

# Simone Zhang

Department of Sociology  
79 Washington Square East, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10003

simone.zhang@nyu.edu

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| ACADEMIC<br>POSITIONS | <b>New York University</b> , Assistant Professor of Sociology<br>Affiliations: Institute for Public Knowledge                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2023 -                     |
|                       | <b>University of Notre Dame</b> , Assistant Professor of Sociology<br>Affiliations: Technology Ethics Center, Lucy Family Institute for<br>Data & Society, John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values                                                                                                       | 2021 - 2023                |
|                       | <b>Other Affiliations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Azrieli Global Scholar</li><li>• Stanford Sociology &amp; Graduate School of Business, Visiting Scholar</li></ul>                                                                                             | 2025 - 2027<br>2023 - 2024 |
| EDUCATION             | <b>Princeton University</b><br>Ph.D. Sociology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2021                       |
|                       | <b>Harvard University</b><br>A.B. Sociology, Minor in Computer Science                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2012                       |
| ARTICLES              | <sup>†</sup> denotes equal authorship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                            |
|                       | Michael Zanger-Tishler <sup>†</sup> and Simone Zhang. <sup>†</sup> 2025. “The Sociology of Technical Choices in Predictive AI.” <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> .                                                                                                                                                    |                            |
|                       | Rebecca A. Johnson <sup>†</sup> and Simone Zhang. <sup>†</sup> 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 <sup>†</sup> and Simone Zhang. <sup>†</sup> 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 &amp; 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.                                                                                                                                                |                            |

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|                                                | 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<br>& PAPERS UNDER<br>REVIEW     | <p>“Tipping the Balance: Pretrial Risk Assessment Algorithms in the Courtroom”</p> <p>“The Reactive Potential of Pretrial Risk Assessments”</p> <p>“Why’s the Power Out? Organizational Responsiveness to Everyday Requests, Questions, and Complaints”</p> <p>“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)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| IN PROGRESS                                    | <p>“Social Mechanisms of Performative Prediction”</p> <p>“Sermons in the Windy City” (with Kraig Beyerlein, Ricardo Martinez-Schuldt, and Peter Ryan)</p> <p>“College Application Essays, AI, and Diversity After Race-Conscious Admissions” (with AJ Alvero, James Chu, and Janet Xu)</p> <p>“AI Writing Assistance, Homogenization, and Authenticity at Selection Interfaces” (with Janet Xu)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| SELECTED WHITE<br>PAPERS AND<br>POLICY REPORTS | <p>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. <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.05216">https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.05216</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Simone Zhang and Mary Winkler. 2015. “Navigating Performance Management Software Options.” Urban Institute.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Molly M. Scott, Simone Zhang, and Heather Koball. 2015. “Dropping Out and Clocking In” Urban Institute.</p> <p>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.</p> |

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

2026 (including planned) - Columbia Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality Seminar, University of Arizona Sociology, Berkeley Computational Research for Equity in Legal Systems

2025 - 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)

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|                        | Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                        | Social Media and Social Order (2017)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| EXTERNAL GRANTS        | <p><b>Empirically Interrogating Conflicting Accountabilities in Action</b> (\$300,000), with Abigail Jacobs. Role: Co-PI, National Science Foundation, 2025-2027</p> <p><b>Optimizing Schools? Public Perceptions of Algorithmic versus Status Quo Prioritization in K-12 Schooling</b>, with Rebecca Johnson and Leah Gillion, Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, 2021</p> <p><b>Algorithmic Pretrial Risk Assessments in the Courtroom</b> (\$15,999), National Science Foundation (Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant), 2020-2021</p>                                                                               |
| INTERNAL GRANTS        | <p><b>Democracy Catalyst Funds</b>, Notre Dame, 2024</p> <p><b>Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab Research Assistance Grant</b>, 2022</p> <p><b>Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Small Grant</b>, Notre Dame, 2022</p> <p><b>Research Grant</b>, Data-Driven Social Science Initiative, Princeton University, 2020</p> <p><b>Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science Grant</b>, 2019</p> <p><b>Program on U.S. Health Policy Research Grant</b> (with Rebecca Johnson), Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University, 2017</p> <p><b>Center for Digital Humanities Seed Grant</b>, Princeton University, 2016</p> |
| FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS | <p><b>Azrieli Global Scholars Program</b>, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), 2025-2027</p> <p><b>Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences (formerly Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars)</b>, Princeton University, 2019-2021</p> <p><b>Anna and G. Mason Morfit '97 Fellowship</b>, Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy, Princeton University, 2017-2018</p> <p><b>David Elliston Guyer '67 and Walter R.F. Guyer '41 Endowment Fund Fellowship</b>, Princeton University, 2015-2016</p> <p><b>Thomas T. Hoopes Prize</b>, Harvard University, 2012</p>                                             |
| TEACHING               | <p><b>New York University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology, Inequality, and Public Policy (undergraduate), Instructor</li> <li>• Statistics for Social Research (undergraduate), Instructor</li> <li>• Generative AI in Society (undergraduate), Co-Instructor (with BK Lee)</li> <li>• Research and Writing Seminar (graduate), Co-Instructor (with Eric Klinenberg)</li> </ul> <p><b>University of Notre Dame</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algorithms, Data, and Society (undergraduate), Instructor</li> <li>• Statistics for Sociological Research (undergraduate), Instructor</li> </ul>        |

### **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), Nnamdi Jogwe (NYU)

**MA Committee Member:** Erica Mirabatur (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**

- Social Sciences Divisional Faculty Learning Community on Generative AI Literacy (Convener), 2025-2026
- AI in Society @ Institute for Public Knowledge (Co-Lead), 2024-
- Sociology of Culture Workshop (Interim Co-Organizer), 2025-2026
- Graduate Admissions Committee, 2024-2026
- 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 Forces, Social Problems, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Sociological Methods and Research, Nature Communications, Criminal Justice Policy Review, Social Science Computer Review, NSF Law and Science Program, NSF Decision, Risk and Management Sciences 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: November 2025*