

# YIJIA ZHANG

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<https://thereisnofinaldraft.wordpress.com/>

## EDUCATION

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University of British Columbia

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

*Dissertation:* Platform Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Migration, Technology, and the Digital Ethnic Economies in A Global City (Working Title)

*Committee:* Amy Hanser (chair), Sean Lauer, Amanda Cheong

*Comprehensive Exams:* Race, Ethnicity and Migration; Sociology of Work and Economy

Simon Fraser University

M.A., Communication (2020)

Fudan University

B.A., English Language and Literature (2015)

Australian National University

Exchange student, English (2014)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Royal Roads University** (June – November 2024)

- Digital Data & Social Media (Sessional Instructor, Fall 2024)
- Organizational Communication, Culture and Development (Sessional Instructor, Summer 2024)

**University of British Columbia** (September 2019 – Present)

- Sociology of Development & Underdevelopment (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2024)
- Built Environment (Guest Lecturer, Spring 2024)
- Built Environment (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2023 & 2024)
- Canada, Japan and the Pacific: Cultural Studies (Guest Lecturer, Spring 2023 & 2024)
- Family Context of Human Development (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2021 & 2022, Spring 2025)
- Relationship Development (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019, Summer 2022)
- Parent-Child Relationships (Teaching Assistant, Summer 2021 & 2022)
- Work & Society (Guest Lecturer, Fall 2022)
- Work & Society (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022)
- Sociological Methods: Survey Research (Teaching Assistant, Summer 2021)
- Classical Traditions in Theory (Teaching Assistant, Summer 2021)
- Human Sexuality (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2020)

**Simon Fraser University** (September 2016 – April 2019)

- Communication and Social Change (Teaching Assistant, 2017-2019)
- Topics in Technology and Society (Teaching Assistant, 2017-2018)

**TEACHING TRAINING**

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**University of British Columbia**

- Certificate in Advanced Teaching and Learning (September 2024 – September 2025)
- Instructional Skills Workshops (ISW) for Grad Students (Completed in January 2024)

**Royal Roads University**

- Moodle: Editing and Enhancing Online (Completed in May 2024)

**SELECTED AWARDS**

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|            |                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025       | British Columbia Graduate Scholarship (17,500 CAD)                           |
| 2023-2025  | Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship (84,000 USD)                               |
| 2024       | Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) 2024 Student Paper Award          |
| 2020-2024  | President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award, UBC (4,463 CAD)        |
| 2020/2022  | Sociology Graduate Scholarship (1,124 CAD)                                   |
| 2022       | Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) Graduate Fellowship, UBC                  |
| 2021/2022  | Institute of Asian Research (IAR) Research Fellowship, UBC                   |
| 2019-2022  | Graduate Award, Faculty of Arts, UBC (57,773 CAD)                            |
| 2017/2019  | Graduate Fellowship, SFU                                                     |
| 2018       | Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (FCAT) Graduate Fellowship, SFU |
| 2015       | Outstanding Graduate, Fudan University                                       |
| 2014       | International Student Exchange Program (ISEP - ECKSEP) Grant, ANU            |
| 2014       | Scholarship for Outstanding Exchange Students, Fudan University              |
| 2012/13/15 | Scholarship for Outstanding Students, Fudan University                       |

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Technology Studies, International Migration, Race/Ethnicity, Economic Sociology, Digital Media, Qualitative Methods, Quantitative Methods, Communication Theory, and Sociological Theory

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Lesage, F., & **Zhang, Y.** (2025). Figurations of mentorship for cultural work. *Cultural Sociology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17499755251360152>

Hanser, A., & **Zhang, Y.** (2025). Mothers and grandmothers: Rethinking motherhood in the context of intergenerational caregiving. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.13070>

**Zhang, Y.**, & Hanser, A. (2023). Be the mother, not the daughter: Immigrant Chinese women, postpartum care knowledge, and mothering autonomy. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 45(5), 1028-1045.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13631>

He, G., & **Zhang, Y.** (2022). (Im)mobility and performance of emotions: Chinese international students' difficult journey to home during the covid-19 pandemic. *Mobile Media & Communication*, 11(2), 248–270. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20501579221119585>

### BOOK CHAPTERS

**Zhang, Y.** (2025). Criminalizing “Chinese” ethnic ride-hailing: The yellow peril and research ethics boards. In K. E. McAllister, A. Yoshimizu, & D. Ahadi (Eds.), *Migration and the politics of methodology: Doing fieldwork, decentring power, and foregrounding migrants' perspectives*. Routledge.  
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003373469-9>

**Zhang, Y.** (2022). WeChat as everyday tactic: Ride-hailing and place-making in Vancouver. In Sun, W., & Yu, H. (eds.), *WeChat diaspora: Digital transnationalism in the era of China's rise*. Routledge.  
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003154754>

### BOOK REVIEWS

**Zhang, Y.** (2021). [Review of the book *Mobile communication and low-skilled migrants' acculturation to cosmopolitan Singapore*, by R. G. Aricat & R. Ling]. *Information, Communication & Society*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.2012221>

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Liu, J., Yang, F., & **Zhang, Y.** (submitted). White, empty, and femvertising? Chinese migrants' representations of Australia on *Xiaohongshu*.

