Emma Xiaolu Zang

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Professional Experience

2025–	Associate Professor of Sociology (with tenure), Yale University
	Associate Professor of Biostatistics (secondary), Yale School of Public Health
	Associate Professor of Global Affairs (secondary), Jackson School of Global Affairs
	Faculty Member: Institution for Social and Policy Studies; Council on East Asian Studies; Wu Tsai Institute
	Faculty Affiliate: Yale Institute for Global Health; Yale Institute of Network Science; Yale Center on Climate Change and Health; Yale Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center; Yale Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; Data Intensive Social Science Center; Institute for Foundations of Data Science; Yale Center for Geospatial Solutions; Center for Algorithms, Data, and Market Design at Yale; Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, Yale Law School
2019–2025	Assistant Professor of Sociology (maternity leave, Fall 2023), Yale University
	Faculty Member: Institution for Social and Policy Studies (2019–2025); Council on East Asian Studies (2019–2025); Wu Tsai Institute (2023–2025)
2022–2025	Assistant Professor of Biostatistics (secondary), Yale School of Public Health
2022–2025	Assistant Professor of Global Affairs (secondary), Jackson School of Global Affairs
2024	Visiting Scholar, Institute for Work and Employment Research,
	MIT Sloan School of Management
2022	Scholar Exchange, Duke Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center
2021–22	Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University
2011	Erasmus Mundus Exchange Student, Ghent University

Research Leadership

Founder and Director, Computational Aging, Family, and Evidence (Z-CAFE) Lab

Lead Organizer, AI in Social Science Research Methods Conference, Yale University

Founding Faculty Organizer, Life-Course Cognitive Inequality Conference, Yale University

Founding Faculty Organizer, Yale Population Studies Speaker Series

Other Positions

2026– Senior Fellow, Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School

2026– Consultant, Yuwa Population Research Institute (fertility policy think tank, Hong Kong)

2025– Fellow, Center for China Analysis, Asia Society Policy Institute

External Affiliates

2024– Life Course Center, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

2024– Aging and Life Course Lab, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

2023– The Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21st Century America

2023– Population Dynamics and Health Program, University of Michigan

Education

2019 **Ph.D.** in Public Policy, Duke University

2017 **M.A.** in Economics, Duke University

2014 **M.Phil.** in Social Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

2012 **B.L.** with Highest Distinction & Honors in Sociology, Tongji University

Research Areas

Computational Social Science • Artificial Intelligence and Social Measurement • Population Health and Aging • Family Demography and Fertility • Neighborhoods, Inequality, and Spatial Context • Work, Organizations, and Public Policy • Bayesian Statistics and Quantitative Methods

Book Project

Demographic Constraint: Why Aging Societies Struggle to Invest in the Future

Book manuscript in preparation for submission to Princeton University Press (Fall 2026).

Two-day book manuscript conference on the complete manuscript, hosted by the Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School (2026). Discussants: Mary Gallagher, Joshua Goldstein, Feng Wang, Karen Eggleston.

Peer Reviewed Papers

** denotes graduate student or postdoc coauthor and ** denotes undergraduate student coauthor at the time of writing*

Computational and Quantitative Methods

1. Zhang, Yunxuan*., Thomas M. Gill, Karen Bandeen-Roche, Robert D. Becher, Kendra Davis-Plourde, **Emma Zang**. (2025). "Obtaining Population-Based Estimates for Survey Data Using Bayesian Hierarchical Models with Poststratification." ***American Journal of Epidemiology***.

2. **Zang, Emma**., Michael Sobel, Liying Luo. (2023). "The Mobility Effects Hypothesis: Methods and Applications." ***Social Science Research*** 110:102818.

3. **Zang, Emma**., Justin T. Max*. (2022). "Bayesian Estimation and Model Selection in Group-Based Trajectory Models." ***Psychological Methods*** 27(3):347-372.

4. Lynch, Scott, **Emma Zang [equal authorship]**. (2022). "Bayesian Multistate Life Table Methods for Complex, High-Dimensional State Spaces: Development and Illustration of a New Method." ***Sociological Methodology*** 52(2): 254–286.

5. Fu, Qiang., Xin Guo, Sun Jeon, Eric Reither, **Emma Zang**, Kenneth Land. (2021). "The Uses and Abuses of An Age-Period-Cohort Method: On The Linear Algebra and Statistical Properties of Intrinsic and Related Estimators." ***Mathematical Foundations of Computing*** 4(1):45-49.

Demography and Inequality

6. Wang, Zitong*., **Emma Zang**, Poh Lin Tan. (Forthcoming). "Revisiting Time Availability and Time Use: Evidence from the COVID-19 Lockdown in Singapore." ***Population Research and Policy Review***.

7. Wang, Xueqing*., Xuezhixing Zhang*, **Emma Zang**. (2026). "Beyond Lifelong Marriage and Spousal Coresidence: A Research Note on Racial and Ethnic Differences in Late-Life Family and Living Arrangements." ***Demography***.
   - Featured (selected): Connecticut Public Radio, YaleNews

8. **Zang, Emma**., Keitaro Okura*, Melissa Tian. (2025). "Sex-Selective Abortion Bans and Infant Health Among Asian Immigrant Mothers." ***Social Science & Medicine*** 383: 118442.
   - Featured (selected): YaleNews

9. Yang, Yining*., **Emma Zang**, Jessica Calarco. (2024). "Patterns in Receiving Informal Help with Childcare Among US Parents During the COVID-19 Pandemic." ***Journal of Family Issues*** 46(1): 230-269.

10. **Zang, Emma**., Yining Yang*, James Lee. (2024). "Parents' Industrial Sectors and Fields of Study: Five Decades of Evidence from an Elite Regional University in China." ***Sociology*** 58(6): 1281-1304.

11. **Zang, Emma**., Christina Gibson-Davis, Haolun Li*. (2024). "Beyond Parental Wealth: Grandparental Wealth and the Transition to Adulthood." ***Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*** 89: 100878.

12. **Zang, Emma**., Qinyou Hu*, Zitong Wang*. (2024). "Revisiting the Occupational Health Impact of Right-to-Work Laws: A Research Note." ***Demography*** 61(5): 1283–1292.

13. **Zang, Emma**., Melissa Tian**. (2024). "Upward Mobility Context and Health Outcomes and Behaviors in Emerging Adulthood: The Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity and Gender." ***Journal of Health and Social Behavior*** 66(1):18-37.

14. **Zang, Emma**., Poh Lin Tan, Thomas Lyttelton*, Anna Guo*. (2023). "Convergence and Divergence in Spouses' Time Expenditures on Paid Labor, Housework and Childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Singapore." ***Population and Development Review*** 50(S1): 303-337.
    - Featured (selected): The Straits Times (Singapore)

15. Lyttelton, Thomas*., **Emma Zang**, Kelly Musick. (2023). "Changes in Mothers' and Fathers' Time at Home and Work During the Pandemic." ***Journal of Marriage and Family*** 85(2): 657-673.
    - Featured (selected): YaleNews, Cornell Chronicle, CTV News

16. **Zang, Emma**., Poh Lin Tan, Philip Cook. (2023). "Sibling Spillovers: Having an Academically Successful Older Sibling May be More Important for Children in Disadvantaged Families." ***American Journal of Sociology*** 128(5): 1529–1571.
    - Featured (selected): The New York Times Magazine, YaleNews, Good Housekeeping, The Telegraph

17. Song, Xi., **Emma Zang**, Kenneth Land, Boyan Zheng*. (2022). "Intergenerational Income Mobility Table Revisited: A Trajectory Group Perspective." ***Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*** 80:100713.

