

Alex Chow

📍 Stanford, US 📩 alexwjchow@stanford.edu 🌐 <https://alexwjchow.com> 💬 AlexChow

Education

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Stanford University | <i>2020 — Present</i> |
| <i>Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology</i> | |
| • 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 | <i>Present — 2022</i> |
| <i>Master of Arts in Sociology</i> | |
| • 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 | <i>2016 — 2020</i> |
| <i>Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology</i> | |
| • 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 | <i>2021</i> |
| <i>Canadian Review of Sociology</i> | |
| 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 | <i>Under review</i> |
| 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 | <i>In preparation</i> |
| Chow, Alex. "How Much Does Education Matter for Social Status? Findings from a Conjoint Experiment." In preparation. | |
| Residential Relocation Reshapes Daily Exposure Segregation | <i>Under review</i> |
| 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 | <i>In preparation</i> |
| 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 | <i>2020</i> |
| <i>Stanford University</i> | |
| Data Science for Social Good (DSSG) Fellowship | <i>2019</i> |
| <i>Data Science Institute, UBC</i> | |

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

Aug 2019

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada
Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2019 / Vancouver, BC

Jun 2019

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada
UBC Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Conference 2019 / Vancouver, BC

May 2019

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada
UBC Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference 2019 / Vancouver, BC

Mar 2019

Intergenerational Educational Mobility Over the Past Century in Canada
Harvard University National Collegiate Research Conference 2019 / Cambridge, MA

Jan 2019

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