

YIJIA ZHANG

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EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Lesage, F., & **Zhang, Y.** (forthcoming). Figurations of mentorship for cultural work. *Cultural Sociology*.
- 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

- 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.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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 20th 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 12th 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 72nd 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 56th 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 18th 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

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