

# YIJIA ZHANG

Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia  
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## 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)

## 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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

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.** (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>

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**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

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**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**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.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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

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

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**TEACHING TRAINING**

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**University of British Columbia**

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

**Royal Roads University**

- Moodle: Editing and Enhancing Online (May 2024)

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**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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2023 – Present	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 – 2022	The Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Web Coordinator</li></ul>
2020 – 2021	Department of Sociology, UBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduate Student Representative</li></ul>
2021 – Present	Occasional Reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Journal of Cultural Studies, Global Media and China, &amp; Chinese Journal of Communication</li></ul>