Simone Zhang

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Department of Sociology 383 Lafayette Street, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10012

Academic

New York University, Assistant Professor of Sociology

2023 -

Positions

University of Notre Dame, Assistant Professor of Sociology

2021 - 2023

Affiliations: Technology Ethics Center, Lucy Family Institute for

Data & Society, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values

Other Appointments:

Stanford University, Visiting Scholar Sociology & Graduate School of Business 2023 - 2024

EDUCATION

Princeton University

2021

Ph.D. Sociology

Committee: Dalton Conley, Adam Goldstein, Matthew Salganik, Brandon Stewart

Harvard University

2012

A.B. Sociology, Minor in Computer Science

ARTICLES

Simone Zhang and Rebecca A. Johnson. 2023. "Hierarchies in the Decentralized Welfare State: Prioritization in the Housing Choice Voucher Program." American Sociological Review 88(1): 114-153.

Simone Zhang, Rebecca A. Johnson, John Novembre, Edward Freeland, and Dalton Conley. 2021. "Public Attitudes Toward Genetic Risk Scoring in Medicine and Beyond," Social Science & Medicine 274:113796.

Dalton Conley and Simone Zhang. 2018. "The promise of genes for understanding cause and effect." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 115(22): 5626-5628.

Simone Zhang. 2013. "To Construct a Riot: Interpretations and Consequences of the 2011 English Riots." Journal of Politics and Society 24(2):8-26

Conference PROCEEDINGS Rebecca A. Johnson and Simone Zhang. 2022. "What is the Bureaucratic Counterfactual? Categorical versus Algorithmic Prioritization in U.S. Social Policy." In 2022 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '22), June 21–24, 2022, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Working Papers & Papers under Review

"Pretrial Risk Assessment Algorithms in the Courtroom"

"The Reactive Potential of Pretrial Risk Assessments"

"Why's the Power Out? Organizational Responsiveness to Everyday Requests, Questions, and Complaints"

"How Local Discretion Addresses Competing Allocation Goals: The Case of Small Business Relief Funding" (with Elizabeth Bell, Heather Kappes, Crystal C. Hall, Rebecca Johnson, and Miles Williams)

In Progress

"Optimizing Schools? Public Perceptions of Algorithmic versus Status Quo Prioritization in K-12 Schooling" (with Rebecca Johnson)

"How Institutional Predictions of Future Behavior Shape Future Behavior"

SELECTED POLICY REPORTS AND BRIEFS

Cole, Dylan, Timothy Sullivan, Emma Zurek, and Simone Zhang. 2022. Crowdsourcing from the Worker's Perspective: Strategies to improve data quality and promote ethical platform use. ND Technology Ethics Center White Paper.

Zhang, Simone and Mary Winkler. 2015. "Navigating Performance Management Software Options." Urban Institute.

Blumenthal, Pamela, Simone Zhang, and Mary Cunningham. 2015. "Housing Extremely-Low Income Households: What We Know and What We Need to Learn." Prepared for the Melville Charitable Trust.

Scott, Molly M., Simone Zhang, and Heather Koball. 2015. "Dropping Out and Clocking In" Urban Institute.

Tatian, Peter, Josh Leopold, Liz Oo, Gerry Joseph, Graham MacDonald, Austin Nichols, Maia Woluchem, Simone Zhang, and Katya Abazajian. 2015. "DC Affordable Housing Needs Assessment." Prepared for the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. Urban Institute.

Cunningham, Mary, Mike Pergamit, Marla McDaniel, Maeve Gearing, Simone Zhang, and Brent Howell. 2014. "Supportive Housing for High-Need Families in the Child Welfare System." Urban Institute.

Morley, Elaine, Mary Winkler, Simone Zhang, Rachel Brash, and Juan Collazos. 2014. "The Validating Arts and Livability Indicators (VALI) Study: Results and Recommendations." National Endowment for the Arts.

Theodos, Brett, G. Thomas Kingsley, and Simone Zhang. 2014. "Neighborhood Investment Flows." Urban Institute.

Gallagher, Megan, Simone Zhang, and Jennifer Comey. 2013. "Moving to Educational Opportunity: A Housing Demonstration to Improve School Outcomes." Urban Institute.

EXTERNAL TALKS & SEMINARS

2023 - UC Berkeley Goldman, UC San Diego Data Science / Global Policy and Strategy, UChicago Sociology

2022 - Ohio State Sociology, New York University Sociology

2021 - Cornell Tech/Law Colloquium, University of Toronto Sociology

2020 - Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at Rutgers University, University of Notre Dame Sociology, University of British Columbia Sociology

Conferences & Workshops

Operationalizing the Measure Function of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework (2023)

Data (Re)makes the World, Yale Law School (2023)

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2017, 2018, 2020, 2023)

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (2020)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference (2019)

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2019)

Social Media and Social Order (2017)

Grants

Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab Research Assistance Grant, 2022

Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Small Grant, Notre Dame, 2022

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (with Rebecca Johnson and Leah Gillion), 2021

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2020

Research Grant, Data-Driven Social Science Initiative, Princeton University, 2020

Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science Grant, 2019

Graduate Student Research Award, Center for the Study of Social Organization, Princeton University, 2017-2019

Program on U.S. Health Policy Research Grant (with Rebecca Johnson), Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University, 2017

Center for Digital Humanities Seed Grant, Princeton University, 2016

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences (formerly Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars), Princeton University, 2019-2021

Anna and G. Mason Morfit '97 Fellowship, Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy, Princeton University, 2017-2018

David Elliston Guyer '67 and Walter R.F. Guyer '41 Endowment Fund Fellowship, Princeton University, 2015-2016

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Harvard University, 2012

Teaching

New York University

• Generative AI in Society (undergraduate), Co-Instructor (with BK Lee)

University of Notre Dame

- Algorithms, Data, and Society (undergraduate), Instructor
- Statistics for Sociological Research (undergraduate), Instructor

Princeton University

- Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2019, Teaching Assistant for Chris Bail and Matthew Salganik
- Advanced Social Statistics (graduate), 2018, Teaching Assistant for Matthew Salganik
- Law, Institutions, and Public Policy (undergraduate), 2017, Teaching Assistant for Paul Starr
- Applied Social Statistics (graduate), 2016, Teaching Assistant for Brandon Stewart

Advising

Dissertation Committee Member: Natalie Bourman-Karns, Deanna Childress, Jennifer Dudley

MA Committee Member: Erica Mirabitur

Senior Thesis Advising: Noeliah Auqui

SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- Granovetter Best Article Award Committee, American Sociological Association
- Sociology of Law Section Mentoring Committee, American Sociological Association, 2022
- Sociology of Law Section Distinguished Article Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2022

New York University

- Exam Committees: Science and Technology Exam Committee (Chair, 2023-24); Organizations, Occupations, and Work (2023-24)
- Awards Committee, 2023-2024

University of Notre Dame

- Technology Ethics Minor Curriculum Committee, 2021-2023
- Graduate Placement Committee, Department of Sociology, 2021 & 2022 (chair)
- Faculty Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 2021 & 2022
- Organizations Exam Committee, Department of Sociology, 2021-2022

Occasional Reviewer: American Journal of Sociology, Social Problems, Journal of Health and Social Behavior; NSF Law and Science Program

EMPLOYMENT

World Bank Group

Washington, DC

Consultant, Independent Evaluation Group

2015

The Urban Institute

Washington, DC

Research Associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center

2012-2015

Last Update: November 2023