
RUI (ZOE) HUANG

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo (SUNY), Buffalo, NY 14260

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EDUCATION

2026 (expected) Ph.D., Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
2020 M.A., Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
2015 M.A., Human Resource Management, University of Leeds.
2014 B.M., Financial Management, Wuhan University of Technology.

AREAS OF PECIALIZATION

Medical Sociology, Population Health, Life Course and Aging, Demography, Quantitative Methods, Chronic Pain.

PUBLICATIONS

Huang, Rui, Yuhang Li, Zachary Zimmer, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, and Tran Khanh Toan.

Forthcoming. Forthcoming. "Early-Life War Exposure and Later-Life Chronic Pain in Vietnam: Risk, Resilience, and Timing." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Huang, Rui and Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. Forthcoming. "Chapter 21. Chronic Pain in Later Life." In *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*, 10th edition, edited by Kenneth F. Ferraro and Deborah Carr.

Yang, Yulin, Feinuo Sun, Zachary Zimmer, Anna Zajacova, **Rui Huang**, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, and Jacqueline Torres. Forthcoming. "Chronic Pain Prevalence and Trends in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas of American Adults Aged 55+, 1998-2020." *Social Science & Medicine*.

Huang, Rui, Yuhang Li, and Feinuo Sun. 2025. "Welfare Policies, Joint Pain Prevalence and Educational Gaps in 50 U.S. States from 2011 to 2021: A Fixed Effects Analysis." *Journal of Pain*. doi:[10.1016/j.jpain.2025.105539](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2025.105539).

Grol-Prokopczyk, Hanna, **Rui Huang**, Chang Yu, Yu-An Chen, Sirat Kaur, Merita Limani, Ting-Hui Lin, Anna Zajacova, Zachary Zimmer, Penney Cowan, and others. 2025. "Over Fifty Years of Research on Social Disparities in Pain and Pain Treatment: A Scoping Review of Reviews." *Pain* 24(10). doi:[10.1097/j.jpain.0000000000003676](https://doi.org/10.1097/j.jpain.0000000000003676).

* “Editor’s Choice” article.

Huang, Rui, Yulin Yang, Anna Zajacova, Zachary Zimmer, Yuhang Li, and Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. 2023. “Educational Disparities in Joint Pain within and across US States: Do Macro Sociopolitical Contexts Matter?” *Pain* 164(10):2358–69. doi:[10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002945](https://doi.org/10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002945).

Huang, Rui, and Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. 2022. “Health and Health Behaviors in China: Anomalies in the SES-Health Gradient?” *SSM - Population Health* 17:101069. doi:[10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101069](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101069).

Yang, Yulin, **Rui Huang**, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, and Jacqueline M. Torres. 2022. "Social Network Change after New-Onset Pain among Middle-Aged and Older European Adults." *Social Science & Medicine* 310:115215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115215>.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Li, Rui, **Rui Huang**, Anna Zajacova, Zachary Zimmer, Kavin Srinakaran, Kushang Patel, Tonya Palermo, and Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. “Gender Inequality, Intimate Partner Violence, and Sex Disparities in Adolescent Chronic Pain: A Global Perspective” (under review)

Li, Yuhang and **Rui Huang**. “One country, two worlds: Hukou as an institutional context shaping hypertension management in China”

Yu, Chang, Mo Han, **Rui Huang**, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, and Gongda Yu. “The Reliability of Large Language Model in Scoping Review: A Comparison with Human Review”

Srinakaran, Kavin , **Rui Huang**, Anna Zajacova, Zachary Zimmer, Kushang Patel, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Tonya Palermo, and Rui Li. “Country-Level Contextual Factors and Adolescent Chronic Pain Across 44 Countries”

Yuan, Yaqi, **Rui Huang**, and Yulin Yang. “Race and Overall Satisfaction with the Healthcare System Among Older Adults in the U.S.: Evidence from Four Waves of the Health and Retirement Study”

Yuan, Yaqi, **Rui Huang**, and Yulin Yang. “Socioeconomic Status and Overall Satisfaction with the Healthcare Among Older Adults in the U.S.”

Zajacova, Anna, **Rui Huang**, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk. “Sexual orientation, gender, and chronic pain: what explains the unexpected patterns?”

