

**CHANG (RITA) YU**

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

197 Founders Prom, Buffalo, NY 14228

[Homepage](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [Rate My Professor](#) | E-mail: [cyu33@buffalo.edu](mailto:cyu33@buffalo.edu)**EDUCATION**

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- 2026 (expected)      Ph.D., Sociology  
University at Buffalo, State University of New York
- 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**

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Aging and health, medical sociology, cognitive aging and dementia, chronic pain, large language models (LLMs), quantitative methods, global studies

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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- 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
- 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

### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

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**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 Task Types"

**Chang Yu**. "From Common Roots to Divergent Paths: How Childhood Literacy and Food Availability Shape Cognitive Aging"

### **ARTICLES IN PROGRESS**

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**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" (Full draft available)

**Chang Yu**. "Examining the Validity and Reliability of Cognitive Domains in the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study" (Extended abstract available)

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

### **POLICY REPORTS**

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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**

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- 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**

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**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**

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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*Sociology of City Life*, Spring 2023*Global Criminology*, Fall 2022**WORK & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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- 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**

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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**

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- 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**

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Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

Population Association of American (PAA)

American Sociological Association (ASA)