

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: • 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	
	Michael Zanger-Tishler [†] and Simone Zhang. [†] Forthcoming. “The Sociology of Technical Choices in Predictive AI.” <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> .	
	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 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 WHITE PAPERS AND POLICY REPORTS	Lydia T. Liu, Inioluwa Deborah Raji, Angela Zhou, Luke Guerdan, Jessica Hullman, Daniel Malinsky, Bryan Wilder, Simone Zhang, Hammaad Adam, Amanda Coston, Ben Laufer, Ezinne Nwankwo, Michael Zanger-Tishler, Eli Ben-Michael, Solon Barocas, Avi Feller, Marissa Gerchick, Talia Gillis, Shion Guha, Daniel Ho, Lily Hu, Kosuke Imai, Sayash Kapoor, Joshua Loftus, Razieh Nabi, Arvind Narayanan, Ben Recht, Juan Carlos Perdomo, Matthew Salganik, Mark Sendak, Alexander Tolbert, Berk Ustun, Suresh Venkatasubramanian, Angelina Wang, Ashia Wilson. 2025. Bridging Prediction and Intervention Problems in Social Systems. https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.05216 Dylan Cole, 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. Simone Zhang and Mary Winkler. 2015. “Navigating Performance Management Software Options.” Urban Institute. Pamela Blumenthal, 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. Molly M. Scott, Simone Zhang, and Heather Koball. 2015. “Dropping Out and Clocking In” Urban Institute. Peter Tatian, 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.

Mary Cunningham, 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.

Elaine Morley, 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.

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

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

TALKS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

2025 (including planned) - UNC Computational Social Science Workshop, Yale Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality Workshop

2024 - Stanford Economic Sociology and Organizations Workshop, Stanford GSB Macro Lunch, Columbia Sociology of Algorithms, UCLA Comparative Social Analysis Seminar

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, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center Research Workshop

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

CONFERENCES

Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociology (2025)

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2017, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2025)

Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (2025)

Bridging Prediction and Intervention Problems in Social Systems, Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery (2024)

Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology, Yale University (2024)

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

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

EXTERNAL
GRANTS

Empirically Interrogating Conflicting Accountabilities in Action (\$300,000), with Abigail Jacobs. Role: Co-PI, National Science Foundation, 2025-2027

Optimizing Schools? Public Perceptions of Algorithmic versus Status Quo Prioritization in K-12 Schooling, with Rebecca Johnson and Leah Gillion, Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, 2021

Algorithmic Pretrial Risk Assessments in the Courtroom (\$15,999), National Science Foundation (Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant), 2020-2021

INTERNAL
GRANTS

Democracy Catalyst Funds, Notre Dame, 2024

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

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

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

Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science Grant, 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

Azrieli Global Scholars Program, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), 2025-2027

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

- 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)

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, 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	Dissertation Committee Member: Natalie Bourman-Karns (ND), Deanna Childress (ND), Jennifer Dudley (ND), Amina Abdu (Michigan Information Science) MA Committee Member: Erica Mirabitor (ND) Senior Thesis Advising: Noelia Auqui (ND)	
SERVICE	Service to the Discipline • 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- • Sociology of Culture Workshop (Interim Co-Organizer), 2025-2026 • 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: <i>American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, 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</i>	
EMPLOYMENT	World Bank Group Consultant, <i>Independent Evaluation Group</i> The Urban Institute Research Associate, <i>Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center</i>	Washington, DC 2015 Washington, DC 2012-2015

Last Update: July 2025