

# Tong MENG (She/Her)

Research Interests: Sociology, Digital intimacy; Educational mobility; Gender studies; Cultural studies  
Email: mengtongiam@163.com

## Education

<b>Durham University</b> <i>PhD, School of Education</i>	<b>Durham, UK</b> 10/2021-11/2025
<b>Supervision:</b> Dr Cora Lingling Xu & Dr Anna Llewellyn	
<b>Fields:</b> Sociology of education, digital intimacy, international student mobility, media studies, China studies	
<b>Dissertation:</b> Intimacy and Mobile Dating Applications Use: A Study of Chinese International Students in the UK	
 <b>University College London (UCL)</b> <i>MA in TESOL, Faculty of Education and Society</i>	 <b>London, UK</b> 09/2018-09/2019
<b>Supervision:</b> David Mallows	
<b>GPA:</b> Distinction	
<b>Thesis:</b> EFL Writing Anxiety among Chinese English-Major Undergraduate Students: A Mixed Methods Study	
 <b>Taiyuan University of Technology</b> <i>BA in English Language and Literature</i>	 <b>Shanxi, China</b> 09/2014-06/2018
<b>Supervision:</b> Wangbin Zhang	
<b>GPA:</b> 87/100	
<b>Thesis:</b> Lexical Features and Identity Reflections of China English in China Daily (2007-2017)	

## Publications

- Meng, T.** (2025). “Fair-skinned, young and slim” or “Kardashian-style”: UK-based female Chinese international students’ self-presentation on mobile dating applications. *Feminist Media Studies*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2025.2514793>
- Meng, T.** (2025). Love in a Transient Sexual Field: Female Chinese International Students’ Racialised Desire on Mobile Dating Applications. *Sociological Research Online*, o(o). <https://doi.org/10.1177/13607804251320487>
- Meng, T.** Transnational Mobility and Digitally Mediated Desire: Changing Motivations of Chinese International Students Using Mobile Dating Applications in the UK. (***Under Review***)
- Meng, T., Qin, Y. & Liu, X.** “Hi, TikTok Refugees!”: How Memes Talk in the TikTok-to-RedNote Migration. (***Under Review***)

## Research Experience

<b>Intercultural engagement and belonging: International doctoral students’ academic and social experiences in a UK university</b>	<b>Durham, UK</b>
<i>Research Assistant; Project leader: Professor Prue Holmes</i>	06/2024-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contributed to project preparation and focus group planning;</li><li>Conducted thematic analysis of interview data from four focus groups;</li><li>Presented findings at the research seminar of School of Education at Durham University;</li><li>Co-authoring a journal article with colleagues for publication.</li></ul>	
 <b>Intimacy and Mobile Dating Applications Use: A Study of Chinese International Students in the UK</b>	
<i>Researcher; Supervisors: Dr Cora Lingling Xu &amp; Dr Anna Llewellyn</i>	10/2021-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducted longitudinal research on Chinese international students’ experiences of using dating applications and the establishment of intimate relationships in the UK</li></ul>	

- Conducted in-depth, two-round semi-structured interviews and multiple informal interviews with 49 Chinese international students from 2021 to 2023;
- Adopting the scroll-back and the walk-through methods for data collection;
- Applied Bourdieu's theory of practice and conducted thematic analysis to analyse qualitative data;
- Authored and submitted three papers to SSCI journals based on the data from this research.

## Teaching Experience

---

<b>Durham University, School of Education</b>	<b>Durham, UK</b>
<i>Guest Lecturer &amp; Teaching Assistant</i>	09/2022-03/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course taught: Cultural Identity, Interculturality and Education; Contemporary Issues and Evidence in Education; Double Dissertation: Disciplinary Contexts of Education;</li> <li>Delivered two guest lectures on intercultural communication, cultural identity and intimate relationships;</li> <li>Led discussions and tutorials for 20-35 students, helping students understand theories and key concepts in the sociology of education and supporting their dissertation development;</li> <li>Planned activities for seminars and answered students' questions in workshops.</li> </ul>	
<b>New Oriental Education &amp; Technology Group Inc.</b>	<b>Shanghai, China</b>
<i>TOEFL Teacher</i>	11/2019-09/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gave TOEFL reading tutorials to undergraduate and high school students;</li> <li>Designed and adapted reading materials for teaching students at different levels;</li> <li>Cooperated with other teachers to develop a comprehensive curriculum and reading materials for Chinese students in international schools.</li> </ul>	