18. **Zang, Emma**., Chloe Sariego*, Anirudh Krishnan*. (2022). "The Interplay of Race/Ethnicity and Education in Fertility Patterns." ***Population Studies*** 76(3): 363-385.
    - Selected as the "Most Read Article in 2022" published in *Population Studies*
    - Featured (selected): The Hill, YaleNews, Yahoo, Newsbreak

19. Lyttelton, Thomas*., **Emma Zang**. (2022). "Occupations and Sickness-Related Absences during the COVID-19 Pandemic." ***Journal of Health and Social Behavior*** 63(1): 19–36.

20. Lyttelton, Thomas*., **Emma Zang**, Kelly Musick. (2022). "Telecommuting and Gender Inequalities in Parents' Paid and Unpaid Work Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic." ***Journal of Marriage and Family*** 84(1): 230-249.
    - 2022 IPUMS Time Use Research Award
    - "Top 10 Most Cited Papers Published in Journal of Marriage and Family"
    - "Top Cited Article 2021-2022", Wiley
    - Featured (selected): Harvard Business Review, CNN, NBC, YaleNews, The Boston Globe, Council on Contemporary Families, Slate, The Lily (Washington Post), Live Science

21. **Zang, Emma**. (2020). "When Family Property Becomes Individual Property: Intrahousehold Property Ownership and Women's Well-Being in China." ***Journal of Marriage and Family*** 82(4): 1213-1233.
    - Featured (selected): The Economist, YaleNews, The MacMillan Report, ThePaper.cn

22. **Zang, Emma**. (2020). "Spillover Effects of a Husband's Retirement on a Woman's Health: Evidence from Urban China." ***Social Science & Medicine*** 245: 112684.

- Featured (selected): ThePaper.cn

23. **Zang, Emma**. (2019). "Women's Educational Attainment and Fertility Among Generation X in The United States." ***Population Studies*** 73(3): 335-351.
    - Selected as one of the "Most Influential Papers in 2020" published in *Population Studies*
    - 2018 Everett S. Lee Graduate Paper Award, Southern Demographic Association
    - Featured (selected): Science Daily, YaleNews
24. **Zang, Emma**., Cameron D. Campbell. (2018). "Males' Later-Life Mortality Consequences of Coresidence With Paternal Grandparents: Evidence From Northeast China, 1789–1909." ***Demography*** 55 (2): 435-457.
    - 2014 Tilly Graduate Student Paper Award, Social Science History Association
    - 2019 Graduate Student Research Paper Award, the Section on Asia & Asian America, American Sociological Association
25. **Zang, Emma**., Hui Zheng. (2018). "Does The Sex Ratio at Sexual Maturity Affect Men's Later-Life Mortality Risks? Evidence From Historical China." ***Social Science & Medicine*** 202: 61-69.
26. **Zang, Emma**., Nan Dirk De Graaf. (2016). "Frustrated Achievers or Satisfied Losers? Inter- and Intragenerational Social Mobility and Happiness in China." ***Sociological Science*** 3: 779-800.
    - 2016 Alan C. Kerckhoff Award, the ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility
    - 2012 Best Thesis Award, Tongji University

Population Health and Aging

27. Schechtl, Manuel., Rourke O'Brien, Elizabeth Bair, **Emma Zang**, Atheendar Venkataramani. (Forthcoming). "Local Wealth Inequality and Working-Age Mortality in the USA: A Five-Decade County-Level Study of Sex-Specific Mortality Trends." ***JAMA Health Forum***.
28. Yu, Chang., Jiaowei Gong*, **Emma Zang**. (2026). "The Worst Tie Matters: Intergenerational Relationship Trajectories in Multi-Child Families and Depressive Symptoms of Older Parents in China." ***Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences***.
29. Wang, Zitong*., Ting Hu, **Emma Zang**. (2026). "Housing Prices, Homeownership, and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: Evidence from China." ***Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences***.
30. Lou, Yifan*., Yanjun Wu, **Emma Zang**. (2026). "Co-evolution of Cognitive and Health Trajectories Among U.S. Older Adults with Cognitive Impairment." ***Journal of the American Medical Directors Association***.
31. Gill, Thomas., Linda Leo-Summers, Jingchen Liang, Robert Becher, Amy Kind, **Emma Zang**. (2026). "Benchmarking Weighted Estimates of Social Determinants of Health in the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS)." ***Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences***.
32. Hu, Ying., Lingzhi Chu, **Emma Zang**, Ijeoma Opara, Yuan Lu, Erica S. Spatz, Harlan M. Krumholz, Kai Chen. (2026). "Spatial and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cardiovascular Mortality Attributable to PM2.5 Components in the Contiguous United States." ***Science Advances***.
33. Festa, Natalia., Kaitlin Throgmorton, Manali Phadke, John O'Leary, Kendra Davis-Plourde, **Emma Zang**, Kai Chen, Jill Kelly, David Dosa, Alexandra Hajduk, Andrew Cohen, Thomas Gill. (2026). "Evaluating

Administrative Compliance as a Predictor of Nursing Home Postdisaster Outcomes in the USA." ***BMJ Public Health***.

34. Festa, Natalia., Kelsey Alexovitz, Manali Phadke, John O'Leary, Kendra Davis-Plourde, **Emma Zang**, Kai Chen, Jill Kelly, David M. Dosa, Andrew Cohen, Thomas M. Gill. (2025). "Federal Inspection Timing, Not Compliance, Associated with Nursing Home Post-Disaster Outcomes." ***Health Affairs Scholar***.

35. Jain, Snigdha., Terrence Murphy, Jason Falvey, Linda Leo-Summers, John O'Leary, **Emma Zang**, Thomas Gill, Harlan Krumholz, Lauren Ferrante. "Associations between Social Determinants of Health and Post-Hospitalization Rehabilitation among Critically Ill Older Adults." ***Annals of the American Thoracic Society***.

36. Chu, Lingzhi., Yiqun Ma*, **Emma Zang**, Lei Huang, Kai Chen. (2025). "Disparities in NO2-Related Health Burden Existed across Race-Ethnicity and Income Groups in the United States." ***One Earth*** 8(10):101387.

37. Wong, Jason*., **Emma Zang**. (2025). "Regional Disparities in Cognitive Life Expectancy: The Role of Birth and Current Residence in the United States." ***Health and Place*** 94:103475.

38. Kong, Dexia., Xiaomin Li, Yaxin Lan, **Emma Zang**. (2025). "Linked Lives: Dyadic Trajectories of Cognitive Function among Middle-Aged and Older Couples." ***Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*** 80(7): gbaf063.

39. Wang, Yi*., **Emma Zang**, Kendra Davis-Plourde, Brent Vander Wyk, Thomas M. Gill, Robert D. Becher. (2025). "Incidence of Frailty, Dementia, and Disability among Community-Living Older Americans According to County-Level Disadvantage." ***Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*** 73(6): 1847-1856.
    - Featured (selected): Yale School of Medicine

40. Gill, Thomas M., **Emma Zang**, Linda Leo-Summers, Evelyne A. Gahbauer, Robert D. Becher, Lauren E. Ferrante, Ling Han. (2025). "Role of Critical Illness, Major Surgery & Other Hospitalization on Active & Disabled Life Expectancy." ***JAMA Network Open*** 8(4):e254208.

