

Yan Zhang

Department of Sociology
East Carolina University

A407 Brewster Building
Greenville, NC 27959

Email: zhangy23@ecu.edu

Personal Webpage: <https://yanzhang.work>

ACADEMIC POSITION

08/2023-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, East Carolina University
08/2023-present External Faculty Affiliate, Carolina Population Center, The University of
North Carolina at Chapel Hill
06/2021-05/2023 Postdoc Research Scientist, Center for Demography of Health and Aging,
University of Wisconsin–Madison

EDUCATION

08/2016-05/2021 Ph.D., Sociology, Michigan State University, MI
Qualifying exams: Family demography, Population health, Aging & Life
course
Dissertation title: Parenthood and Parents' Cognitive Health in the United
States.
Committee: Hui Liu (Chair), Zhenmei Zhang, Ning Hsieh, William Chopik
08/2014-05/2016 M.A., Sociology, The State University of New York at Buffalo, NY
09/2010-07/2014 B.A., Sociology, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Family Demography, Population Health, Aging and Life Course, Gender and Sexuality,
Quantitative Methodology

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [14] **Zhang, Y.**, & Fletcher, J. Research Note: The Association between Parity and Odds of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Status. *Demography* (Forthcoming)
- [13] **Zhang, Y.** Parenthood and Health. *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society 2nd Edition* (Forthcoming)
- [12] **Zhang, Y.**, Yuan, Y., Roche-Dean, M., Vega, I., & Gonzalez, R. (2024). A Visualization Tool to Study Dyadic Caregiving Health Profiles. *Journal of Aging and Health*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08982643241255739>

- [11] **Zhang, Y.**, Fletcher, J., Lu, Q., & Song, J. (2023). Gender Differences in the Association between Parity and Cognitive Function: Evidence from the UK Biobank. *Social Science & Medicine*, 115649. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115649>
- [10] Kong, J; Easton, S; **Zhang, Y.** Sexual and Marital Satisfaction in Older Adulthood: Effects of Childhood and Adulthood Violence Exposure. *The Gerontologist*. gnac126, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnac126>
- [9] **Zhang, Y.** (2022). Fertility History and Risk of Cognitive Impairment Among Older Parents in The United States. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*. gbac091. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbac091>
- [8] Zhang, Z., Liu, H., & **Zhang, Y.** (2022). Marital Loss and Cognitive Function: Does Timing Matter?. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*. gbac069. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbac069>
- [7] **Zhang, Y.**, & Fletcher, J. (2021). Parental Status in Later Life and Parents' Risk of Cognitive Impairment. *SSM–Population Health*, 100968. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100968>
- [6] Liu, H., Zhang, Z., & **Zhang, Y.** (2021). A National Longitudinal Study of Marital Quality and Cognitive Decline Among Older Men and Women. *Social Science & Medicine*, 114151. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114151>
- [5] **Zhang, Y.**, & Liu, H. (2021). Individual's Gender Ideology and Happiness in China. *Chinese Sociological Review*, 1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21620555.2021.1871727>
- [4] Liu, H., Hsieh, N., Zhang, Z., **Zhang, Y.**, & Langa, K. M. (2021). Same-sex couples and cognitive impairment: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 76(7), 1388-1399. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaa202>
- [3] **Zhang, Y.**, & Liu, H. (2020). A National Longitudinal Study of Partnered Sex, Relationship Quality, and Mental Health Among Older Adults. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 75(8), 1772-1782. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbz074> (Editor's Choice)
- [2] Liu, H., **Zhang, Y.**, Burgard, S. A., & Needham, B. L. (2019). Marital Status and Cognitive Impairment in the United States: Evidence From the National Health and Aging Trends Study. *Annals of Epidemiology*, 38, 28-34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2019.08.007>
- [1] Liu, H., Chen, I. C., Wilkinson, L., Pearson, J., & **Zhang, Y.** (2019). Sexual Orientation and Diabetes During the Transition to Adulthood. *LGBT health*, 6(5), 227-234. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2018.0153>

UNDER REVIEW & PREPRINT & OTHER PUBLICATION

Boyan Zheng, **Yan Zhang** & Jason Fletcher. Estimating Causal Effects between Number of Children and Older Parents' Cognitive Function Using HRS Data and IV Approach. (Preprint, *SocialArXiv*, doi: [10.31235/osf.io/4db7z](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/4db7z))

Yan Zhang, Zhiyong Lin & Hui Liu. Rely on Your Spouse or Your Kid(s)?: Marital Status, Parental Status, and Unmet Care Needs of Older Adults with and without Dementia (Preprint, *SocialArXiv*, doi: [10.31235/osf.io/jkzwm](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/jkzwm))

