

Weijia Rita Sun

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2)

Master of Science in Social Policy; GPA: 3.8/4

August 2023 - May 2024

Relevant Courses: Policy Analysis of Issues Strategy and Process, Research Evaluation Design, Quantitative Reasoning/Social Statistics, Economics for Social Policy, International Social Policy and Practice: Perspective from the Global South, Law and Social Policy, Reproductive Justice Policy, Applied Linear Modeling, Impacting Government Policy, Policy Communication

London School of Economics and Political Science

London, England

Department of Social Policy

Bachelor of Science in International Social and Public Policy; Second Class Honours (Lower Division)

Sept. 2020 - May 2023

Relevant Courses: Politics of Social Policy Making, Foundations of Social Policy Research, Understanding International Social and Public Policy, Sociology and Social Policy, Health and Social Care Policy, Research Methods for Social Policy, Comparative and International Social Policy, Introduction to Logic, Development and Social Change, Educational Policy, Punishment and Penal Policy, Social Security Policies

Dissertation: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese Students' Mobility to the U.K. after Completing Higher Education

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Policy Analysis and Evaluation Techniques, Health and Social Care Policy, Comparative International Social Policy, Research Methodology

RESEARCH PROJECTS

• Layered Examination of Adult Palliative Care in Surgery (LEAPS) NIA R01 Project:

Research Assistant at Center for Surgery and Public Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School Jun.2024 - Present

- Conducting semi-structured interviews and ethnographic observations with patients, clinicians, and administrators to assess perceptions and missed opportunities for integrating palliative care into surgical care for older adults with serious illnesses like ESRD
- Engaged in qualitative data collection and analysis, using methods to evaluate the impact of palliative care on surgical outcomes, pain management, and overall quality of life
- Assisting in the development of qualitative reports and recommendations to improve palliative care integration into surgical procedures for older patients

• Literature Review on Palliative Care and Good Doctoring:

Research Assistant at the Center for Surgery and Public Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School Jun. 2024

- Conducted an extensive literature review to examine the distinctions and overlaps between primary palliative care, specialty palliative care, and good doctoring practices
- Reviewed 60 articles, synthesizing findings from 22 relevant studies to identify key concepts and categorize them into different care approaches, providing insights into patient care delivery improvements

• Quantitative Research on WIC Program Participation and Child Development:

University of Pennsylvania Course Project

Jan. 2024 - May 2024

- Analyzed data from the Child Development Supplement to the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to examine the effects of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program participation on child mathematics achievement in 1997
- Employed a linear regression model to evaluate the main effects of WIC participation, family income, race, and age, along with interaction effects on child math performance
- Performed diagnostic tests, adjusted for outliers and multicollinearity, and used path modeling to study the impact of socioeconomic factors and gender on educational outcomes

• Guaranteed Income Research:

Research Assistant at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research, University of Pennsylvania

Nov. 2023 - Jul. 2024

- Guaranteed Income Pilot Programs (Examples: Ithaca Guaranteed Income, New Orleans Youth at Risk, Basic Income Guaranteed: Los Angeles Economic Assistance Pilot, Newark Movement for Economic Equity): Involved in qualitative research and analysis for these and other pilot programs across the U.S., contributing to a comprehensive understanding of how cash transfers impact economic mobility and social welfare across different demographics and cities

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with participants to gather insights on their experiences with guaranteed income programs
- Cleaned datasets and de-identified data to ensure confidentiality and accuracy in analysis
- Utilized Dedoose for qualitative data analysis, identifying key themes and patterns in the participants' responses
- Created analysis memos summarizing findings and key themes from the interviews and data and contributed to the development of qualitative reports that informed broader discussions on the role of guaranteed income in improving economic security and influencing policy reform
- **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese Students' Mobility:**
Undergraduate Dissertation Sept. 2022 - May 2023
 - Conducted semi-structured interviews with 9 final-year Chinese undergraduate students to explore how the pandemic affected their decisions regarding international mobility post-graduation
 - Utilized thematic analysis to identify key factors such as travel costs and quarantine measures that influenced students' mobility decisions
 - Synthesized findings to propose policy recommendations addressing the mental and financial burdens faced by students, while highlighting the limitations of the study due to sample size
- **Mixed-Methods Study on Female Workers and Job Satisfaction:**
LSE Year 2 Project Sept. 2021 - May. 2022
 - Designed and executed a mixed-methods research project to investigate job satisfaction among female workers, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches using Stata and in-depth interview
 - Conducted 4 in-depth interviews and developed the research framework, including data collection, analysis, and ethical considerations
 - Used Stata for quantitative data analysis and integrated qualitative findings to form a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing job satisfaction
- **Yilight: First Chinese Encyclopedia on NGOs:**
Project Intern at ForNGO Jun. 2022 - Jul. 2022
 - Gathered and documented comprehensive data on Chinese laws and policies related to NGO operations at city and provincial levels
 - Contributed research findings to China's first NGO encyclopedia, "Yilight," focusing on the legal and policy frameworks governing NGO activities across various regions
- **Literature Review on Child Development and Rural Prosperity in China:**
Public Relations Intern at China Development Research Foundation May 2021 - Aug. 2021
 - Conducted a literature review on child development and rural prosperity in China, collecting data and summarizing findings to contribute to ongoing research
 - Wrote weekly summaries over a two-month period, providing critical insights and analysis for the research team