41. Wang, Yi*., **Emma Zang**, Kendra Davis-Plourde, Thomas M. Gill, Robert D. Becher. (2025). "Novel Indices of State- and County-Level Social Disadvantage in Older Americans and Disparities in Mortality." ***Health and Place*** 92: 103438.
    - Featured (selected): Yale School of Medicine

42. Lou, Yifan*., **Emma Zang**, Qianqian Li*. (2025). "Explaining Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Advance Care Planning in the U.S.: A Decomposition Analysis." ***Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*** 69(5):527-535.

43. Lou, Yifan*., Jiaowei Gong*, **Emma Zang**. (2025). "Care Recipients' Cognitive Trajectories and Caregivers' Depressive Symptoms: The Mediating Role of Caregiving Burden." ***The Gerontologist*** 65(4):gnaf024.

44. Lu, Siyao*., Jason Wong*, Yifan Lou*, **Emma Zang**, Deborah Carr. (2024). "A Novel Time Use Approach on Successful Aging: Racial Disparities in Daily Productive Engagement." ***The Gerontologist*** 65(1): gnae150.

45. Ma, Yiqun*., **Emma Zang**, Yang Liu, Yuan Lu, Harlan M. Krumholz, Michelle L. Bell, Kai Chen. (2024). "Long-Term Exposure to Wildland Fire Smoke PM2.5 and Mortality in The Contiguous United States." ***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*** 121 (40) e2403960121.
    - Featured (selected): Yale School of Public Health

46. Tang, Weiming., Jiali Zhang, Haidong Lu, Qilei Sheng, **Emma Zang**, Yunxuan Zhang*, Hualong Yuan, Bihua Chen. (2024). "The Influence of Perinatal Psychological Changes on Infant Neurodevelopment in Shanghai, China: A Longitudinal Group-based Trajectory Analysis." ***Journal of Affective Disorders*** 361: 291-298.

47. **Zang, Emma**., Yunxuan Zhang*, Yi Wang*, Bei Wu, Terri R. Fried, Robert D. Becher, Thomas M. Gill. (2024). "Association between Cognitive Trajectories and Subsequent Health Outcomes among Older Adults in the United States: Findings from A Nationally-Representative Study." ***Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*** 79(8): glae143.

48. Jain, Snigdha., Terrence E. Murphy, Jason R. Falvey, Linda Leo-Summers, John R. O'Leary Jr., **Emma Zang**, Thomas M. Gill, Harlan M. Krumholz, Lauren E. Ferrante. (2024). "Social Determinants and Delivery of In-Hospital Rehabilitation to Critically Ill Older Adults." ***JAMA Network Open*** 7(5):e2410713.

49. Lam, Pak Hung*., **Emma Zang**, Dieyi Chen, Riyang Liu, Kai Chen. (2023). "Long-Term Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter and Academic Performance Among Children in North Carolina." ***JAMA Network Open*** 6(10):e2340928.
    - Featured (selected): YaleNews, Yahoo!, World Economic Forum, WRAL
    - Cited by the Danish Health Authority in policy reports

50. Monin, Joan K., Gail McAvay, **Emma Zang**, Brent Vander Wyk, Carmen I. Carrión, Heather Allore. (2023). "Associations between Dementia Staging, Neuropsychiatric Behavioral Symptoms, and Divorce or Separation in Late Life: A Case Control Study." ***PLOS ONE*** 18(8), e0289311.

51. Ma, Yiqun*., **Emma Zang**, Yuan Lu, Harlan M. Krumholz, Kai Chen. (2023). "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Attributable to Long-Term PM2.5 Exposure in the United States from 2001 to 2016." ***Nature Human Behaviour*** 7, 2074–2083.
    - 2023 Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence
    - Featured (selected): Nature Invited Commentary, Nature Aging Research Highlights, YaleNews, Yale Daily News

52. Festa, Natalia., Kaitlin Fender Throgmorton, Kendra Davis-Plourde, David M. Dosa, Kai Chen, **Emma Zang**, Jill Kelly, Thomas M. Gill. (2023). "Assessing Regional Nursing Home Preparedness and Regulatory Responsiveness to Wildfire Risk in the Western United States." ***JAMA Network Open*** 6(6):e2320207.
    - Featured (selected): USNews.com, Yahoo!, CNN

53. Baid, Drishti*., Boseong Yun*, **Emma Zang**. (2023). "Explaining the Higher COVID-19 Mortality Rates Among Disproportionately Black Counties: A Decomposition Analysis." ***SSM-Population Health*** 22: 101360.

54. **Zang, Emma**., Xueqing Wang*, Yu Shi*, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. (2022). "Prediction of Physical Functioning and General Health Status Trajectories on Mortality Among Persons with Cognitive Impairment." ***BMC Geriatrics*** 22:766.

55. **Zang, Emma**., Josefina Flores*, Liying Luo, Drishti Baid*. (2022). "Decomposing Rural-Urban Obesity Gap Over Time in the United States." ***Obesity*** 31(2): 487-495.
    – 2023 Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence

56. Luo, Liying., **Emma Zang**, Jiahui Xu*. (2022). "The Intersection of Time and Place: Cohort Patterns and Regional Differences in Obesity among Blacks and Whites, 1976-2018." ***BMJ Open*** 12:e060469.

57. **Zang, Emma**., Yu Shi*, Xueqing Wang*, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. (2022). "Trajectories of Physical Functioning Among U.S. Adults with Cognitive Impairment." ***Age and Ageing*** 51(6):1-10.

58. Gao, Qi*., **Emma Zang**, Jun Bi, Robert Dubrow, Sarah Lowe, Huashuai Chen, Yi Zeng, Liuhua Shi, Kai Chen. (2022). "Long-Term Ozone Exposure and Cognitive Impairment Among Chinese Older Adults: A Cohort Study." ***Environment International*** 160: 107072.
    – Featured (selected): Yale Daily News, Yale School of Public Health News

59. **Zang, Emma**., Anna Guo*, Christina Pao**, Nancy Lu**, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. (2022). "Trajectories of General Health Status and Depressive Symptoms Among Persons With Cognitive Impairment in the United States." ***Journal of Aging and Health*** 34(4-5):720–735.

60. **Zang, Emma**., Scott Lynch, Chen Liu*, Nancy Lu**, Julia Banas*. (2022). "Racial/Ethnic and Educational Disparities in the Impact of Diabetes on Population Health Among the U.S.-Born Population." ***Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*** 77(8):1519-1528.
    – Finalist, Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence

61. **Zang, Emma**., Jessica West*, Nathan Kim**, Christina Pao**. (2021). "U.S. Regional Differences in Physical Distancing: Evaluating Racial and Socioeconomic Divides During the COVID-19 Pandemic." ***PLOS ONE*** 16(11): e0259665.
    – Featured (selected): YaleNews

62. **Zang, Emma**., Nathan Kim**. (2021). "Intergenerational Upward Mobility and Racial Differences in Mortality Among Young Adults: Evidence From County-Level Analyses." ***Health and Place*** 70:102628.
    – Featured (selected): YaleNews [lead story]

63. Gill, Thomas., **Emma Zang**, Terrence Murphy, Linda Leo-Summers, Evelyne Gahbauer, Natalia Festa, Jason Falvey, Ling Han. (2021). "Association Between Neighborhood Disadvantage and Functional Well-being in Community-Living Older Persons." ***JAMA Internal Medicine*** 181(10):1297-1304.
    – Featured (selected): YaleNews, JAMA Invited Commentary

64. **Zang, Emma**., Scott Lynch, Jessica West*. (2021). "Regional Differences in The Impact of Diabetes on Population Health in The USA." ***Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*** 75(1): 56-61.

