# **CHANG (RITA) YU**

Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY 197 Founders Prom, Buffalo, NY 14228

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#### **EDUCATION**

2026 (expected)	Ph.D., Sociology
	University at Buffalo, State University of New York
	Dissertation: Understanding Cognitive Aging in China: Cognitive
	Measures, Life Course Factors, and Historical Contexts
	Committee members: Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk (Chair), Ashley B. Barr
	(Member), Kristen Schultz Lee (Member)
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**

Population health, aging and life course, cognitive function and dementia, chronic pain, AI (large language models), evidence synthesis, quantitative and computational methods

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**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.00000000000003676 \*

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;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, 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." Under review after "revise-and-resubmit" from *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (Psychological Sciences)* 

### **ARTICLES IN PROGRESS**

- **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" [Full draft available]
- **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.** "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**

- 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 Pediatric Liver Transplant Development 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**

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, Rui Huang, Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, Gongda Yu. "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. "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** Basic Statistics for Social Science

- **Instructor of Record**, Fall 2023, Spring 2025
- Social Research Methods
  - **Instructor of Record**, Summer 2022, Spring 2024 (hybrid class)

## Sociology of City Life

• Teaching Assistant, Spring 2023

# Global Criminology

• Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022

#### 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 <u>Disciplinary Service</u>
  - **Referee:** The Gerontologist, Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journals of Gerontology: 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

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Population Association of American (PAA)

Gerontological Society of America (GSA)