

James Y. Chu

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Academic Appointments

- 2021- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Columbia University
- 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University, Polarization and Social Change Lab, Center on Philanthropy & Civil Society and Department of Sociology

Education

- 2020 Ph.D., Sociology, Stanford University
- 2011 M.A. Sociology, Stanford University
- 2011 B.A. Human Biology, with distinction and honors, Stanford University

Areas of Interest

Inequality; Organizations; Political Polarization; Education; Networks; Field Experiments

Publications

Journal Articles

General Interest

- 2023 **James Chu** “Clarity from Violence? Intragroup Aggression and the Structure of Status Hierarchies.” *American Sociological Review* 88(3): 454–492. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224231162867>
Prior title: *Victims of Structure: Status Inequality and Adolescent Peer Victimization*
*ASA Social Psychology Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
- Druckman, James N., Suji Kang, **James Chu**, Michael N. Stagnaro, Jan G. Voelkel, Joseph S. Mernyk, Sophia L. Pink, Chrystal Redekopp, David G. Rand, and Robb Willer. “Correcting Misperceptions of Out-Partisans Decreases American Legislators’ Support for Undemocratic Practices.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120(23):e2301836120. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2301836120.
- Pink, Sophia L., , Michael N. Stagnaro, **James Chu**, Joseph Mernyk, Jan Voelkel, Robb Willer. “Using short messages to encourage COVID-19 prevention behaviors.” *PLOS One*.
- 2022 **James Chu** and Marcel Fafchamps. “Labor conflict within foreign, domestic, and Chinese-owned manufacturing firms in Ethiopia.” *World Development* 159(1): 106037

- Moon, Ken, Patrick Bergemann, Daniel Brown, Andrew Chen, **James Chu**, Ellen Eisen, Gregory Fischer, Prashant Loyalka, Sungmin Rho, and Joshua Cohen. “Manufacturing Productivity with Worker Turnover.” *Management Science* 69(4): 1995-2015.
- Voelkel, Jan G., **James Chu**, Michael Stagnaro, Joe Mernyk, Chrystal Redekopp, Sophia Pink, James Druckman, David Rand, Robb Willer. “Interventions Reducing Affective Polarization Do Not Improve Anti-Democratic Attitudes.” *Nature Human Behavior*.
- 2021 **James Chu**, Sophia Pink, and Robb Willer. “Religious Identity Cues Increase Vaccination Intentions and Trust in Medical Experts among American Christians.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118(49): e2106481118.
- James Chu** “Cameras of Merit or Engines of Inequality? The Effect of College Rankings on the Enrollment of Disadvantaged Students.” *American Journal of Sociology* 126(6): 1307-1346.
- *ASA *Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award*
- *ASA *Organizations, Occupations and Work Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award*
- Pink, Sophia, **James Chu**, James Druckman, David Rand, Robb Willer. “Elite Party Cues Increase Vaccination Intentions among Republicans” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (32): e2106559118.
- 2020 Walder, Andrew and **James Chu**. “Generating a Violent Insurgency: China’s Factional Warfare of 1967-1968.” *American Journal of Sociology* 126(1): 99-135.
- James Chu**, Guirong Li, Prashant Loyalka, Chengfang Liu, Leonardo Rosa, Yanyan Li. “Stuck in Place? A Field Experiment on the Effects of Reputational Information on Student Evaluations.” *Social Forces* 98(4): 1578-1612.
- 2019 Loyalka, Prashant, Sean Sylvia, Chengfang Liu, **James Chu**, and Yaojiang Shi. “Pay by Design: Teacher Performance Pay Design and the Distribution of Student Achievement.” *Journal of Labor Economics* 37(3): 621-662.
- 2018 **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, Guirong Li, Yao Song, Liya Gao. “Stereotype Threat and Educational Tracking: A Field Experiment in Chinese Vocational High Schools.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 4(1): 1-11.
- Johnston, Jamie, Prashant Loyalka, **James Chu**, Yingquan Song, Hongmei Yi, Xiaoting Huang, and Scott Rozelle. “The Impact of Vocational Teachers on Student Learning in Developing Countries: Does Enterprise Experience Matter?” *Comparative Education Review* 60(1): 131-150.
- 2016 Wang, Huan, **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, Xin Tao, Yaojiang Shi, Qinghe Qu, Chu Yang, and Scott Rozelle. “Can Social-Emotional Learning Reduce School Dropout in Developing Countries?” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 35(4): 818-847.