He, G., & **Zhang, Y.** (in-progress). Beyond platform control: Gendered frictions in food delivery work.  
*\*Received the **Student Paper Award** of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) 2024*

He, G., & **Zhang, Y.** (in-progress). Breaking the glass box: Working at food delivery platforms as a female rural migrant.

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**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- Zhang, Y.** (2025, May 1). "I have a friend...": The role of social networks in immigrants' gig work choices. *CMS Research Conference 2025*. Vancouver, Canada.
- Zhang, Y.** (2024, July 19). Unveiling Chinese digital capital in global mobilities and encounters. *The 2024 quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) (EASST-4S 2024)*. Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Zhang, Y.** (2024, June 04). Ethnic platforms: Ethnicity as base or barrier? *The 57th Annual Conference of Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)*. Hybrid.
- He, G., & **Zhang, Y.** (2024, February 16). Frictional deliveries, reflexive workers: Insights from fieldwork with female platform riders in China. *Work in/for Platforms International Conference*. Hybrid.
- Zhang, Y.** (2023, November 10). When diasporic Chinese platforms encounter Canadian policy-making. *Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference*. Hybrid.
- Zhang, Y.** (2023, July 3). Ethnic platforms: Why do you work there? *The 20<sup>th</sup> IMISCOE Annual Conference*. Hybrid.
- Zhang, Y.** (2023, June 27). Ethnicities in Vancouver's ride-hailing regulation. *Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor & Social Reproduction: A Hybrid International Conference Convened at the University of Amsterdam, Co-Organized by the Platform Labor Project & the Global Digital Cultures Initiative*. Hybrid.
- Zhang, Y.** (2023, May 25). Contested belonging, contested platform: Comparing perspectives on "illegal Richmond ride-hailing" in pre-Uber Vancouver. *Inaugural Centre for Migration Studies International Research Conference*, Vancouver, Canada.
- Zhang, Y.** (2023, April 18). *Shanzhai*'ed Chinese platforms? Comparing results from two fieldworks (2018 - 2023). *UBC Centre for Migration Studies Grad Fellows Symposium 2022-2023*, Vancouver, Canada.
- Zhang, Y.** & He, G. (2022, November 3). The motherland's burden: Chinese international students' difficult journeys to home during the Covid-19 pandemic. *The 2022 Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Conference*, Dublin, Ireland.
- Zhang, Y.** & He, G. (2022, July 18). Loss of mobility: Multi-platform tactics of Chinese international students in their transnational journey home during Covid-19 pandemic. *The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Media & Society*. Virtual.
- Zhang, Y.** (2022, June 26). WeChat as everyday tactic: Ride-hailing and place-making in Vancouver. *WeChat and the Chinese Diaspora Conference and Book Launch*. Virtual.

- He, G., & **Zhang, Y.** (2022, May 27). Beyond informdemic: Chinese international students use social media to cope with the uncertainties amid Covid-19. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Communication Association Conference. Hybrid.
- Zhang, Y.**, & Hanser, A. (2022, May 19). Be the mother, not the daughter: How immigrant Chinese mothers use diverse sources of knowledge to assert their autonomy. The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Canadian Sociological Association. Virtual.
- Zhang, Y.** (2021, August 7). WeChatized economy in Vancouver: Ethnic enclave or mixed embeddedness? 2021 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Zhang, Y.** (2021, June 27). WeChat as everyday tactics: *Shanzhai*-ed Didi making place in pre-Uber Vancouver. The 18<sup>th</sup> Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC). Virtual.
- Zhang, Y.** (2019, June 6). WeChat, ridesharing and a “Chinese” problem in Vancouver. Annual Conference of the Canadian Communication Association (CCA), Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- Zhang, Y.** (2019, June 1). Being local in the transnational age: WeChat, ridesharing and a Chinese ‘problem’ in Vancouver. Annual Conference of the Cultural Studies Association (CSA), New Orleans, LA, the United States.
- Zhang, Y.** (2018, May 31). Transplanting technologies, transforming geographies: How WeChat became a platform for transnational Chinese life in Vancouver. Annual Conference of the Cultural Studies Association (CSA), Pittsburgh, PA, the United States.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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| 2023 – 2024    | Labor Tech Research Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blog Editor</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
| 2022 – 2024    | American Sociological Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter Editor, Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Section</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2021 – Present | Occasional Reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Journal of Cultural Studies, Global Media and China, Chinese Journal of Communication, Mobile Media &amp; Communication</li> </ul> |