, China

Chang Yu, Da Huo. (2020) "China Foundation Transparency Index System Report". Produced for the China Foundation Center, Beijing, China

Chang Yu, Da Huo. (2019) "Development of Pediatric Liver Transplant in China". Produced for National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Beijing, China

Chang Yu, Ziyi Zhou, et al. (2016) "Research on the Mode of Entrusting Poverty Alleviation in Yanling County". Produced for the Poverty Alleviation Office, Hunan Province, China

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Travel Grants, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1000)
- 2025 Nathalie Devine Howe Award for Outstanding Teaching, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1,000)
- 2024 Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$750)
- 2024 Adeline Gordon Levine Excellence in Teaching Award nomination, University at Buffalo, SUNY
- 2023 NY State Supply Chain & Operation Management Case Competition, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1,000)
- 2023 Travel Grants, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1000)
- 2018 Academic Progress Award of Hunan Normal University (\$150)
- 2018 Third Prize Scholarship of Hunan Normal University (\$150)
- 2018 Scholarship of Publication Administration School, Hunan Normal University (\$150)
- 2016 China Young Leaders Foundation (\$1,500)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Chang Yu.** "Harmonization of Later-Life Cognitive Function in Longitudinal Integrative Data Analysis: Results from Two Chinese National Datasets" Poster session presentation at the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2025
- Chang Yu, Mo Han, Rui Huang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Gongda Yu.** "Human vs. AI in Conducting Scoping Reviews: Evaluating Large Language Model Accuracy Across Article and Question Types" Paper session (oral) presentation at the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2025
- Chang Yu, Jiaowei Gong, Emma Zang.** "Intergenerational Relationship Trajectories in Multi-Child Families and Depressive Symptoms of Older Parents in China" Paper session (oral) presentation at the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, 2025
- Chang Yu, Yuanyuan Wu, Kristen S. Lee.** "Voluntary Participation and Life Satisfaction among Chinese Older Adults: A Propensity Score Analysis." Poster session presentation at the Population Association of America Annual Conference, Washington DC, 2025
- Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr, Yulin Yang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk.** "Chronic Pain, Pain Interferences, and Cognition Among Middle- and Old-aged Americans: A Fixed-effects Analysis." Poster session presentation at the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA, 2024

Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "Functional Limitations, Depressive Symptoms, and Cognition Across Mid- and Late-Life: Evidence from China." Poster session presentation at the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA, 2024

Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr. "Social Activities and Dimensions of Cognitive Functioning Across Mid- and Late-Life: Evidence from China." Roundtable session presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, 2024

Chang Yu. "Cognition Changes Among Chinese Middle Aged and Older Adults, 2013-2018: Disparities and Correlations." Regular presentation at Center for Social Research, Peking University, Beijing, 2023

Chang Yu, Yulin Yang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk "Gender, Stress and Cognition Among Middle-Aged and Older Adults in the United States." Roundtable session presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2023

Chang Yu, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "The Relationship between Social Participation and Cognitive Function Among Middle-Aged and Older Chinese: A Network Analysis." Poster session presentation at the Population Association of America Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2023

Chang Yu, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "The Relationship between Social Participation and Cognitive Function Among Middle-Aged and Older Chinese: A Network Analysis." 19th Annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence Student Showcase, State University of New York at Buffalo, 2023

Chang Yu, Qian Liu, Yuanyuan Wu, Yaolin Pei. "Social Activities and Depressive Symptoms Among Migrant Middle-aged and Older Adults in China: A Network Analysis." Regular presentation at Center for Social Research, Peking University, virtual, 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Demography of Chronic Pain: A Population Approach to Pain Trends, Pain Disparities, and Pain-Related Disability and Death, Buffalo, US

08/2021-12/2021; 05/2024-12/2024; 05/2025-08/2025

Graduate Research Assistant, Supervisor: Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk

Grant: Project supported by American National Institute on Aging (R01 AG065351)

- Scoping review: inclusion coding, identified the qualified articles for content coding
- Scoping review: content coding, identified and coded independent and dependent variables, key findings, types of mechanisms, practice and policy recommendations, etc., of 150 reviews about differences/disparities in pain or pain treatment across social groups

The China Foundation Center, Beijing, China

04/2020-07/2020

Data Research Assistant, Supervisor: Da Huo

- Analyzed the data related to medical and health public welfare projects in China and wrote a research report, *Foundation Development Independent Research Report (2019)*

- Established the China Foundation Transparency Index System aiming to assess the transparency of Chinese charity institutions by reviewing the Chinese Charity Law and referring to 132 financial statements and official websites of Chinese charitable foundations

China Philanthropy Research Institute of Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
10/2018-03/2019

Research Assistant, Charity Research Centre, Supervisor: Da Huo

- Analyzed data and cases in the field of charity; composed Chinese Philanthropy Monthly Review
- Collected background information on pediatric liver transplantation in China and western countries; sorted related data of medical insurance policy and social support in China; analyzed data and wrote a research report, *Development of Pediatric Liver Transplant in China*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Basic Statistics for Social Science

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022, Fall 2024 (graduate level)

Instructor, Fall 2023, Spring 2025

Social Research Methods

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024

Instructor, Summer 2022, Spring 2024 (hybrid class)

Sociology of City Life

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2023

Global Criminology

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Occasional referee: *The Gerontologist, Frontiers in Psychology*

Abstract peer reviewer: *The Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting, 2025.*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Programming: Stata, HLM, M-plus, R

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (conversational)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Population Association of American (PAA)
Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

REFERENCES

Dr. Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk (Chair)

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Dr. Ashley B Barr (Member)

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Dr. Kristen Schultz Lee (Member)

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