65. Noppert, Grace*., Lydia Feinstein*, Jennifer Dowd, Rebecca Stebbins*, **Emma Zang**, Belinda Needham, Helen Meier, Amanda Simanek, Allison Aiello. (2020). "Pathogen Burden and Leukocyte Telomere Length in the United States." ***Immunity & Ageing*** 17:36.

66. **Zang, Emma**., Anthony R. Bardo*. (2019). "Objective and Subjective Socioeconomic Status, Their Discrepancy, and Health: Evidence from East Asia." ***Social Indicators Research*** 143: 765–794.

67. **Zang, Emma**., Hui Zheng, Claire Y. Yang, Kenneth Land. (2019). "Recent Trends in US Mortality in Early And Middle Adulthood: Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Inter-Cohort Patterns." ***International Journal of Epidemiology*** 48(3): 934–944.
    - Featured (selected): Science Daily, Neuroscience News, Medical Xpress

Invited Commentaries & Perspectives

Zang, Emma., Rourke O'Brien. (2026). "The Lost Social Infrastructure of Work." ***Science*** 392(6802): 1025-1026.

- Featured (selected): Science News

Land, Kenneth., Qiang Fu, Xin Guo, Sun Jeon*, Eric Reither, and **Emma Zang**. (2016). "Playing With the Rules and Making Misleading Statements: A Response to Luo, Hodges, Winship, and Powers." ***American Journal of Sociology***, 122 (3): 1-12.

Revise & Resubmit

1. **Zang, Emma**., Yishi Yin, Zitong Wang*, Han Zhang. "From Extraction to Inference: Comparing Rule-Based, Machine Learning, and LLM Approaches for Classifying Social Outcomes in Legal Text." Revise and Resubmit at ***Sociological Methods & Research***.
2. Wong, Jason*., **Emma Zang**, Jennifer Karas Montez. "Life-Course Exposure to State Policy Contexts and Cognitive Health." Revise and Resubmit at ***Journal of Health and Social Behavior***.
3. Lou, Yifan*., Xueqing Wang*, **Emma Zang**, Yu Shi*, Terrence Murphy, Joan Monin, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. "Are Dementia Caregivers Less Healthy Than Other Caregivers? Population Health Among Older Spousal Caregivers in the US." Revise and Resubmit at ***Research on Aging***.
4. Shang, Yongxin*., Yifan Lou*, **Emma Zang**. "Gendered Costs of Unpaid Caregiving for Older Adults with Cognitive Impairment: The Role of Cognitive Trajectories." Revise and Resubmit at ***Journal of Aging and Health***.
5. Opara, Ijeoma., Jason Wong*, Sitara Weerakoon, Sandy Cayo, Kenechukwu Mezue, **Emma Zang**, Jeremy Faust, Yuan Lu, Kai Chen. "A Framework on the Effects of Climate Change on Cardiovascular Disease among Black People." Revise and Resubmit at ***Journal of the American Heart Association***.

Selected Works in Progress

Demography

1. **Zang, Emma**, Robert A. Pollak, Claudia Goldin. "The Changing Shape of U.S. Fertility after the Baby Boom." Documents how the collapse of high-parity childbearing reshaped U.S. fertility between the 1933 and 1957 birth cohorts: the share of children raised in families of four or more fell from 61.7% to 24.5%, and a Horiuchi-Wilmoth-Pletcher decomposition identifies the parity transitions driving the post-Boom decline and its later stabilization.

Computational Social Science and AI

2. **Zang, Emma**, Jason Wong*, Yao Sun*, Arianna Salazar Miranda, Luke Sanford. "Imaging Neighborhood Disadvantage: A Deep-Learning Index from Street-View and Remote-Sensing Imagery." Harnesses deep learning on millions of street-view and satellite images to build the first multimodal index of neighborhood disadvantage covering every census tract in U.S. metropolitan areas. By capturing what traditional indices cannot, the visible physical environment, it outperforms existing measures in predicting health, educational, and other life outcomes. (Supported by the Russell Sage Foundation and Yale ISPS.)

3. **Zang, Emma**, Daniel Karell, Harsh Parikh, Jessica Hullman, et al. "The Hidden Dependence Problem in AI-Assisted Research." (Invited Perspective, *Nature Human Behaviour*; in preparation.) Argues that AI tools spanning multiple stages of the research pipeline introduce correlated errors through shared model priors, threatening scientific self-correction, and proposes testable predictions and design principles in response.

4. **Zang, Emma**, Han Zhang, Keitaro Okura. "Same Construct, Different Modalities? An Audit Framework for Text, Image, Audio, and Video Treatments." Develops a reusable framework for auditing whether experimental treatments delivered through different modalities convey the same theoretical construct, comparing perception, unintended cues, and downstream effects across text, image, audio/video, and combined formats.

5. **Zang, Emma**. "Incommensurable Labels, Comparable Models: Training Large Language Model Classifiers Across Competing Food-Healthiness Regimes." Shows how LLM classifiers behave when fine-tuned on conflicting labeling regimes and develops a framework for measurement validity when ground truth itself is contested, with practical guidance for AI-powered measurement in social science.

6. Okura, Keitaro, **Emma Zang**, Han Zhang. "Classifying the In-Between: A Survey Experiment on the Racial Categorization of Asian-White Multiracial Individuals." A randomized survey experiment identifying how phenotypic and cultural cues jointly shape racial boundary formation, providing a human benchmark for evaluating fairness in algorithmic racial classification.

Software Packages

Zang, Emma., Xuezhixing Zhang, Scott Lynch. "bayesmlogit: Bayesian Multistate Life Table Method for Complex State Spaces." (GitHub, CRAN)

Zang, Emma., Justin T. Max. "BayesTraj: Bayesian Estimation of Group-Based Trajectory Models." (GitHub)

Books, Book Chapters, and Translations

Book Chapters

Max, Justin T. and **Emma Zang**. (2019). "Semiparametric Methods." In Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging, Danan Gu and Matthew E. Dupre (eds.). New York: Springer.

Land, Kenneth C., Vicki L. Lamb, and **Xiaolu Zang**. (2017). "Scalability of Composite Indices: Complexity Complications and Findings from 15 Years of Monitoring Child and Youth Well-Being in the United States." In Dealing With Complexity in Society: From Plurality of Data to Synthetic Indicators, Giovanna Boccuzzo and Filomena Maggino (eds.). New York: Springer.

Land, Kenneth C., Vicki L. Lamb, and **Emma Zang**. (2017). "Objective and Subjective Indices of Well-Being: Resolving the Easterlin Happiness-Income Paradox." In Metrics of Subjective Well-Being: Limits and Improvements, Gael Brule and Filomena Maggino (eds.). New York: Springer.

English-to-Chinese Book Translations

Chen, Shuang, **Xiaolu Zang**, and Yi Liu. (2013). "China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset-Liaoning (CMGPD-LN) User Guide."

Zang, Xiaolu. (2017). "Multivariate General Linear Models (Haase, Richard F., Sage Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences, No. 170. Newbury Park: Sage. 2011)," Shanghai: Truth & Wisdom Press.

Zang, Xiaolu. (2017). "Maximum Likelihood Estimation: Logic and Practice (Eliason, Scott R., Sage Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences, No. 96. Newbury Park: Sage. 1993)," Shanghai: Truth & Wisdom Press.