WORKING PAPER

- **Sun Weijia, (2024).** *Exploring Socioeconomic and Gender Influences on Educational Achievement: Insights from PSID Data.*
- **Sun Weijia, (2024).** *Tackling High Childcare Costs and the Shortage of Affordable Quality Care in the U.S. (Policy Brief).*
- **Sun Weijia, (2023).** *Challenges and Complexities of Land Reform in Namibia: An Analysis of Policy, Equity, and Sustainable Development.*
- **Sun Weijia, (2023).** *Post-pandemic Mobility: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese Students' Mobility to the U.K. after Completing Higher Education.*
- **Sun Weijia, (2023).** *Addressing China's Pension Crisis: The Impact of the One-Child Policy on Demographics and Potential Policy Reforms.*
- **Sun, Weijia, (2022).** *China's Demographic Challenges: How the One-Child Policy Has Shaped Aging and Gender Imbalance in the Context of Development*
- **Sun, Weijia, (2022).** *Conditional Cash Transfers as a Solution to Long-Term Poverty in the Global South: A Critical Examination*
- **Sun, Weijia, (2021).** *The Role of NGOs in Shaping Welfare Systems: A Case Study of Bangladesh and How They Address Gaps in Social Protection*

CONFERENCE

- **Sun Weijia**, (2022). The International Conference on Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication Studies *What lessons can we learn from the HIV/AIDS era about ensuring health policy meet the needs of gay people?*. Online.

MEMBERSHIP

- American Public Health Association (APHA).
- The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).
- International Conference on Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communication Studies (ICIHCS)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Boston, MA

Research Assistant at the Center for Surgery and Public Health

June 2024 - Present

- Utilized onsite ethnography observations in hospitals and clinics, along with semi-structured interviews, to gain insights into the current clinical applications of palliative care and identify potentially missed opportunities for improvement for elderly surgical patients
- Conducted outreach to medical sites to identify and recruit potential qualified patients, recruit participants using EPIC
- Tracked and documented research progress and updates, producing detailed reports and documentation to keep the team informed and enhance efficiency and accuracy
- Documented meeting minutes, developed pertinent communication tools and maintained organized and accessible project files
- Cleaned and coded field notes and transcripts using Atlas.ti, ensuring meticulous data analysis

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

Qualitative Research Assistant at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research

Nov. 2023 - July 2024

- Conducted comprehensive interviews and engaged in data de-identification and coding utilizing Dedoose, specializing in the evaluation, design, and narrative change of cash-transfer programs
- Thematic coded the transcripts to support the production of research reports, highlighting the experiences of the patients and inform the development of guaranteed income programs

ForNGO

Shanghai, China

Project Intern

June 2022 - July 2022

- Conducted comprehensive analysis of regulations pertaining to the establishment, operations, and fundraising of NGOs across various provinces in China. Compiled and compared regional regulations to produce a detailed report on the current development and prospective factors impacting NGO operations
- Assisted in developing the "Yiliang Commonwealth Encyclopedia," the first encyclopedia specifically for NGOs in China, by defining key terminology related to NGOs, demonstrating strong research and analytical capabilities

China Development Research Foundation

Beijing, China

Public Relations Intern

May. 2021 - Aug. 2021

- Collected and interpreted data on child development, and built an up-to-date repository of the latest corporate social responsibilities of Chinese firms to produce comprehensive weekly reports
- Transcribed and analyzed in-depth interviews, identifying recurring themes, emerging patterns, and individual narratives that support the evaluation of local policy
- Supported large-scale national conferences including the China-US Symposium, the 7th International Symposium on Anti-Poverty and Child Development, from planning through to execution

Draexlmaier Group China (Headquarters)

Shenyang, China

HR Marketing Intern

Feb 2021 - Apr. 2021

- Conducted in-depth research on the top 100 automotive parts factories in China, analyzing their geographical coverage, product offerings, and existing partnerships
- Supported the organization of the first domestic online job fair in the automotive industry, attracting over 10,000 participants at its peak

- Enhanced HR training materials to improve their applicability and efficiency

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

Office Admin Intern

London, ON

Feb. 2020 - Apr. 2020

- Strategically planned and executed donor and fundraising events to support stroke and heart disease research
- Successfully engaged and negotiated with over 20 business partners and potential donors, securing vital cooperation and financial support

LSE Student Union, China Development Society

President, VP for Events

London, England

Oct. 2020 - Apr. 2023

- Ensured daily operations compliance, while supporting more than 80 members in completing relevant training
- Responsible for internal and external communication with the team, student union, sponsors, other school societies and scholars
- Organized more than 20 on-campus events and 2 large-scale forums, including the LSE China Development Forum (the largest forum with a Chinese focus in the EMEA region), and assisted in relationship building with more than 20 sponsors

LSE Student Union, Equality in Education Society

Secretary, Member of the Advisory Board

London, England

Oct. 2020 - Mar. 2022

- Engaged in the organization of 5 campus events, advocating for equality in education
- Coordinate communication with 60 members weekly with a tailored weekly newsletter, and lead team building events to build a close-knit community on campus

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- **Languages:** English, Mandarin Chinese
- **Programming:** Stata, R
- **Software:** Dedoose, EPIC, Atlas.ti, REDCap, Zotero, and Microsoft Office
- **Interests:** Hiking, Photography, Cooking, Dog Fostering and Travelling