Zhuofan Li
/Jwo-fahn/

524 McBryde Hall (0137)
225 Stanger Street
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Email: zhuofan@vt.edu
Website: lizhuofan95.github.io

Employment

2024-   Assistant Professor of Sociology, Virginia Tech

Faculty Affiliate, Department of Science, Technology, and Society

Education

2018-2024   Ph.D. Sociology, University of Arizona

Graduate Certificate in Computational Social Science

Committee: Ronald Breiger (Chair), Corey Abramson, Joseph Galaskiewicz, Erin Leahey

Dissertation: *Corporate Open Science and Relational Infrastructure in Artificial Intelligence Research*

*Recipient, American Sociological Association 2023 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

2014-2018   B.A. Sociology, *magna cum laude*, Franklin & Marshall College

Areas of Expertise

Social Networks; Computational Social Science; Economic Sociology; Organizations and Work; Science and Technology; Cultural Sociology; Theory; Methodology

Publications

Journal Articles

2024   Abramson, Corey, **Zhuofan Li**, Tara Prendergast, and Martín Sánchez-Jankowski. "Inequality in the Origins and Experiences of Pain: What 'Big (Qualitative) Data' Reveal about Social Suffering in the U.S." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 10(5): 34-65.

2024   **Li, Zhuofan**. "When Being a Data Annotator Was Not Yet a Job: The Laboratory Origins of Dispersible Labor in Computer Vision Research." *Socius* 10: 10.1177/23780231241259617.

2021   **Li, Zhuofan**, Daniel Dohan, and Corey Abramson. "Qualitative Coding in the Computational Era: A Hybrid Approach to Improve Reliability and Reduce Effort for Coding Ethnographic Interviews." *Socius* 7: 10.1177/23780231211062345.

Book Chapters

2025   **Li, Zhuofan** and Corey Abramson. "Ethnography and Machine Learning: Synergies and New Directions." Forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*, edited by Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra and Christian Borch. Oxford University Press.

UNDER REVIEW

Li, Zhuofan, Daniel Dohan, and Corey Abramson. "Temporal Misalignment and Unequal Agency: A Relational Sociology of Time from the Case of Terminal Cancer Patients." **Reject & Resubmit**.

Li, Zhuofan. "Selling Big Data Surveillance: The Embeddedness of Legitimacy in A Moralized Market of Facial Recognition Technology."

SOME WORK IN PROGRESS

Li, Zhuofan. "The Rise of Open Science in Artificial Intelligence Research and the New Relational Infrastructure of Corporate Power."

Li, Zhuofan. "Hyperbrokerage."

Li, Zhuofan and Yongjun Zhang. "Performative Labor and Tokenism in the Corporate Newsroom."

Abramson, Corey, Zhuofan Li, Tara Prendergast, and Martín Sánchez-Jankowski. "Qualitative Sociology in a Computational Era: Classic Issues, Emerging Trends, and New Possibilities." Invited Submission.

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2024   Abramson, Corey, Zhuofan Li, Tara Prendergast, and Daniel Dohan. "Qualitative Sociology in the Computational Era: Classic Issues, Emerging Trends, New Possibilities" Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2024), Montréal, Canada.

2024   Galaskiewicz, Joseph, Eunsung Yoon, Kate Freeman-Anderson, Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Zhuofan Li, Zheng Fu, Wanjun Chen, and Caleb Moore. "Public Health Guidance, Neighborhood Effects, and SARS-CoV-2." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2024), Montréal, Canada.

2024   Li, Zhuofan. "The Embeddedness of Legitimacy in A Moral Economy of Big Data Surveillance Technology." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management (AOM 2024), Chicago, IL.

2024   Li, Zhuofan. "The Rise of Corporate Open Science: Boundaries, Brokerage, and Power in Artificial Intelligence Research." Paper presented at the International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Conference (Sunbelt 2024), Online.

2023   Li, Zhuofan. "A Moral Economy of Big Data: Moral Attachment and Disembedding in the Facial Recognition Technology Market." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2023), Philadelphia, PA.

2023   Li, Zhuofan. "Corporate Participation in Open Science: From Spillover to Brokerage." Poster presented at the International Conference on Science of Science and Innovation (ICSSI 2023). Evanston, IL.

2023   Abramson, Corey, Tara Prendergast, Zhuofan Li, Martín Sánchez-Jankowski. "Inequality in the Origins and Experiences of Pain." Paper Presented at International Sociological Association Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility. Melbourne, Australia.

2022   Abramson, Corey, Tara Prendergast, Zhuofan Li, Martín Sánchez-Jankowski."How Americans Make Sense of Chronic Pain." Paper Presented at the Russell Sage Foundation Conference: Building an Open Source Qualitative Social Science. New York, NY.

2022   Li, Zhuofan, Corey Abramson, and Daniel Dohan. "The Temporal Structure of Capitals: Lessons from the End of Life." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2022), Los Angeles, CA.

2021   Li, Zhuofan. "Lexicons into Categories: A Semantic Network Approach to Category-Spanning Identities." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2021), Online.

2021   Li, Zhuofan. "A Semantic Network Approach to Category-Spanning Identities." Paper presented at Networks 2021: A joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference, hosted by Indiana University Network Science Institute, Online.

Workshops

2024   Abramson, Corey, Tara Prendergast, and Zhuofan Li. "Verification in Qualitative Social Sciences." Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry, Syracuse University, New York, NY.

2022   Abramson, Corey, Zhuofan Li, Daniel Dohan. "Introduction to Machine Learning for Qualitative Research." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (ASA 2022), Los Angeles, CA.

Grants & Fellowships

External

2023-2024   National Science Foundation/American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG)

University of Arizona

2023-2024   Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Fellowship

2023   Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) Travel Grant

2022   Social and Behavioral Sciences Summer Dissertation Fellowship

2019-2020   Federick & Margaret S. Conrad Graduate Scholarship

2018-2019   Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Fellowship

Franklin & Marshall College

2017-2018   Nissley Grant

2017   Hackman Summer Research Scholarship

Honors & Awards

2024   Sánchez-Jankowski Graduate Paper Award, University of Arizona

2024   Raymond V. Bowers Graduate Paper Award, University of Arizona

2021	Honors Pass, Comprehensive Exam in Social Networks, University of Arizona
2020	Honors Pass, Comprehensive Exam in Organizations and Work, University of Arizona
2018	William M. Kephart Prize in Sociology, Franklin & Marshall College
2018	Tourish Prize in Criminology, Franklin & Marshall College
2018	Phi Beta Kappa

OTHER RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

| 2022- | Affiliated Researcher, Center for Ethnographic Research, Institute of the Study of Societal Issues, University of California, Berkeley |

TEACHING

GRADUATE

Digital Sociology (S25)

UNDERGRADUATE

Digital Sociology (F24)

Introductory Sociology (F21, S22, S25)

SERVICE

PEER REVIEW

| 2024- | *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Socius* |

EXTERNAL

| 2023 | Panelist, American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG) Proposal Preparation Workshop, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia |
| 2023 | Volunteer, American Sociological Association Economic Sociology Section Awards Showcase Panel |

VIRGINIA TECH

| 2024-2025 | Undergraduate Curriculum Committee |

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

2023	Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee
2021-2023	Co-organizer, Social Organization Seminar
2021-2022	Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Recruitment Committee
2020-2021	Conception & Survey Design, Graduate Student Climate Survey on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Skills

PROGRAMMING: Python, R, STATA, C++, SQL, LaTeX, HTML, CSS

LANGUAGES: Chinese (native), French (reading)

Last updated: November 2024