Research Support

Federal

2026–2031 Center for Human and Robot Co-Adaptation. National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center (lead institution: University of Texas at Austin; Yale Co-PI: Brian Scassellati). Faculty Investigator, leading research on designing robots that understand and support older adults, including people experiencing cognitive decline, in everyday life. $30,000,000 (center total). *[In Progress.]*

2022–2026 "A Multifactorial Approach to Evaluating Disparities in Outcomes after Major Surgery in Disadvantaged Older Persons." National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (1R01MD017298-01). Co-I (PI: Thomas Gill & Robert Becher). $2,620,429 ($65,242 to Zang). *[Completed.]*

2023–2024 "Unraveling Geographic Disparities in ADRD Outcomes Across the United States." Pilot Project, NIA Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities (R24AG045061). PI. $35,000. *[Completed.]*

2022–2024 "Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Disability Following Critical Illness Among Older Persons: The Role of Rehabilitation." National Institute on Aging, GEMSSTAR (R03 AG078942-01). Co-I (PI: Snigdha Jain). $167,000. *[Completed.]*

2021–2023 "Linked Lives, Linked Health: Health Trajectories of Persons with Cognitive Impairment and Their Caregivers' Health." National Institute on Aging (1R21AG074238-01). PI. $472,884. *[Completed.]*

2020–2021 "Does Low-Opportunity Environment Affect Blacks and Whites Differently? Race, Economic Opportunity Context and Early Adult Health." NICHD, PSID Small Grants (5-R25-HD083146). PI, Small Grant. $11,976. *[Completed.]*

2020–2021 "Quality of Life Among Older Spousal Dementia Caregivers: A Multifactorial Approach." National Institute on Aging, Pepper Center (P30 AG21342). PI, REC-Biostatistics Core Development Project. $58,625. *[Completed.]*

National Couples' Health and Time Study. NICHD (R01HD094081). Contributed 8 survey questions (no direct costs). *[In Progress.]*

Foundation

2026– "Remote Work and Mental Health: Evidence from U.S. Couple-Level Data." Remote Work Institute. PI. $15,000. *[In Progress.]*

2026–2028 "Seeing Inequality: Building a Visual Neighborhood Disadvantage Index to Understand Educational Disparities in North Carolina." Russell Sage Foundation (R-2507-55134). PI. $75,000. *[In Progress.]*

2025–2027 "What Kind of Flexibility Matters and for Whom? How Couples' Remote Work and Flexible Schedules Shape Gender Inequality." Russell Sage Foundation (R-2403-47850). PI (Co-PI: Laura Adler). $75,000. *[In Progress.]*

2025–2026 "Geographic Contexts Across the Life Course and Cognitive Health in Emerging Aging Cohorts in the United States." Life Course Center, University of Minnesota (NIA-funded). PI. $78,634. *[In Progress.]*

2024–2026 "Care Recipients' Health Trajectories and Unpaid Caregiving Costs." Alzheimer's Association and NACC, New Investigator Award Program (1275911). PI. $148,500. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "The Cultural Consequences of AI Extrapolations: On Differences and Stereotyping in Machine Learning." Hong Kong Research Grants Council (14602223). Co-I (PI: Xuenan Cao). HK$460,000. *[Completed.]*

2021–2024 "A Spatial Analysis of the Second Demographic Transition in China." National Science Fund of China for Distinguished Young Scholars. Co-I (PI: Donghui Wang). RMB 200,000 (approx. $29,268). *[Completed.]*

2020–2023 "Family Instability and Educational Inequality in the Transitioning Chinese Society." National Science Fund of China for Distinguished Young Scholars. Co-I (PI: Angran Li). RMB 200,000 (approx. $29,268). *[Completed.]*

Internal

2026–2028 "Mapping Neighborhood Disadvantage with AI: Toward a Next-Generation Index to Advance Health Equity." Institution for Social and Policy Studies Survey Research Funding, Yale University. PI. $10,000. *[In Progress.]*

"A Longitudinal, Multimodal Dataset of Neighborhood Disadvantage for U.S. Social Science Research." Institution for Social and Policy Studies High-Value Dataset Funding, Yale University. PI. $10,000. *[In Progress.]*

"How Do Phenotype and Culture Jointly Shape Racial Classification? A Survey Experiment on Asian American Racial Boundaries." Institution for Social and Policy Studies Survey Research Methodology, Yale University. PI. $5,000. *[In Progress.]*

"Demographic Change and Governance in Aging Societies: Lessons from China." MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University. PI. $8,000. *[In Progress.]*

"Life Course, Institutions, and Inequality in Cognitive Aging: Toward Policy-Relevant Insights." Institution for Social and Policy Studies Conference Funding, Yale University. PI. $20,000. *[In Progress.]*

2025–2026 AI Course Revision Pilot Grant. Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, Yale University. PI. $2,000. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "A Remote Work Baby Boom? Remote Work and Fertility in Three OECD Countries." ISPS-MacMillan Multidisciplinary Research Fund, Yale University. PI. $15,000. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "What Kind of Flexibility Matters? How Flexible Location and Flexible Schedule Shape Gender Inequality at Home and Work." Yale School of Management. PI (Co-PIs: Laura Adler, Julia DiBenigno). $52,250. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "Women in the Dilemma of Divorce: The Impact of the 2011 Judicial Interpretation on Property Division in Divorce Court Cases." Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center, Yale University. PI. $18,000. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "Willing to Pay to Work from Home? Understanding US Workers' Post-Pandemic Preferences for Remote Work." Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University. PI (Co-PI: Laura Adler). $5,000. *[Completed.]*

2024–2025 "What Kind of Flexibility Matters? How Flexible Location and Flexible Schedule Shape Gender Inequality at Home and Work." Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University. PI (Co-PI: Laura Adler). $7,500. *[Completed.]*

2023–2024 "Breathing Inequality: Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Health in the US." Planetary Solutions Project Seed Grant, Yale University. Co-I (PI: Kai Chen and Yuan Lu). $80,000. *[Completed.]*

2022–2024 Pre-doc Matching Funds. Tobin Center for Economic Policy, ISPS, and Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Yale University. PI. $72,765. *[Completed.]*

2022–2023 "Clean Air Act Amendment 1990 and Educational Performance: Evidence from North Carolina." Education Studies Program, Yale University. PI. $10,000. *[Completed.]*

2020–2021 "Intrahousehold Property Ownership and Children's Academic Outcomes in China." Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center, Yale University. PI. $12,000. *[Completed.]*

2014–2019 Sanford Small Grant. Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. PI. $3,000. *[Completed.]*

Pending

2025–2030 "Unraveling Geographic Disparities in ADRD Outcomes Across the United States: Exploring the Multifaceted Interplay of Contextual Factors Throughout the Life Course." National Institute on Aging (R01). PI. $3,386,204. *[Under review.]*

Awards and Honors

2025 Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence

2025 Next Generation Leaders, Committee of 100

2024 Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence

2023 IMPACT Faculty Scholar, the IMPACT Collaboratory, National Institute on Aging

2023 Finalist, Office of Health Equity Research Award for Yale Research Excellence

2022 IPUMS Time Use Research Award

2022 Early Career Faculty Scholarship, OAIC National Coordinating Center, National Institute on Aging

2019 Butler-Williams Scholar, National Institute on Aging

2019 Graduate Student Research Paper Award, the Section on Asia & Asian America, American Sociological Association

2019 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad, China Scholarship Council