HONORS & AWARDS

2023 Travel Grant, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY (\$500)

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- 2023 2nd place recipients of the Nathalie Devine Howe Award for Outstanding Scholarship for the article “One country, two worlds: Hukou as an institutional context shaping hypertension management in China” (with Yuhang Li)
- 2014 First Prize in Project Competition of Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), University of Leeds.

CONFERENCE AND INVITED* PRESENTATIONS

- 2025* “Early-Life War Exposure and Later-Life Chronic Pain in Vietnam: Risk, Resilience, and Timing”. Invited talk, Graduate Research Symposium, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
- 2025 “Early-Life War Exposure and Later-Life Chronic Pain in Vietnam: Risk, Resilience, and Timing”. Poster session presentation at the Population Association of America, DC.
- 2025* “Risk, Resilience and Timing: How does Early-Life War Exposure Shape Later-Life Chronic Pain in Vietnam?” Presentation at the Population Health and Conflict, the University of Utah.
- 2025* “Early-Life War Exposure and Later-Life Chronic Pain in Vietnam: Does the Timing of Exposure Matter?” Presentation at the Workshop on Determinants of Adult Mortality, Morbidity, and Healthy Aging in LMICs, UC Berkeley Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging (CEDA).
- 2024 “Welfare Policies and Joint Pain Across 50 US States – A Fixed Effect Analysis Using State-level Panel Data, 2011 – 2021”. Presentation at the Demography of Chronic Pain Group, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY.
- 2023 “Educational Disparities in Joint Pain within and across U.S. States: Do State Contexts Matter?”. Poster session presentation at the Population Association of America, NO.
- 2022 "Social Network Change after New-Onset Pain among Middle-Aged and Older European Adults." Presentation at the Family, Life Course, and Sociology of Health (FLASH) Works-in-Progress group, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY.
- 2022 “Health and Health Behaviors in China: Anomalies in the SES-Health Gradient?”. Poster presentation at the Celebration of Academic Excellence, University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY.
- 2021 “Health in China.” Guest lecture for SOC322 Medical Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY.

MEDIA COVERAGE (SELECTED)

- 2023 “Got Arthritis Pain? What State You Live In May Matter”, U.S. News & World Report, July 12, 2023, <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-07-12/got-arthritis-pain-what-state-you-live-in-may-matter>
- 2023 “Study: Pain risk varies significantly across states”, July 7, 2023, SUNY at Buffalo News Center, <https://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2023/07/huang-joint-pain.html>
- 2023 “Research Update: Pain: Identifying Pain Early Proves a Cost Benefit Ratio for US Budgets”, Global Aging & Community Initiative (GACI) newsletter, June, 2023, https://globalagingandcommunity.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/2.june-gaci-newsletter_2023.pdf
- 2022 “Study shows surprising results on association between wealth, education and health outcomes in China”, SUNY at Buffalo News Center, May 5, 2022, <https://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2022/05/006.html>

WORK & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2025 Research Assistant for Dr. Anna Zajacova, Department of Sociology, Western University, London, Canada.
- 2024 Research Consultant for Dr. Feinuo Sun, Department of Kinesiology, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, U.S.
- 2024 Research Assistant for Dr. Anna Zajacova, Department of Sociology, Western University, London, Canada.
- 2021 - 2023 Research Assistant for Dr. Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, U.S.
- 2016 - 2017 Employee, Human Resources Management Department, People’s Hospital of Yuxi, China.

TEACHING

Instructor:

SOC378: Social Inequality and Health

Teaching Assistant:

SOC504: Basic Statistics for the Social Science (graduate level)
SOC101: Introduction to Sociology
SOC322: Medical Sociology
SOC311: Drugs & Society
SOC357: Race, Crime & Criminal Justice

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ongoing	reviewer for <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> , <i>SSM-Population Health</i> , <i>PLOS Global Public Health</i> , <i>Global Public Health</i> , <i>BMC Geriatrics</i> .
2024 - present	Member, Grievance Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
2019-2020	Sociology Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
2014-2015	Student Representative, Business School, Faculty Student Education Committees, University of Leeds.
2011-2014	Student Representative, Student Committee, Wuhan University of Technology.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (Life Course and Aging; Medical Sociology)
Population Association of America
Global Aging & Community Initiative
PURPOSE Pain Research Network
Collaborative on Population Aging Disparities (CoPAD) working group
Population Health and Conflicts