

Di Zhou

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Department of Sociology, New York University
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Last Updated: Aug. 2025

Research Interests

Class & Inequality, Political Economy, Computational Methods, Culture & Ideology

Education

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2026 (Expected) | New York University – New York, NY
Ph.D. in Sociology
<i>Dissertation:</i> "On the Theory and Measurement of Class."
<i>Committee:</i> Vivek Chibber (Chair), Mike Hout, Siwei Cheng |
| 2017 | The University of Chicago – Chicago, IL
M.A. in Social Sciences |
| 2015 | Chinese University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong, SAR China
M.A. in Global Communication |
| 2011 | University of Iowa – Iowa City, IA
B.A. in Communication Studies |

Publications

Zhang, Yinxian, and **Di Zhou**. 2025. "One Sentiment, Multiple Interpretations: Contrasting Official and Popular Anti-Americanism in China." *Sociological Science*. 12 (August): 511–36.

Zhou, Di, and Yinxian Zhang. 2024. "Political Biases and Inconsistencies in Bilingual GPT Models —the Cases of the U.S. and China." *Scientific Reports*. 14 (1): 25048.

Zhou, Di. 2022. "The Elements of Cultural Power: Novelty, Emotion, Status, and Cultural Capital." *American Sociological Review*. 87 (5): 750–81.

- Best Student Research Paper Award, ASA Section on Asia and Asian America (2023)
- Best Student Research Paper Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Section on Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology (2023)

Chen, Lijun, Dali Yang, **Di Zhou**, & Qiang Ren. 2018. *Child and Youth Well-Being in China*. Routledge: New York, NY.

Under Review

Zhou, Di. "Redesigning The Measure of Class: The American Class Structure Revisited."

- Erik Olin Wright Prize, Havens Wright Center for Social Justice (2025)
- Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility (2025)
- Aage Sørensen Award, ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (2025)

Knight, Carly R., and **Di Zhou**. “The Construction of Economic Subjects in Business-Related Self-Help Books, 1970 to 2022.” (Revise & Resubmit)

Working Papers

Zhou, Di. “The Transformation of the American Class Structure through Neoliberalism.”

Zhou, Di. “Supervision without Authority? Organizations’ Adoption of Surveillance Technologies and Occupation-level Class Shifts.”

Zhou, Di and Virgilio Lizardi (*equal authorship*). “The Geography of the American Working Class.”

Zhou, Di, Byungkyu Lee, and Neal Meyer. “Class, Policy Preferences, and Political Ideology.”

Awards/Honors/Fellowships

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| 2025 | Erik Olin Wright Prize, Havens Wright Center for Social Justice |
| 2025 | Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility |
| 2025 | Aage Sørensen Award, ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility |
| 2024-25 | Dean’s Dissertation Writing Fellowship (New York University) |
| 2024 | Research Inception Grant (New York University) |
| 2023-24 | Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) |
| 2023 | Best Student Research Paper Award, ASA Section on Asia and Asian America |
| 2023 | Best Student Research Paper Award with the Distinction of Honorable Mention, ASA Section on Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology |
| 2018-23 | MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship (New York University) |
| 2020 | Dissertation Research Fund (New York University) |
| 2016 | Social Sciences Scholarship (University of Chicago) |
| 2014-15 | Recognition of Academic Excellence Scholarship (Chinese University of Hong Kong) |
| 2011 | President’s List (University of Iowa) |
| 2008-09 | First-class Scholarships (Communication University of China) |
| 2008-09 | Scholarships for Academic Excellence (Communication University of China) |

Teaching

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Spring 2022 | Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 388: Capitalism and Democracy
Undergraduate course instructed by Vivek Chibber, New York University |
| Fall 2021 | Teaching Assistant, SOC-GA 2332: Introduction to Statistical Methods
Graduate/PhD course instructed by Siwei Cheng, New York University |
| Spring 2021 | Teaching Assistant, SOC-GA 2332: Introduction to Statistical Methods
Graduate/PhD course instructed by Siwei Cheng, New York University |

Professional Presentations

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| Aug 2025 | Presenter. “Redesigning The Measure of Class: The American Class Structure Revisited.” <i>ASA, Chicago, IL</i> |
| Aug 2025 | Presenter. “Redesigning The Measure of Class: The American Class Structure Revisited.” <i>UCLA RC28, Los Angeles, CA</i> |

Sep 2024	Presenter. “Political Biases and Inconsistencies in Bilingual GPT Models —the Cases of the U.S. and China.” <i>Workshop of AI Governance in Global Dynamics, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada</i>
Aug 2024	Presenter. “Extracting Class Dimensions using Text Data: The Change of Class Structure of the US Labor Market, 1960 to 2020. ASA, Montreal, Québec, Canada
Aug 2023	Presenter. “East Rising, West Falling? Tracing the long-term changes in public sentiments in China” ASA, Philadelphia, PA
May 2023	Invited Speaker. “The Elements of Cultural Power: Novelty, Emotion, Status, and Cultural Capital.” <i>NLP for Social Science, Columbia University, NY</i>
Nov 2022	Invited Speaker. “The Elements of Cultural Power: Novelty, Emotion, Status, and Cultural Capital” <i>Department of Sociology, Shandong University, Virtual</i>
Mar 2019	Presenter. “How Chinese Immigrants Become Trump Supporters: Revisiting Immigrant Political Resocialization Theory in the Age of ‘Disconnection.’” <i>NYLON Conference, UCL, London, UK</i>
Mar 2018	Panel chair and paper presenter. “How Chinese new immigrants become Trump supporters?” in panel “Identities, Subjectivities, and the State(s): Immigrant Politicization in the Global Age.” <i>Annual Conference of Association for Asian American Studies, San Francisco, CA</i>
May 2017	Presenter. “How Chinese new immigrants become Trump supporters? Revisiting theories of political resocialization in the context of 2016 Presidential Election on Zhihu (the ‘Chinese Quora’).” <i>East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL</i>

Peer Review and Other Service

Reviewer	<i>Social Forces, Sociological Methods & Research, Chinese Journal of Communication</i>
2023-2024	Social Media Volunteer, ASA Section on Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology
2022-2023	Graduate Student Representative on the Faculty Search Committee

Programming, Software, and Language Skills

Programming languages: R, Python, Stata. **Software:** L^AT_EX, Git, Gephi, MAXQDA.
Languages: English, Mandarin

References

Vivek Chibber

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Mike Hout

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Siwei Cheng

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