2018 Everett S. Lee Graduate Paper Award, Southern Demographic Association

2016 Kerckhoff Award, the ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility

2014 Tilly Graduate Student Paper Award, Social Science History Association

Fellowships and Scholarships

2021 Public Voices Fellowship, Yale Women Faculty Forum

2021 Early Career Reviewer Program, National Institutes of Health

2021-22 Visiting Fellowship, Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University

2021-22, 2024 Junior Faculty Fellowship, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Yale University

2017-18	Kenan Graduate Fellowship, the Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University
2015-17	Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University
2014-17	JK Swire Memorial Scholarship, University of Oxford (Declined)
2014-15	Doctoral Fellowship, Duke University
2012-14	Research Postgraduate Studentship, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2011-12	Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, European Commission

Travel Awards and Funded Workshops (Past Five Years)

2024	CAPS-CPR Fellow, Workshop on U.S. State Policies, Population Health, and Aging, Syracuse University
2022	Scholarship, Alzheimer's Association Interdisciplinary Summer Research Institute
2022	Scholarship, Summer Institute on Biological Approaches in the Social Sciences, Russell Sage Foundation
2021	Scholarship, Proposal Development Summer Institute, Russell Sage Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Introduction to Population Studies, Yale University (Spring 2021 (50 students), Fall 2024 (117 students))

Inequality and Social Change in China, Yale University (Fall 2020 (8 students), Spring 2023 (19 students), Spring 2025 (15 students), Fall 2025)

Intermediate Methods in Quantitative Sociology, Yale University (Spring 2020 (13 students), Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

Introduction to Methods in Quantitative Sociology, Yale University (Fall 2019 (10 students), Fall 2025)

Math Workshop for Incoming Sociology Graduate Students, Yale University (Fall 2019)

Bayesian Hierarchical Models in R, Department of Psychology, University of Basel, Switzerland (Spring 2023)

Bayesian Statistics for Social and Health Scientists in R and Python (in both Chinese and English), Instats (Spring 2023)

Quantitative Analysis of Sociological Data, Duke University (Summer 2018)

Guest Lecturer

"Obtaining Population-Based Estimates for Survey Data Using Bayesian Hierarchical Models with Post-stratification," Big Data Summer Immersion at Yale, Yale School of Public Health, 2025

Professional Service

Editorial Board

American Sociological Review, 2027–2029

Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 2023–2025

Grant Review

National Institutes of Health, Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section A (SSPA)

The European Research Council

National Science Foundation, Economics Program

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Alzheimer's Association, New Investigator Award Program

External Tenure and Promotion Reviews

2026 NYU Shanghai

Population Association of America

Organizer, Public Policy and Population Health, 2026 Annual Meeting

PAA Advocacy Day, 2025

Discussant, Segregation in the Labor Market: Causes and Consequences, 2024 Annual Meeting

Organizer and Chair, Methodological Innovations in Mortality, 2022 Annual Meeting

Discussant, Parenthood, Health, and Well-Being, 2022 Annual Meeting

Chair, Marital Relationships and Well-Being, 2019 Annual Meeting; Discussant, Mathematical Demography, 2019 Annual Meeting; Poster Session Judge, Health and Mortality I, 2019 Annual Meeting

Discussant, Health Disparities and the Life Course, 2018 Annual Meeting

American Sociological Association

Nominations Committee, Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility, 2026

Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Committee, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2025

Mentor, Section on Population, 2025

Council Member, Aging and the Life Course Section, 2022–2025

Student Paper Award Committee and BIPOC Student Travel Grants Committee, Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2024

Organizer, Section on Aging and the Life Course Roundtables and Research Working Groups, 2023

Faculty Mentor, Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility and Section on Aging and the Life Course, 2023

Book Award Committee, Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility, 2022

Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility, 2021

Session Discussant, Health, Mortality, and Inequality, 2021 Annual Meeting; Panelist, Professional Development Workshop, Section on Asia and Asian America, 2021

Graduate Student Research Paper Award Committee, Section on Asia and Asian America, 2020

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

Chair, Mentoring Awards Committee, 2021–2023

Program Committee, Session Organizer and Chair (Aging), Mentoring Award Committee, and Mentor, 2020

Poster Session Judge, 2019 Annual Meeting

Gerontological Society of America

Program Abstract Reviewer, 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting

Symposium Organizer and Chair, Aging Support, Health and Well-being of the Elderly in China and Japan, 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting

Other Professional Associations

International Chinese Sociological Association: Speaker, Graduate Students Mentoring and Job Searching, 2020; Session Chair, Marriage and the Family, 2019

International Sociological Association RC28: Session Chair, Migration and Ethnicity II, 2016

Public Engagement

Moderator, Fireside Chat: Chinese Encounters with America, Yale-China Association, 2025

Manuscript Reviewer

**American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Demography*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Sociological Science*, *European Sociological Review*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Population Studies*, *Demographic Research*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *European Journal of Population*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Work and Occupations*, *Community, Work & Family*, *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*

**New England Journal of Medicine*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *Age and Ageing*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, *BMC Geriatrics*, *BMC Public Health*, *SSM-Mental Health*, *Aging and Health Research*, *Advances in Life Course Research*

**Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Science Advances*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Health Economics*, *Review of Economics of the Household*, *The Journal*

of the Economics of Ageing, *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Environmental Pollution*, *Infant and Child Development*, *PLOS ONE*, *SpringerNature*

University Service

Faculty Search and Review

2026-27 Faculty Search Committee (Assistant or Associate Professor), Department of Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health

2025-26 Yale Institute for Foundations of Data Science Postdoctoral Associates Selection Committee

2022-23, 2024-25 Council on East Asian Studies Postdoctoral Associates Selection Committee

2024-25 Council on East Asian Studies Visiting Scholars Committee

Conference and Symposium Organization

2026 Host, 66th Hume Memorial Lecture in China Studies (Speaker: Biao Xiang), Council on East Asian Studies

2025-26 "AI for Social Science Research Methods" Conference Organizer

2025-26 "New Data, Methods, and Theory: Life-Course Cognitive Inequality" Conference Organizer

2020-23, 2024-25 China Colloquium Series Organizer, Council on East Asian Studies

Faculty Governance and Advisory Committees

2024-25 Yale College Executive Committee; Envisioning AI at Yale Symposium Review Committee

2021-23 Yale University Fulbright Study/Research Grants Committee

2020-23 Yale University Committee on Majors

Department Service

Yale University Department of Sociology

Faculty Search and Review

2025-26 Senior Faculty Search Committee; Junior Faculty Reappointment Review Committee

2019-20, 2024-25 Junior Faculty Search Committee Diversity Representative

Graduate and Undergraduate Affairs

2020-21, 2022-23 Graduate Admission Committee

2019-20 Undergraduate Affairs and Mildred Priest-Frank Prize Committee

Seminar Organizing

2019-21, 2022-23, 2025-26 Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality Seminar Organizer

2019-20 Work in Progress Seminar Organizer

Student Advising

Postdocs

Yifan Lou, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine (Placement: Assistant Professor of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University)

Yongxin Shang, Yale University Department of Sociology (Placement: Postdoc, The Pennsylvania State University)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Chair

Siyao Lu, Yale University Sociology

Jason Wong, Yale University Sociology

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee - Sociology

Zoey Xueqing Wang, Princeton University Sociology (Placement: Assistant Professor of Sociology, UT-Austin)