Yan Zhang & Hui Liu. Parent-Child Relationship Quality and Older Parents' Cognitive Trajectories (Under Review, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024 Spring	Rapid Pilot Grant (\$10,733), Center for Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin–Madison, PI: Yan Zhang
2022 Summer	Paper presentation honorarium at the NHATS/NSOC Dementia Care Conference (\$5,000), University of Michigan
2020 Summer	Graduate Office Fellowship Award, Michigan State University (\$1,700)
2019 Summer	Summer Publishing Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (\$6,500)
2018 Fall	Graduate Office Fellowship Award, Michigan State University (\$1,300)
2018 Spring	Graduate Office Fellowship Award, Michigan State University (\$4,300)
2017 Spring	Graduate Office Fellowship Award, Michigan State University (\$4,450)
2011-2013	Excellent Student First-class Scholarship, China Agricultural University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 Feb & June	Grant application & Resubmission: “Parenthood in later life and older adults’ risk of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD)”, National Institute on Aging (R03 AG080214-01), Impact Score: 50; Percentile: 41%. PI: Yan Zhang
06/2021-05/2023	Postdoc Research Associate, National Institute on Aging (RF1AG062765) Grant: “The Importance of Place of Birth in Determining Old Age Cognitive Health.” PI: Jason Fletcher
01/2020-05/2021	Graduate Research Assistant and Lead Data Analyst, National Institute on Aging (R01AG061118) Grant: “Marriage, Cognitive Trajectories and ADRD Risk in Late Life.” PI: Hui Liu.
05/2020-08/2020	Graduate Research Assistant, National Institute on Aging (R03AG062936) Grant: “Marital Biography and Risk of Dementia in the United States.” PI: Zhenmei Zhang.
01/2018-01/2019 & 09/2019-12/2019	Graduate Research Assistant and Lead Data Analyst, National Institute on Aging (K01AG043417) Grant: “How Does Marriage Get Under the Skin? An Integrative Social and Biological Approach.” PI: Hui Liu.
08/2015-05/2016	Research assistant for Ashley Barr, University at Buffalo, Sociology Department. Project name: The Family and Community Health Study. Responsibility: Data management for multilevel models.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALK

- 02/2024 Workshop on Determinants of Adult Mortality, Morbidity, and Healthy Aging in LMICs (virtual)
Yan Zhang, Yang Wang, Chenghao Li. The Impact of Parity on Cognitive Function Using Instrumental Variable Approach: Evidence from the One-Child Policy in China
- 01/2024 Carolina Population Center Fall 2023 Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Series. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Yan Zhang. Number of Children and Older Adults' Cognitive Function in the U.S., UK, and China
- 11/2023 The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in Tampa, FL.
Yan Zhang, Yiyang Yuan, Maria Roche-dean, Richard Gonzalez, Irving Vega. A Visualization Tool to Study Complex Health Profiles and Variations by Age, Wealth, Race, and Partner's Cognitive Status (Symposium)
- 10/2023 Guest Lecture, Chinese Families and the One-Child Policy, Course: SOCI4325 Families, Relationships & Society, Instructor: David Knox, East Carolina University
- 04/2023 Invited Speaker (virtual), Parenthood and Older Adults' Cognitive Health, The Computational Demography Working Group (CDWG), The University of Washington, Seattle
- 03/2023 Guest Lecture (virtual), Parenthood and Aging, Course: SOC3203 Gerontology, Instructor: Dr. Zhiyong Lin, The University of Texas at San Antonio
- 11/2022 The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting in Indianapolis, IN
 - **Yan Zhang** & Hui Liu. Relationship Quality and Older Parents' Cognitive Trajectories: A National Longitudinal Study in the United States (Symposium)
 - **Yan Zhang** & Jason Fletcher. Number of Children and Risk of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia: Evidence from the UK Biobank (Poster)
 - Jooyoung Kong, Scott Easton & **Yan Zhang**. Sexual and Marital Satisfaction in Older Adulthood: Effects of Childhood and Adulthood Violence Exposure (Paper)
- 05/2022 **Yan Zhang** & Zhiyong Lin. "Rely on Your Spouse or Your Kid(s)?: Marital Status, Parental Status, and Unmet Care Needs of Older Adults with and without Dementia" Presented at the NHATS/NSOC Dementia Care Conference, Ann Arbor, MI
- 04/2022 **Yan Zhang**. "Fertility History and Risk of Cognitive Impairment Among Older Parents in the U.S." (Oral presentation)
Yan Zhang and Jason Fletcher. "Fertility and Cognition: Do Genetic Factors, Family Background, and Presence of Spouse Matter?" (Poster session)
Scheduled presentations at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Atlanta, GA

