

Alex Chow

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Education

Stanford University

2020 — Present

Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology

- Dissertation: The Social Significance of Education
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Michelle Jackson (Advisor), Dr. Florencia Torche, Dr. David Grusky
- Qualifying Exams: Social Stratification, Economic Sociology

Stanford University

Present — 2022

Master of Arts in Sociology

- Master's Thesis: Expansion and Returns: A Causal Inference Approach to the Positional Value of Education
- Advisors: Dr. Michelle Jackson, Dr. Florencia Torche

University of British Columbia

2016 — 2020

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology

- Honors Thesis: Complicating the International Student Classification in Canada: A Computational Grounded Theory Approach
- Supervisor: Dr. Qiang Fu

Research Interests

Social stratification, inequality, mobility, Educational inequality, higher education, Quantitative, statistical, and survey methods, Computational methods, network analysis, and natural language processing

Publications

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada

2021

Canadian Review of Sociology

Chow, Alex, and Neil Guppy. 2021. "Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 58(3):372-398.

The Subjective Social Ladder: Actual, Perceived, and Projected Mobility in 22 Countries

Under review

Chow, Alex. "The Subjective Social Ladder: Actual, Perceived, and Projected Mobility in 22 Countries." Under review.

How Much Does Education Matter for Social Status? Findings from a Conjoint Experiment

In preparation

Chow, Alex. "How Much Does Education Matter for Social Status? Findings from a Conjoint Experiment." In preparation.

Residential Relocation Reshapes Daily Exposure Segregation

Under review

Qiao, Si, Junxi Qu, Rosina Pradhananga, Alex Chow, Sarah-Eve Dill, David Grusky, and Anthony Gar-On Yeh. "Residential Relocation Reshapes Daily Exposure Segregation." Under review.

A Supervised LLM System for Large-Scale, Data-Secure Qualitative Coding

In preparation

van der Velden, Max, David Grusky, and Alex Chow. "A Supervised LLM System for Large-Scale, Data-Secure Qualitative Coding." In preparation.

Fellowships

Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program

2020

Stanford University

Data Science for Social Good (DSSG) Fellowship

2019

Data Science Institute, UBC

Research Grants

Graduate Research Opportunity	2025
<i>Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences</i>	
Sociology PhD Dissertation Research Opportunity	2025
<i>Stanford Department of Sociology</i>	

Honors & Awards

Governor General's Silver Medal in Arts	2020
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Outstanding Graduating Student, Canadian Sociological Association	2020
<i>Canadian Sociological Association</i>	
Kaspar Naegele Memorial Prize in Sociology	2020
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
University of British Columbia Scholarship	2019
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Faculty of Arts International Student Scholarship	2019
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Katherine Brearley Arts Scholarship	2019
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Faculty of Arts International Student Scholarship	2018
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Katherine Brearley Arts Scholarship	2018
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	
Mo Lin Yu Memorial Prize in the Faculty of Arts	2018
<i>University of British Columbia</i>	

Conference Presentations

How Much Does Education Matter for Social Status? Findings from a Conjoint Experiment	Jan 2026
<i>RC28 Online Meeting on Educational Inequalities Sciences Po (Virtual)</i>	
Perceptions of Social Status: Findings from a Conjoint Experiment	Aug 2025
<i>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2025 Chicago, IL</i>	
Perceptions of Social Status: Findings from a Conjoint Experiment	Nov 2023
<i>New Methods to Measure Intergenerational Mobility Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, University of Chicago, IL</i>	
The Subjective Social Ladder: Actual, Perceived, and Projected Mobility in 22 Countries	Aug 2023
<i>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2023 Philadelphia, PA</i>	
The Post-Liberal Social Classes: Actual and Perceived Levels of Income Inequality and Associated Values	Jun 2023
<i>International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology 2023 Melbourne, Australia</i>	
Expansion and Returns: A Causal Inference Approach to the Positional Value of Education	Aug 2022
<i>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2022 Los Angeles, CA</i>	
Intergenerational Educational Assortative Mating: A Study of Individuals Born Between 1970 and 1985	Aug 2021
<i>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2021 Virtual</i>	
Intergenerational Educational Assortative Mating: A Study of Individuals Born Between 1970 and 1985	May 2021

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada Aug 2019

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2019 (Honors Program) | New York, NY

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada Jun 2019

Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2019 | Vancouver, BC

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada May 2019

UBC Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Conference 2019 | Vancouver, BC

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada Mar 2019

UBC Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference 2019 | Vancouver, BC

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada Jan 2019

Harvard University National Collegiate Research Conference 2019 | Cambridge, MA

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant

2020 — Present

Stanford University

Research roles in sociology and poverty/inequality labs.