## Academic Service

---

<b>Peer Review for Journals and Conferences</b>	<b>Online</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journals: <i>Sociological Forum</i>; <i>International Journal of Intercultural Relations</i>; <i>Women's Studies in Communication</i>; <i>Region Science Policy &amp; Practice</i>.</li> <li>Conferences: Cambridge China Educational Forum 2025, British Educational Research Association (BERA) conference 2024 and WERA focal meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cambridge Chinese Migration Studies Group (CCMSG)</b>	<b>Cambridge, UK &amp; Online</b>
<i>Pro-convenor</i>	04/2023-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining the CCMSG mailing list, writing newsletters and tweets for posting on social media;</li> <li>Organising monthly seminars and the annual workshop;</li> <li>Supporting major research fund applications with the funding team.</li> </ul>	
<b>Network for Research into Chinese Education Mobilities (NRCEM)</b>	<b>Online</b>
<i>Assistant Editor</i>	03/2022-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for contacting scholars in related fields, drafting, proofreading, and publishing research highlights, capacity building, and other academic content on the website;</li> <li>Responsible for publishing and proofreading monthly newsletters and conducting post-production editing and publishing to podcasts;</li> <li>Responsible for drafting interview guide and interviewing scholars, writing and posting tweets and maintaining the mailing list of NRCEM.</li> </ul>	
<b>Research Output Roundtable at Chinese Sociology Society UK</b>	<b>Online</b>
<i>Chair</i>	06/2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairing for the output roundtable June session 'Temporality, Migration and Mobility'.</li> </ul>	
<b>Imagining Better Education Conference 2022</b>	<b>Durham, UK</b>
<i>Committee Member &amp; Editor &amp; Presenter</i>	10/2022

- Responsible for organising the conference, reviewing paper submitted to the conference, designing the poster, and editing the paper for the conference proceedings;
- Presented 'Intimacy and Mobile Dating Applications Use: A study of Chinese international students in the UK'.

## **Invited Talks & Main Conference Activity**

---

<b>Research Output Roundtable at Chinese Sociology Society UK</b>	<b>Online</b>
<i>Presenter</i>	08/2025
Love in a Transient Sexual Field: Female Chinese International Students' Racialised Desire on Mobile Dating Applications	
<b>The International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) Conference 13</b>	<b>Surabaya, Indonesia</b>
<i>Presenter</i>	07/2024
The chaos of dating: perceptions and navigations of dating among Chinese young migrants in the UK	
<b>China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) Conference</b>	<b>Amsterdam, Netherlands</b>
<i>Presenter</i>	09/2023
Migration and mobile dating applications: Chinese young migrants' digital dating experiences in the UK	
<b>MA Conference in Durham University</b>	<b>Durham, UK</b>
<i>Keynote Speaker</i>	05/2023
Love in a transient sexual field: UK-based female Chinese international students' racial preference on dating apps	
<b>Course Module: Culture and Society of Contemporary China</b>	<b>Online</b>
<i>Guest Lecturer at University of Nottingham</i>	03/2023
Delivered an invited lecture to undergraduate students on female Chinese international students' dating practices, exploring the intersection of Chinese cultural norms, digital intimacy, and gendered expectations in contemporary China.	
<b>British Postgraduate Network for Chinese Studies Annual Conference</b>	<b>Oxford, UK</b>
<i>Presenter</i>	06/2022
Intimacy and Mobile Dating Applications Use: A study of Chinese international students in the UK	
<b>Cambridge Pembroke Chinese Migration Workshop</b>	<b>Cambridge, UK</b>
<i>Presenter</i>	04/2022
Intimacy and Mobile Dating Applications Use: A study of Chinese international students in the UK	

## **Funding & Academic Awards**

---

Finnish Youth Research Society Fund	2024
Van Mildert College Challenge and Opportunity Fund, Durham University	2024
Postgraduate Student Research Fund, Durham University	2023, 2024
Postgraduate Participation Fund, Durham University	2022

## **Skills**

---

**Languages:** English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)

**Skills:** Microsoft Office applications, Nvivo, Atlas.ti, SPSS, Podcaster

**Qualifications:** TEM-8, IELTS (overall 7.5), the Cambridge Teaching Knowledge Test certificate