Chinese Education and Economic Development

- 2020 Li, Guirong, Jiajia Xu, Liying Li, Zhaolei Shi, Hongmei Yi, **James Chu**, Elena Kardanova, Yanyan Li, Prashant Loyalka, Scott Rozelle. “The Impacts of Highly Resourced Vocational Schools on Student Outcomes in China.” *China & World Economy* 28(6): 125-150.
- 2019 Chang, Fang, Yuxi Jiang, Prashant Loyalka, **James Chu**, Yaojiang Shi, Annie Osborn, and Scott Rozelle. “Parental migration, educational achievement, and mental health of junior high school students in rural China.” *China Economic Review* 54(1): 337-349.

- 2018 Yi, Hongmei, Guirong Li, Liying Li, Prashant Loyalka, Linxiu Zhang, Jiajia Xu, Elena Kardanova, Zhaolei Shi, and **James Chu**. "Assessing the Quality of Upper-secondary Vocational Education and Training: Evidence from China." *Comparative Education Review* 62(2): 199-230.
- 2017 Loyalka, Prashant, **James Chu**, Jianguo Wei, Natalie Johnson, and Joel Reniker. "Inequalities in the Pathway to College in China: When Do Students from Poor Areas Fall Behind?" *China Quarterly* 229(1): 172-194.
- 2016 Li, Fan, Yingquan Song, Hongmei Yi, Jianguo Wei, Linxiu Zhang, Yaojiang Shi, **James Chu**, Natalie Johnson, Prashant Loyalka, and Scott Rozelle. "The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on the Matriculation of Junior High School Students into Rural China." *Journal of Development Effectiveness* 9(1): 41-60.
- 2015 Zhou, Chengchao, Sean Sylvia, Linxiu Zhang, Renfu Luo, Hongmei Yi, Chengfang Liu, Yaojiang Shi, Prashant Loyalka, **James Chu**, Alexis Medina, and Scott Rozelle. "China's Left-behind Children: Impact of Parental Migration on Health, Nutrition, and Educational Outcomes." *Health Affairs* 34(11): 1964-1971.
- Loyalka, Prashant, Xiaoting Huang, Linxiu Zhang, Jianguo Wei, Hongmei Yi, Yingquan Song, Yaojiang Shi, and **James Chu**. "The Impact of Vocational Schooling on Human Capital Development in Developing Countries: Evidence from China." *World Bank Economic Review* 30(1): 143-170.
- Chu, Jessica Hsiaochieh, Prashant Loyalka, **James Chu**, Qinghe Qu, Yaojiang Shi, and Guirong Li. "The Impact of Teacher Credentials on Student Achievement in China." *China Economic Review* 36(1): 14-24.
- Wang, Huan, Chu Yang, Fei He, Yaojiang Shi, Qinghe Qu, Scott Rozelle, and **James Chu**. "Mental Health and Dropout Behavior: A Cross-sectional Study of Junior High Students in Northwest Rural China." *International Journal of Educational Development* 41(1):1-12.
- Yi, Hongmei, Linxiu Zhang, Yezhou Yao, Aiqin Wang, Yue Ma, Yaojiang Shi, **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, and Scott Rozelle. "Exploring Dropout Rates and Causes of Dropout in Upper-secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Schools in China." *International Journal of Educational Development* 42(1): 115-123.
- Chen, Xinxin, Fang Lai, Hongmei Yi, Linxiu Zhang, **James Chu**, and Scott Rozelle. "Schooling Institutions and Academic Achievement for Migrant Children in Urban China." *Migration and Development* 4(2): 172-184.
- 2014 Yi, Hongmei, Linxiu Zhang, Chengfang Liu, Prashant Loyalka, Yaojiang Shi, and **James Chu**, Scott Rozelle. "Giving Kids a Head Start: The Impact of Early Commitment of Financial Aid on Poor Seventh Grade Students in Rural China." *Journal of Development Economics* 113: 1-15.
- Shi, Yaojiang, Chu Yang, Hongmei Yi, Chengfang Liu, Linxiu Zhang, Natalie Johnson, **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, and Scott Rozelle. "Dropout in Rural China's Secondary Schools: A Mixed-Methods Analysis." *China Quarterly* 224(1): 1048-1069.
- Ai, Yue, Yaojiang Shi, Fang Chang, Chu Yang, Huan Wang, Hongmei Yi, Renfu Luo, Chengfang Liu, Linxiu Zhang, **James Chu**, Scott Rozelle. "Dormitory Management and Boarding Students in China's Rural Primary Schools." *China Agricultural Economic Review* 6(3): 523-550.
- Chen, Xinxin, Hongmei Yi, Linxiu Zhang, Di Mo, **James Chu**, Scott Rozelle. "Do Poor Students Benefit from China's Merger Program? Transfer Path and Educational Performance." *Asia Pacific Journal of Education* 34(1): 15-35.