- 08/2021 **Yan Zhang.** “Relationship Quality Between Older Parents and Children: Impact on Parents’ Cognitive Functioning” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Family Section (virtual)
- 11/2020 **Yan Zhang.** “Social Integration and Risk of Dementia Among Older Adults”. Presented at the annual meeting of The Gerontological Society of America, on-demand presentation and presenter discussion (virtual)
- 08/2020 **Yan Zhang.** “Childlessness, Number of Children, Children’s Gender, and Risk of Dementia among Older Adults”. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (Roundtable, virtual)
- 08/2019 **Yan Zhang.** “Gender Role Ideology, Self-rated Health and Happiness in China”. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (Roundtable). New York City, NY
- 08/2019 Yulin Yang and **Yan Zhang.** “Chronic Non-Cancer Pain and Spousal Relationship Quality Among Older Adults in the United States”. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (Roundtable). New York City, NY
- 11/2018 **Yan Zhang** and Hui Liu. “A National Longitudinal Study of Partnered Sex, Relationship Quality, and Psychological Well-being among Older Adults”. Presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America symposium oral presentation. Boston, MA.
- 04/2018 **Yan Zhang** and Hui Liu. “Partnered Sexuality and Mental Health among Older Adults: A Gendered Life Course Perspective”. Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (Oral presentation). Denver, CO.
- 08/2017 **Yan Zhang.** “Gender Role Ideology, Self-rated Health and Happiness in China Based on CGSS”. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (Roundtable). Montreal, Canada.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2024 Independent Instructor, SOCI6312&6313 Multivariate Techniques and Analysis, East Carolina University
- Fall 2023 Independent Instructor, SOCI3327 Introductory Medical Sociology, East Carolina University
- Fall 2021 Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URS), UW–Madison
- Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant, SOC882 Analysis of Social Data II (Professor: Zhenmei Zhang), MSU
- Fall 2017 Teaching Assistant (recitation instructor), SOC281 Social Research Methods (Professor: Brendan Mullan), MSU
- Summer 2017 Instructor, SOC216 Sex and Gender, online course, MSU
- Spring 2017 Summer Teaching Tutorial Workshop in Sociology Department, MSU
- Spring 2017 Teaching Assistant, ISS315 National Diversity and Change: United States (Professor: Ralph Pyle), MSU

Fall 2016 Teaching Assistant, ISS210 Individual and Society (Professor: Kody Steffy), MSU

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

2023 June 9th Annual Berkeley Workshop on Formal Demography, The University of California, Berkeley

2022 May Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease (MCCFAD) Summer Data Immersion program: one-week workshop, University of Michigan

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan

2017 (4 weeks) Longitudinal data analysis, Structural Equation Model with Latent Variables

2018 (4 weeks) Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics (survival analysis), Simultaneous Equation Models

Statistical Skills

Structural Equation Model, Multilevel Model, Mixed-effects Model, Event-History Hazard Model/Survival Analysis, Growth Curve Model, Dyadic Analysis (Actor Partner Interdependence Model), Social Network Analysis

Software Proficiencies

STATA/MPLUS > R > Python > LISREL/HLM

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Sections: Aging and Life Course (SALC), Medical Sociology, Family, Sex and Gender

Population Association of America (PAA)

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

The Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science (IAPHS)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal reviewer Aging & Mental Health, BMC Geriatrics, Chinese Sociological Review, Cogent Psychology, Journal of Aging and Health, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Journal of Women's Health, PloS one, Population Studies, Research on Aging, Sociological Perspectives, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Social Science & Medicine

Conference discussant Population Association of America (PAA, 2021 and 2022)

Co-lead and webinar coordinator ESPO Webinar Task Force, The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023-2024

Graduate Student Mentor	Family, Population, and Health Laboratory (FPH), Michigan State University (2020-2021) IAPHS Mentoring Program (2023-2024)
Coordinator	Family, Population, and Health Laboratory (FPH), Michigan State University (2019-2021)
Student Representative	Faculty Advisory Committee, Michigan State University (2018)

REFERENCES

Jason Fletcher (postdoc mentor)
Professor
Public Affairs and Sociology
University at Wisconsin–Madison
jason.fletcher@wisc.edu

Hui Liu (Ph.D. dissertation committee chair)
Professor, Department of Sociology
Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course
Purdue University
liu3839@purdue.edu

Zhenmei Zhang (Ph.D. dissertation committee member)
Professor
Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
zhangz12@msu.edu