

Simone Zhang

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS	New York University , Assistant Professor of Sociology Affiliations: Institute for Public Knowledge	2023 -
	University of Notre Dame , Assistant Professor of Sociology Affiliations: Technology Ethics Center, Lucy Family Institute for Data & Society, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values	2021 - 2023
	Other Affiliations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Azrieli Global Scholar• Stanford Sociology & Graduate School of Business, Visiting Scholar	2025 - 2027 2023 - 2024
EDUCATION	Princeton University Ph.D. Sociology Committee: Dalton Conley, Adam Goldstein, Matthew Salganik, Brandon Stewart	2021
	Harvard University A.B. Sociology, Minor in Computer Science	2012
ARTICLES	[†] denotes equal authorship	
	Rebecca A. Johnson [†] and Simone Zhang. [†] 2025. "Predictive Algorithms and Perceptions of Fairness: Parent Attitudes Toward Algorithmic Resource Allocation in K-12 Education." <i>Sociological Science</i> 12: 322-356.	
	Simone Zhang, Janet Xu, and AJ Alvero. 2025. "Generative AI Meets Open-Ended Survey Responses: Research Participant Use of AI and Homogenization" <i>Sociological Methods and Research</i> 54(3).	
	Simone Zhang and Rebecca A. Johnson. 2023. "Hierarchies in the Decentralized Welfare State: Prioritization in the Housing Choice Voucher Program." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 88(1): 114-153.	
	Rebecca A. Johnson [†] and Simone Zhang. [†] 2022. "What is the Bureaucratic Counterfactual? Categorical versus Algorithmic Prioritization in U.S. Social Policy." In <i>2022 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '22)</i> , June 21-24, 2022, Seoul, Republic of Korea.	
	Simone Zhang, Rebecca A. Johnson, John Novembre, Edward Freeland, and Dalton Conley. 2021. "Public Attitudes Toward Genetic Risk Scoring in Medicine and Beyond," <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> 274:113796.	
	Dalton Conley and Simone Zhang. 2018. "The promise of genes for understanding cause and effect." <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 115(22): 5626-5628.	
	Simone Zhang. 2013. "To Construct a Riot: Interpretations and Consequences of the 2011 English Riots." <i>Journal of Politics and Society</i> 24(2):8-26	

WORKING PAPERS
& PAPERS UNDER
REVIEW

“Tipping the Balance: Predictive Algorithms and Institutional Decision-Making in Context.”

“The Sociology of Technical Choices in Predictive AI” (with Michael Zanger-Tishler)

“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

“Social Mechanisms of Performative Prediction”

“Sermons in the Windy City” (with Kraig Beyerlein, Ricardo Martinez-Schuldt, and Peter Ryan)

“College Application Essays, AI, and Diversity After Race-Conscious Admissions” (with AJ Alvero, James Chu, and Janet Xu)

“AI Writing Assistance, Homogenization, and Authenticity at Selection Interfaces” (with Janet Xu)

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.
TALKS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS	<p>2025 (including planned) - UNC Computational Social Science Workshop, Yale Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality Workshop</p> <p>2024 - Stanford Economic Sociology and Organizations Workshop, Stanford GSB Macro Lunch, Columbia Sociology of Algorithms, UCLA Comparative Social Analysis Seminar</p> <p>2023 - UC Berkeley Goldman, UC San Diego Data Science / Global Policy and Strategy, UChicago Sociology</p> <p>2022 - Ohio State Sociology, New York University Sociology</p> <p>2021 - Cornell Tech/Law Colloquium, University of Toronto Sociology, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center Research Workshop</p> <p>2020 - Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at Rutgers University, Notre Dame Sociology, University of British Columbia Sociology</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>Bridging Prediction and Intervention Problems in Social Systems, Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery (2024)</p> <p>Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology, Yale University (2024)</p> <p>Operationalizing the Measure Function of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework (2023)</p> <p>Data (Re)makes the World, Yale Law School (2023)</p> <p>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2017, 2018, 2020, 2023)</p> <p>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (2020)</p> <p>Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference (2019)</p> <p>Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2019)</p> <p>Social Media and Social Order (2017)</p>
GRANTS	<p>Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab Research Assistance Grant, 2022</p> <p>Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Small Grant, Notre Dame, 2022</p> <p>Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (with Rebecca Johnson and Leah Gillion), 2021</p> <p>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2020</p> <p>Research Grant, Data-Driven Social Science Initiative, Princeton University, 2020</p> <p>Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science Grant, 2019</p>

	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	<p>Azrieli Global Scholars Program, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), 2025-2027</p> <p>Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences (formerly Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars), Princeton University, 2019-2021</p> <p>Anna and G. Mason Morfit '97 Fellowship, Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy, Princeton University, 2017-2018</p> <p>David Elliston Guyer '67 and Walter R.F. Guyer '41 Endowment Fund Fellowship, Princeton University, 2015-2016</p> <p>Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Harvard University, 2012</p>
TEACHING	<p>New York University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology, Inequality, and Public Policy (undergraduate), Instructor • Statistics for Social Research (undergraduate), Instructor • Generative AI in Society (undergraduate), Co-Instructor (with BK Lee) • Research and Writing Seminar (graduate), Co-Instructor (with Eric Klinenberg) <p>University of Notre Dame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algorithms, Data, and Society (undergraduate), Instructor • Statistics for Sociological Research (undergraduate), Instructor <p>Princeton University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2019, TA for Chris Bail and Matthew Salganik • Advanced Social Statistics (graduate), 2018, TA for Matthew Salganik • Law, Institutions, and Public Policy (undergraduate), 2017, TA for Paul Starr • Applied Social Statistics (graduate), 2016, TA for Brandon Stewart
ADVISING	<p>Dissertation Committee Member: Natalie Bourman-Karns, Deanna Childress, Jennifer Dudley</p> <p>MA Committee Member: Erica Mirabatur</p> <p>Senior Thesis Advising: Noelia Auqui</p>
SERVICE	<p>Service to the Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award, American Sociological Association, 2025 • Granovetter Best Article Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2024 • 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

- AI in Society @ Institute for Public Knowledge (Co-Lead), 2024-
- Graduate Admissions Committee, 2024-2025
- Faculty Search Committee, 2024-2025
- Exam Committees: Science and Technology Exam Committee (Chair, 2023-24); Organizations, Occupations, and Work (2023-25)
- Awards Committee, 2023-2025

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, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Sociological Methods and Research, Criminal Justice Policy Review, Social Science Computer Review, NSF Law and Science Program*

EMPLOYMENT**World Bank Group**

Consultant, *Independent Evaluation Group*

Washington, DC

2015

The Urban Institute

Research Associate, *Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center*

Washington, DC

2012-2015

Last Update: May 2025