- 2013 Chen, Xinxin, Yaojiang Shi, Di Mo, **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, Scott Rozelle. “Impact of a Senior High School Tuition Relief Program on Poor Junior High School Students in Rural China.” *China & World Economy* 21(3): 80-97.
- Loyalka, Prashant, Chengfang Liu, Yingquan Song, Hongmei Yi, Xiaoting Huang, Jianguo Wei, Linxiu Zhang, Yaojiang Shi, **James Chu**, Scott Rozelle. “Can Information and Counseling Help Students from Poor Rural Areas Go To High School? Evidence from China.” *Journal of Comparative Economics* 41(1): 1012-1023.
- Wang, Xiaobing, Chengfang Liu, Linxiu Zhang, Ai Yue, Yaojiang Shi, **James Chu**, Scott Rozelle. “Does Financial Aid Help Poor Students Succeed in College?” *China Economic Review* 25(1): 27-43.
- Yi, Hongmei, Linxiu Zhang, Chengfang Liu, **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, May Maani, and Jianguo Wei. “How Are Secondary Vocational Schools in China Measuring Up to Government Benchmarks?” *China & World Economy* 21(3): 98-120.

Working Papers

[†] indicates student co-author, * indicates shared lead authorship.

- **James Chu** “Making Sacrifice: How Normative Control Is Enacted through Rituals of Integration.” Second R&R at *Administrative Science Quarterly*
- **James Chu** “The Price of Prestige: Educational Rankings and Adolescent Perceptions of College Cost.” *In progress*.
- Lee, Byungkyu* and **James Chu***. “COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Are Lowest among Political Outsiders in the United States.” [SocArXiv Preprint](#).
- **James Chu*** and Seungwon Lee[†] “Experiencing Hierarchy: American Narratives of Respect and Disrespect.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.
- Voelkel, Jan*, Nick Stagnaro*, **James Chu***, and the Strengthening Democracy Challenge Team. “Megastudy identifying effective interventions to strengthen Americans’ democratic attitudes.” [Preprint](#).
- **James Chu** and the Strengthening Democracy Challenge Team “Forecasting for Democracy.” *In progress*.

Works in Progress

- **James Chu** and Monika Yadav[†] “Why Updating Fails: Interdependence and the Stability of Stereotypes.” *In progress*.
- **James Chu** and Encan Wang[†] “Status Anxiety and Adolescent Gender Policing.” *In progress*.
- **James Chu***, Nick Stagnaro* “Information Structure and Echo Chambers.” *Experiment in Field*.
- **James Chu**, Prashant Loyalka, Elen Abdurakhmanova, and Elena Kardanova. “The Effect of Student Performance Labels on Classroom Performance.” *Experiment in Field*.
- **James Chu**, Noam Zerubavel, Adam Reich, and Peter Bearman. “Relational Closeness and Neurological Correlates of Self-Other Differentiation.” *In progress*.

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

2023	Columbia Experimental Laboratory, Columbia University
2022	Hettelman Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant, Columbia University
2020	Barbara & Sandy Dornbusch Award for Contributions to the Understanding of a Social Problem, Stanford University
2020	Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences. “Educational Rankings and Adolescent Perceptions of College Cost.”
2019	ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section - Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award
2019	ASA Organizations, Occupations and Work Section - James D. Thompson Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award
2019	ASA Social Psychology Section - Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
2014	William R. and Sara Hart Kimball Fellowship, Stanford University
2014	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP)
2014	Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Fellowship, Stanford University
2011	American Education Research Association Undergraduate Fellowship
2010	Phi Beta Kappa
2009	Strauss Family Foundation Fellowship for Social Service