- Jun 2025 – Present: Voices Lab: "American Voices Project." Research Assistant for Dr. David Grusky, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality.
- Mar 2023 – Present: Social Networks Lab: "Social Networks and Cellphone Mobility Data." Lab Coordinator and Research Assistant for Dr. David Grusky, Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality.
- Sep 2022 – May 2023: "COVID and Infant Health." Research Assistant for Dr. Florencia Torche, Stanford Department of Sociology.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

2016 — 2020

University of British Columbia

Research experience in sociology and data science labs.

- May 2018 – May 2021: "Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada." Co-Investigator with Dr. Neil Guppy, UBC Department of Sociology.
- May 2019 – Dec 2019: "Developing Natural Language Processing Tools for Sharing of Indigenous and Community Knowledge." Data Science for Social Good Research Fellow, National Energy Board & UBC Data Science Institute.
- May 2019 – Dec 2019: "Romantic Relationships in Canada." Research Assistant for Dr. Yue Qian, UBC Department of Sociology.

Teaching & Mentorship

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2020 — 2025

Stanford University

Graduate teaching, mentorship, and supervision roles.

- Nov 2024 – Aug 2025: Graduate Research Assistant Internship Supervisor, Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences Research Experience Program
- Jun 2021 – Aug 2021: Graduate Research Mentor, Stanford Summer Research Early Identification Program
- Jan 2023 – Mar 2023: Graduate Teaching Assistant, SOC 382: Sociological Methodology II (Statistics for an Open Science: Principles of Regression II)
- Sep 2022 – Dec 2022: Graduate Teaching Assistant, SOC 381: Sociological Methodology I (Introduction)
- Sep 2021 – Dec 2021: Graduate Teaching Assistant, SOC 114/214: Economic Sociology

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

2016 — 2020

University of British Columbia

Undergraduate teaching assistantships and mentorship roles.

- May 2020 – Jun 2020: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, ANTH/SOCI 480: Urban Ethnographic Field School
- Jan 2020 – Apr 2020: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, SOCI 372: Contemporary Directions in Theory
- Sep 2019 – Apr 2020: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, DSCI 100: Introduction to Data Science

- Sep 2019 – Dec 2019: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, SOCI 301: Development and Underdevelopment
- Sep 2018 – May 2019: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, SOCI 100: Introduction to Sociology
- Sep 2019 – Apr 2020: Student Directed Seminar Leader and Coordinator, SOCI 433: Scaling the Ivory Tower: Sociology of Higher Education
- Oct 2019: Workshop Leader and Coordinator, Undergraduate Social Statistics Study Group
- Sep 2017 – Apr 2019: Mentorship Program Coordinator (2018–2019) and Peer Mentor (2017–2019), Coordinated Arts Program

Academic Service

Academic Service

2016 — 2020

University of British Columbia

Academic service roles within the department and faculty.

- Jan 2019 – May 2020: Advisory Committee Member, Advanced Research Cohort (ARC) Program, UBC Department of Sociology
- Jan 2019 – May 2019: Tenure-Track Instructor Hiring Committee Member, Coordinated Arts Program, UBC Faculty of Arts
- Sep 2017 – May 2019: Lead Typesetter (2018–2019) and Associate Editor (2017–2018), Sojourners: Undergraduate Journal of Sociology
- Feb 2018: Selection Panel Member, Arts Undergraduate Society Humanities and Social Sciences Conference

Skills

Technical: Python, R, Stata

Languages: English, Mandarin

Professional Affiliations

- American Sociological Association
- Canadian Sociological Association
- Canadian Population Society
- International Sociological Association