Milly Yining Yang, Yale University Sociology

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee - Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing

Natalia Festa, Yale University Investigative Medicine (Placement: Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine)

Thi Vu, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Yale School of Public Health (Placement: Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Mengyao Hu, New York University Nursing

Other Graduate Students

Keitaro Okura (Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal Committee), Yale University Sociology (Placement: Assistant Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, Brown University)

Zhuoer Lin (Ph.D. Dissertation Reader), Health Policy and Management, Yale School of Public Health (Placement: Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration, University of Illinois at Chicago)

Yiqun Ma (Ph.D. Dissertation Reader), Environmental Health Sciences, Yale School of Public Health (Placement: Postdoc, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego)

Tianqi Chen (Ph.D. Dissertation Reader), Biostatistics, Yale School of Public Health (Placement: Data Scientist, Uber)

Joyce Xinxin Wang (M.A. Faculty Mentor), Yale University East Asian Studies (Placement: Ph.D. student in Sociology, Cornell University)

Jeffrey Sachs (Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal Committee), Yale University Sociology (Placement: Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research, Yale University)

Quan Le (Practical Work Advisor), Department of Statistics and Data Science, Yale University

Pre-docs

Yan Zhou, Yale University Tobin Center for Economic Policy (Placement: Ph.D. in Sociology, Brown University)

Yao Sun, Yale University Department of Sociology

Tian Tong, Yale University Department of Sociology

Undergraduate Students

Sonam Wangchuk (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Statistics & Data Science

Joy Qu (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Statistics & Data Science

Kaylee Chen (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Statistics & Data Science

Melissa Tian (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Sociology

Julia Oakley (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Sociology

Sherrie Wang (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Sociology

Mengfei Shen (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale East Asian Studies

Ayeza Bajwa (Senior Thesis Advisor), Yale Sociology

Yichi Liu, Mona Chen, Charlene Jamie Miciano (College Advisor), Yale College

Invited Talks and Panels (Selected)

Selected from over 90 invited presentations at research universities, policy institutions, and international venues, 2018–present.

International

2027 *(Scheduled)* Global Fertility Crisis Conference (Hong Kong)

2026 Oxford University Nuffield College; Yuwa Population Research Institute (Hong Kong); Zhejiang University School of Public Health

2025 University of Tokyo, Department of Sociology

2024 Peking University Department of Sociology; International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics, Panel on Statistical Demography; Hong Kong University Population and Health Seminar; The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Sociology; The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Division of Social Sciences; Renmin University of China School of Economics & Finance; Yale Center Beijing; Peking University Institute of Population Research

2022 Peking University Department of Sociology

2021 The Global Solutions Summit (Berlin); Yale Center Beijing; MoneyToday K.E.Y. Platform; Renmin University of China School of Sociology and Population Studies; The French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies

2020 Shanghai University Applied Social Science Methodology Summer Workshop; The Chinese University of Hong Kong Center for Chinese Family Studies

2018 National University of Singapore Department of Sociology; McGill University Department of Sociology; New York University Abu Dhabi Social Research and Public Policy

United States

2027 *(Scheduled)* Stanford University Center on China's Economy and Institutions; University of Pennsylvania Population Studies Center; 21st Century China Center, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy; University of Chicago Quantitative Methods Workshop; University of Maryland Department of Sociology

2026 The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations; Committee of 100; The Notre Dame Population Center; Boston University Population Science Seminar; Washington University Olin School of Business;
Duke University Department of Sociology; Yale School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management; Yale China Forum; AI at Yale Symposium 2026

2025 Asia Society Policy Institute; Stanford University Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center; Syracuse University Center for Policy Research and Center for Aging and Policy Studies; Boston University Department of Sociology;
California Center for Population Research; Yale University Office of the Provost; Work and Family Researchers Network; Yale School of Medicine Interdisciplinary Stress Seminar Series;
Korean Political Studies Colloquium; Yale Institute for Foundations of Data Science; New York City Reducing Inequality Network

2024 National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Population; MIT Sloan Institute for Work and Employment Research; The USC/UCLA Center of Biodemography and Population Health; University of Minnesota Network for Data-Intensive Research on Aging;
Syracuse University Center for Aging and Policy Studies; Yale School of Medicine Center for Brain & Mind Health; University of Massachusetts Boston Department of Gerontology; The Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities;
Yale School of Public Health Department of Biostatistics; Yale China Forum; Yale Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality; University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Sociology;
Indiana University Bloomington Department of Sociology; Yale Foundations of Data Science

2023 Harvard University Social Demography Seminar; University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies; Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs; University of Maryland Time Use Data for Health and Well-Being Conference;
Indiana University Social Science Research Commons; ION Group

2022 Princeton University Center for Health and Wellbeing; University of Michigan Population Studies Center; University of California–Berkeley Department of Demography; University of Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging;
Princeton Biosociology Research Group; Duke Aging Center; Yale School of Medicine Program on Aging; Yale Institute for Foundations of Data Science

2021 The University of Chicago Department of Sociology; Princeton University Center on Contemporary China; Princeton Office of Population Research; Princeton Biosociology Research Group; University of Michigan PSID User Conference;
Brown University Population Studies and Training Center; Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy; Maryland Population Research Center; Boston College Department of Sociology

2020 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Sociology; Yale School of Medicine Program on Aging; Yale University Institution for Social and Policy Studies; Yale Gender in the Social Sciences Workshop; Yale Comparative Research Workshop

2019 Yale Council on East Asian Studies; Yale Institute of Network Science

2018 Vanderbilt University Department of Sociology; New York University Department of Sociology; Yale University Department of Sociology; Utah State University Department of Sociology

Selected Conference Presentations (2022–Present)

Zang, Emma., Yishi Yin, Zitong Wang, Han Zhang. "From Extraction to Inference: Comparing Rule-Based, Machine Learning, and LLM Approaches for Classifying Social Outcomes in Legal Text." *PAA (2026).*

Zang, Emma., Siyao Lu, Kelly Musick. "A Remote Work Baby Boom? Remote Work and Fertility in the United States." *PAA (2026), Remote Work Conference (2025), ASA (2024).*

Wong, Jason., **Emma Zang**, Meera Choi, Melissa Tian. "Opportunity Horizons in Place: Upward Mobility Context in Adolescence and Health in Early Adulthood." *PAA (2026).*

Yin, Yishi., **Emma Zang**. "Workplace Flexibility and State-Level Family Policies: A Multilevel Analysis of Parental Well-Being in the United States." *PAA (2026).*

Gong, Jiaowei., **Emma Zang**. "Trapped in Pollution: How Migration Restrictions Deepen Health Inequalities in China." *PAA (2026).*

Wong, Jason., **Emma Zang**. "Regional Disparities in Cognitive Life Expectancy: The Role of Birth and Current Residence in the United States." *PAA (2025).*

Xu, Jiahui., **Emma Zang**. "Estimating Treatment Effects With Sibling Spillovers and Family Confounding." *PAA (2025), ASA Methodology (2025).*

Xia, Fan., **Emma Zang**, Haolun Li, Riyang Liu, Kai Chen. "Racial Disparities in the Impact of Air Pollution on Student Outcomes." *PAA (2025).*

Wong, Jason., **Emma Zang**, Jennifer Karas Montez. "Life Course Exposure to State Policy Liberalism Contexts and Later-Life Cognitive Health." *PAA (2025), ASA (2025).*