Presentations

Invited Talks

2022	Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality, Yale University Chinese University of Hong Kong, Sociology Colloquium Series
2021	Columbia University, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences Research Seminar Columbia University, Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop
2020	Columbia University, Sociology Department University of Michigan, Sociology Department Cornell University, Sociology Department UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business

Conference Presentations

- 2022 “The Price of Prestige: Educational Rankings and Adolescent Perceptions of College Cost.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Los Angeles [planned]
- “Clarity from Violence? Intragroup Aggression and the Structure of Status Hierarchies.” International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Conference.
- 2019 “When Virtue Becomes Obligation: Morality and the Overproduction of Prosocial Behavior.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: New York.
- “Antagonistic Labor Relations among Foreign, Domestic, and Chinese-Owned Manufacturing Firms in Ethiopia.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: New York.
- “Engines of Inequality: The Effect of College Rankings on the Enrollment of Disadvantaged Students.” Sociology of Education Annual Meeting: Asilomar, CA.
- 2018 “Engines of Inequality: The Effect of College Rankings on the Enrollment of Disadvantaged Students.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Philadelphia.
- 2017 “Casualties of Social Combat? Competitive Context Determines Whether Status Protects Against or Encourages Peer Victimization.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Montreal.
- 2016 “Grading Discrimination based on Prior Grades: Evidence from a Field Experiment.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Seattle.
- 2013 “China’s human capital problem and what can be done about it.” Responsible Electronics Conference (Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition). San Francisco.
- 2012 “Information and counseling on achievement and attainment of rural children in China.” Society of Research on Education Effectiveness. Washington, D.C.
- “The effect of vouchers on student attainment in rural China.” Chinese Economists Society. Kaifeng, Henan.

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2023 [Columbia University - Status, Evaluation, and Inequality](#)
- Spring 2022 [Columbia University - Introduction to Social Networks](#)
- Fall 2021 [Columbia University - Experimental Methods for Social Research](#)
- 2019-2020 **Stanford Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning** | Consultant. I advise Stanford graduate teaching assistants on how to improve their teaching practice.
- 2018 **Social Network Methods (Ph.D. Seminar)** | Teaching Assistant for Dan McFarland. Overall rating: 4.5/5
- 2017 **Junior/Senior Seminar for Majors (Undergraduate)** | Teaching Assistant for Jackelyn Hwang. Overall rating: 5/5
- 2016-2017 **Theoretical Analysis and Research Design (Ph.D. Seminar)** | Teaching Assistant for Robb Willer. Overall rating: 4.5/5
- 2014-2015 **Causal Identification Workshop** | Instructor. Developed a short course on causal identification for industrial engineers in major Apple suppliers and graduate students.

- 2013-2014 **Stata Workshop** | Instructor. Developed and taught a short course on data cleaning, analysis, and programming in Stata for graduate students in China.
- 2010-2011 **Student Initiated Courses** | Course Leader. Developed and taught a seminar on Chinese migration and conducting sociology research in China.

Service

- 2022- **Columbia Sociology Department Curriculum Committee** | Committee Member
- 2021- **Experimental Design Workshop** | Workshop Faculty Lead
- 2019 **American Sociological Association Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work** | Graduate Student Representative.
- 2016-2020 **Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education** | Mentor.
- 2015-2021 **Palo Alto Vineyard Church** | High school student mentor.
- 2018-2019 **Advanced Placement (AP) Research Capstone Course** | Mentor. Advise high school students as they develop their own sociology research projects.
- 2015-2016 **Association of Sociology Graduate Students** | Professional Development Chair.
- 2010-2011 **Education and Society House (EAST)** | Academic Theme Associate. Helped launch first education theme house at Stanford University.
- 2010-2011 **Study of Undergraduate Education at Stanford (SUES)** | Subcommittee Member. Examined course requirements for breadth for Stanford undergraduates.

Occasional Reviewer: American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, European Journal of Sociology, European Sociological Review, Organization Science, Children and Youth Services Review

Professional Experience

- 2013-2020 **Apple, Inc.** | Independent Contractor. Investigating why workers are leaving factory assembly jobs in China (PI: Joshua Cohen, Joel Podolny).
- 2011-2014 **Rural Education Action Program** | Project Manager. Supervised six major impact evaluation projects in rural China (budget of 2+ million USD).
- 2008-2011 **ValuEd China Program** | Co-Founder. Developed the first career counseling summer program for rural to urban migrant students in Beijing.

Languages

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), Stata, R, Python, Javascript