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*
Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences

Sociology PhD Dissertation Research Opportunity *2025*
Stanford Department of Sociology

Honors & Awards

Governor General's Silver Medal in Arts *2020*
University of British Columbia

Outstanding Graduating Student, Canadian Sociological Association *2020*
Canadian Sociological Association

Kaspar Naegele Memorial Prize in Sociology *2020*
University of British Columbia

University of British Columbia Scholarship *2019*
University of British Columbia

Faculty of Arts International Student Scholarship *2019*
University of British Columbia

Katherine Brearley Arts Scholarship *2019*
University of British Columbia

Faculty of Arts International Student Scholarship *2018*
University of British Columbia

Katherine Brearley Arts Scholarship *2018*
University of British Columbia

Mo Lin Yu Memorial Prize in the Faculty of Arts *2018*
University of British Columbia

Conference Presentations

How Much Does Education Matter for Social Status? Findings from a Conjoint Experiment *Jan 2026*
RC28 Online Meeting on Educational Inequalities | Sciences Po (Virtual)

Perceptions of Social Status: Findings from a Conjoint Experiment *Aug 2025*
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2025 | Chicago, IL

Perceptions of Social Status: Findings from a Conjoint Experiment *Nov 2023*
New Methods to Measure Intergenerational Mobility | Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, University of Chicago, IL

The Subjective Social Ladder: Actual, Perceived, and Projected Mobility in 22 Countries *Aug 2023*
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2023 | Philadelphia, PA

The Post-Liberal Social Classes: Actual and Perceived Levels of Income Inequality and Associated Values *Jun 2023*
International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology 2023 | Melbourne, Australia

Expansion and Returns: A Causal Inference Approach to the Positional Value of Education *Aug 2022*
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2022 | Los Angeles, CA

Intergenerational Educational Assortative Mating: A Study of Individuals Born Between 1970 and 1985 *Aug 2021*
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2021 | Virtual

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