Wang, Xueqing., Xuezhixing Zhang, **Emma Zang**. "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Marital Status and Living Arrangement Transitions among US Older Adults." *PAA (2025), GSA (2023).*

Lou, Yifan., Jiaowei Gong, **Emma Zang**. "Care Recipients' Cognitive Trajectories and Caregivers' Depressive Symptoms: The Mediating Role of Caregiving Burden." *NHATS/NSOC Dementia Care Conference (2024).*

Jiang, Hantao., Yiting Wang, Yifan Lou, **Emma Zang**. "Health Trajectories of Persons With Cognitive Impairment and Their Caregivers' Caregiving Intensity and Difficulties." *PAA (2024).*

Gong, Jiaowei., Yifan Lou, **Emma Zang**. "Unplanned Misallocation: Gender and Spousal Spillover Effects of Retirement on Time Use." *ASA (2024), PAA (2024).*

Lu, Siyao., Jason Wong, Yifan Lou, **Emma Zang**, Deborah Carr. "A Novel Time Use Approach on Successful Aging: Racial Disparities in Daily Productive Engagement." *PAA (2024), University of Maryland Time Use Conference (2024).*

Li, Haolun., **Emma Zang**. "Clean Air Act 1990 and Its Long-Term Impact on Children's Educational Performance." *PAA (2024), Economic Demography Workshop (2023).*

Zang, Emma., Qinyou Hu, Zitong Wang. "Right-to-Work Law and its Impact on Mortality and Occupational Injuries." *ASA (2024), PAA (2022).*

Monin, Joan K., Gail McAvay, **Emma Zang**, Brent Vander Wyk, Carmen I. Carrión, Heather Allore. "Associations between Dementia Staging, Neuropsychiatric Behavioral Symptoms, and Divorce or Separation in Late Life: A Case Control Study." *GSA (2023).*

Luo, Liying., **Emma Zang**, Kira England, Yu Shi. "The Concentration of Maternal Mortality among Disadvantaged Mothers, 1976-2018: A Decomposition Analysis." *PAA (2023).*

Zang, Emma., Xueqing Wang, Yu Shi, Terrence Murphy, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. "Are Dementia Caregivers Less Healthy Than Other Caregivers? Population Health Among Older Spousal Caregivers in the US." *PAA (2023).*

Zang, Emma., Yining Yang, Jessica Calarco. "Patterns in Receiving Informal Help with Childcare Among US Parents During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *PAA (2023).*

Zang, Emma., Christina Gibson-Davis, Haolun Li. "Parental Wealth and Racial Gaps in Educational Attainment." *PAA (2023).*

Zang, Emma., Xueqing Wang, Yu Shi, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. "Health Trajectories of Persons with Cognitive Impairment and Their Caregivers' Health." *PAA (2023), NHATS/NSOC Dementia Care Conference (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Xi Yang, Zitong Wang, Ang Sun. "Property Division Law and Investment in Household Public Goods: Evidence in China." *MIT Asia Real Estate Inaugural Symposium (2023), PAA (2022), China Economics Annual Conference (2022), The Society of Labor Economists (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Keitaro Okura, Yu Shi. "Sex-Selective Abortion Bans and Infant Health Among Asian Immigrant Mothers." *IAPHS (2023), ASA (2023), APPAM (2022), PAA (2022).*

Li, Angela., **Emma Zang**. "Race, Class, and the Impact of Highway Pollution on Child Outcomes." *PAA (2023), APPAM (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Michael Sobel, Liying Luo. "Diagonal Mobility Model: Past, Present, and Future." *RC28 (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Poh Lin Tan, Zitong Wang. "Revisiting Time Availability and Time Use: Evidence from the COVID-19 Lockdown in Singapore." *PAA (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Melissa Tian. "Upward Mobility Context and Health Outcomes and Behaviors in Emerging Adulthood: The Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity and Gender." *PAA (2022).*

Lyttelton, Thomas., **Emma Zang**, Kelly Musick. "Changes in Mothers' and Fathers' Time at Home and Work During the Pandemic." *WFRN (2022), PAA (2022).*

Zang, Emma., Anna Guo, Christina Pao, Nancy Lu, Bei Wu, Terri Fried. "Trajectories of General Health Status and Depressive Symptoms among Persons with Cognitive Impairment in the United States." *PAA (2022).*

Other Writing, Selected Popular Articles, and Interviews

Research Reports & Policy Briefs

Zang, Emma., Sam Collitt. (2026). State of Chinese Americans Survey 2025. Committee of 100 and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Zang, Emma. (2026). "Can Beijing Preserve Growth and Stability amid Rapid Demographic Change?" In "China 2026: What to Watch," Asia Society Policy Institute.

Lyttelton, Thomas*., **Emma Zang**. (2021). "The Spread of COVID-19 in U.S. Workplaces and the Role of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration." Scholars Strategy Network Policy Brief.

Lyttelton, Thomas*., **Emma Zang**, Kelly Musick. (2020). "Before and During COVID-19: Telecommuting, Work-Family Conflict, and Gender Equality." Council on Contemporary Families Policy Brief.

Land, Kenneth C., Vicki Lamb, and **Emma Zang**. (2015-2017). "Center for Child and Family Policy Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI) Report." Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University.

Op-Eds and Public Writing

South China Morning Post: Why China's AI Automation Push Is a Risky Social Experiment
Foreign Policy & ChinaFile: China's Birth Crisis Is a Crisis of Faith in the Future
The Society Pages: When Childcare Centers Close: Who Takes Care of America's Children?
N-IUSSP: Fertility Differentials in the USA: The Interplay of Ethnicity and Education
The Society Pages: Having An Academically Successful Older Sibling May Be More Important for Children in Disadvantaged Families
Instats: The Clarity of Bayesian Inference
VISIBLE Magazine: Wealth Does Not Protect Black Americans From Poor Health—In Some Ways, It May Make Them Sicker
VISIBLE Magazine: The COVID-19 Outbreak and The Flexibility of Remote Work Have Sparked an Explosion of Homeschooling
NBC News: The TikTok Pigtails Trend Should End Now

VISIBLE Magazine: Building Corporate Culture Is Not An Excuse To Push Back Remote Work
The Hill: Remote Work Is a Saving Grace—And Can Increase Productivity
The Hill: Remote Work Might Solve The Family Care Crisis for Immigrants
The Quint (India): Why India & China Must Rethink Practices of Dowry & Bride Price

Interviews

Research featured in 500+ national and international media outlets. Selected coverage:

International & U.S. press: The New Yorker • New York Times Magazine • The Economist • Bloomberg News • Reuters • CNN • BBC World News • The Telegraph • Harvard Business Review • Science News • The Washington Post (The Lily) • The Boston Globe • Vox • Axios • NBC • Slate • 端傳媒 • ThePaper.cn (China) • The Straits Times (Singapore) • Weekendavisen (Denmark) • Tempi (Italy) • Good Housekeeping • The Hill • U.S. News & World Report • Cornell Chronicle • Yahoo!

Policy & civic: Committee of 100 • The Carter Center/The Monitor • World Economic Forum • FactCheck.org

Broadcast & radio: China Global Television Network (2 segments) • Times Radio • Austrian Broadcasting Corporation • Radio Free Asia • MoneyToday K.E.Y. Platform (South Korea) • Connecticut Public Radio • WUNC

Institutional: YaleNews, Yale Daily News, Yale School of Medicine, Yale School of Public Health, Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies (faculty profile interview, 2026), The MacMillan Report