

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, State University of New York
	<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, Kristen Schultz Lee, Alden Gross (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)
2022 May	M.A., Sociology University at Buffalo, State University of New York
2019 June	Bachelor of Management, Public Administration and Policy Hunan Normal University, China
2017 July	Exchange Student, Sociology University of California, Berkeley

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Quantitative and computational methods, large language models (LLMs), evidence synthesis method, aging and life course, cognitive aging and dementia, chronic pain, global studies

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Chang Yu, Ashley B. Barr, Yulin Yang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. 2025. "Beyond Pain Presence: The Impact of Multisite Pain and Pain Interference on Cognitive Functioning Among Middle-Aged and Older Adults." *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (Psychological Sciences)*. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbaf220

- **Featured in the [University at Buffalo News Center](#)**

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

Yuanyuan Wu, **Chang Yu**, Kristen S. Lee. 2025. "Voluntary Participation and Life Satisfaction among Chinese Older Adults: A Propensity Score Analysis." *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (Social 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: A Scoping Review of Reviews." *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

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

Chang Yu, Ziyi Zhou, et al. 2016. "A Study of Targeted Poverty Alleviation of Poverty-Stricken Areas in Luoxiao Mountain—Taking 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)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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

Chang Yu, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "The Divergent Roles of Childhood Literacy and Food Availability in Cognitive Aging: Evidence from Two Chinese Longitudinal Datasets"

Chang Yu, Jiaowei Gong, Emma Zang. "The Worst Tie Hurts the Most: Intergenerational Relationship Trajectories in Multi-Child Families and Depressive Symptoms of Older Parents in China"

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Chang Yu. "Measurement Invariance of Cognitive Function Across Literacy Status, Gender, and Time in the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study" (Full draft available)

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

Yiran Han, **Chang Yu**, Kai Zhang. "Neighborhood Determinants of Vision Health among Older Adults" (In preparation)

POLICY REPORTS

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. "Spatial Disparities in the Development of Pediatric Liver Transplantation in China." Produced for National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Beijing, China

Chang Yu, Ziyi Zhou, et al. 2016. "Research on the Commissioned Poverty Alleviation Model in Yanling County." Produced for the Poverty Alleviation Office, Hunan Province, China

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2025 **Nathalie Devine Howe Award for Outstanding Teaching, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1,000)**

2025 Travel Grant, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1,000)

2024 Adeline Gordon Levine Excellence in Teaching Award nomination, University at Buffalo, SUNY

2024 Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$750)

2023 NY State Supply Chain & Operation Management Case Competition, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1,000)

2023 Travel Grant, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$1000)

2018 Academic Progress Award, Hunan Normal University (\$150)

2018 Third Prize Scholarship, Hunan Normal University (\$150)

2018 Scholarship from Publication Administration School, Hunan Normal University (\$150)

2016 Research Award, China Young Leaders Foundation (\$1,500)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 **Chang Yu.** "The Divergent Roles of Childhood Literacy and Food Availability in Cognitive Aging: Evidence from Two Chinese National Longitudinal Datasets." Population Association of America Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO

2025 **Chang Yu.** "Harmonization of Later-Life Cognitive Function in Longitudinal Integrative Data Analysis: Results from Two Chinese National Datasets." Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA

Chang Yu, Mo Han, Gongda Yu, Rui Huang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "Human vs. AI in Conducting Scoping Reviews: Evaluating Large Language Model Accuracy Across Article and Question Types." Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA

Chang Yu, Jiaowei Gong, Emma Zang. "The Worst Tie Hurts the Most: Intergenerational Relationship Trajectories in Multi-Child Families and Depressive Symptoms of Older Parents in China." Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA

Chang Yu, Yuanyuan Wu, Kristen S. Lee. "Voluntary Participation and Life Satisfaction among Chinese Older Adults: A Propensity Score Analysis." Population Association of America Annual Conference, Washington DC

2024 **Chang Yu**, Ashley B. Barr, Yulin Yang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "Chronic Pain, Pain Interference, and Cognition Among Middle-Aged and Older Americans: A Fixed-Effects Analysis." Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA

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

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

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

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

Chang Yu, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. "The Relationship between Social Participation and Cognitive Function Among Middle-Aged and Older

Chinese: A Network Analysis." Population Association of America Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

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

2022 **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." Center for Social Research, Peking University, virtual

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Instructor:

Basic Statistics for Social Science, Fall 2023, Spring 2025

Social Research Methods, Summer 2022, Spring 2024 (hybrid class)

Teaching Assistant

Multiple Linear Regression (Graduate level), Spring 2026

Crime and the Life Course (Graduate level), Spring 2026

Sociology of City Life, Spring 2023

Global Criminology, Fall 2022

WORK & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

2021-2025 Research Assistant for Dr. Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, "The Demography of Chronic Pain: A Population Approach to Pain Trends, Pain Disparities, and Pain-Related Disability and Death" Grant from National Institute on Aging (R01 AG065351)

2020 Research Data Scientist, The China Foundation Center, Beijing, China

2018-2019 Research Assistant, Charity Research Center, China Philanthropy Research Institute of Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department Service

- **Recruitment support**, Department of Sociology PhD program, University at Buffalo
- **Panelist**, Proseminar Panels, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo

College Service

- **Member**, Grievance Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University at Buffalo

Disciplinary Service

- **Referee**: *The Gerontologist, Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences and Psychological Sciences, Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*

- **Abstract peer reviewer:** *The Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Statistical Programming: Stata, M-plus, R
- Statistical and Modeling Expertise: Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM); Structural Equation Modeling (SEM); Propensity Score Analysis (matching, inverse probability weighting, stratification); Sobel-Goodman Mediation Tests; Network Analysis
- Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (conversational)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

Population Association of American (PAA)

American Sociological Association (ASA)