

HAN ZHANG

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The Watson School of International and Public Affairs
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EMPLOYMENT • Brown University

Young Family Assistant Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, 2025–present

Assistant Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, 2024–present

Jointly appointed in :

- Department of Sociology
- The Watson School of International and Public Affairs

Faculty Affiliate:

- Population Studies and Training Center
- Data Science Institute

• The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Assistant Professor
Division of Social Science
2020–2024

EDUCATION

• Princeton University

Ph.D., Sociology, 2020
M.A., Sociology, 2018
Advisor: Matthew Salganik

• Peking University

B.S., Computer Science and B.A., History (Minor), 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Digital surveillance; social movements; political sociology; authoritarian politics; computational social science; causal inference; experimental methods

PUBLICATIONS

^s Student collaborator; ^{*} Corresponding author

- **Han Zhang.** 2025. “Two-Layer Panopticon: How the Chinese Government Uses Digital Surveillance to Prevent Collective Action.” *Social Forces*: online first.
- **Han Zhang*** and Ryan Leung^s. 2025. “Joint Text-and-Image Clustering for Social Science Research.” *Sociological Methodology*: online first.
- Jean Hong, Kim Yong, **Han Zhang**, and Tianzhu Qin^s. 2025. “Hug Fans or Follow Celebrities? How Nationalism Is Reinforced on Chinese Social Media.” *Science Advances* 11 (45): eadu8241.
- **Han Zhang***, Yao Lu, and Rui Bai^s. 2024. “Selection and Description Bias in Protest Reporting by Government and News Media on Weibo.” *The China Quarterly* 257: 75–99.
- Cheng, Linda^s, Yao Lu, and **Han Zhang**. 2024. “Gendered Erasure and Manufactured Passivity: Asymmetric Media Attention to Protests in China.” *Mobilization* 29 (3): 309–331.
- Liu, Larry^s, and **Han Zhang**. 2023. “Robots and Protest: Does Increased Protest among Chinese Workers Result in More Automation?” *Socio-Economic Review* 21 (3): 1751–1772.
- Wei, Lai^s, Elaine Yao^s, and **Han Zhang***. 2023. “Authoritarian Responsiveness and Political Attitudes during COVID-19: Evidence from Weibo and a Survey Experiment.” *Chinese Sociological Review* 55 (1): 1–37.
- **Han Zhang** and Yilang Peng. 2022. “Automated Image Clustering for Social Scientists: Review and Assessment of Performance.” *Sociological Methods & Research* 53 (3): 1534–1587.
- **Han Zhang** and Jennifer Pan. 2019. “CASM: A Deep-Learning Approach for Identifying Collective Action Events with Text and Image Data from Social Media.” *Sociological Methodology* 49 (1): 1–57.
- **Han Zhang**, Shawndra Hill, and David Rothschild. 2018. “Addressing Selection Bias in Event Studies with General Purpose Social Media Panels.” *Journal of Data and Information Quality* 10 (1): 1936–1955.

BOOK CHAPTER

- **Han Zhang.** 2023. “Analyzing Image Data with Machine Learning.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*, edited by Christian Borch and Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- PI, Hong Kong Research Grant Council, General Research Fund (No. 16602423), “Will More Surveillance Cameras Lead to Fewer Protests? A Global Level Analysis ” (2023 - terminated). HKD \$ 530,400.

- PI, Hong Kong Research Grant Council, Early Career Scheme (No. 26600321), “Whether and When Grievances Become Protests in China: A Big Data Approach” (2022 - terminated). HKD \$ 568,150.

AWARDS

- Best Paper Award, Computational Methods Division, International Communication Association, 2021.
- The Mayer Zald Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, American Sociological Association, 2016.

SERVICES

Service at Brown

- Data Science Institute, Campus Advisory Board, 2025 –
- Faculty Search Committee (Junior search in Sociology and Social Policy), 2025–2026
- Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology, 2025–2026

Service at Previous Institutions

- Faculty Search Committee, Division of Social Science, HKUST, 2023
- Faculty Search Committee, Division of Social Science, HKUST, 2021

Service to the Profession

- Editorial Board, *Sociological Methodology*, 2025–2027
- Member, PolMeth poster award committee, 2023
- Member, ASA Section of Collective Behaviors and Social Movements, Best Graduate Student Paper committee, 2017
- Co-Hosting the first-ever Hong Kong edition of the Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science (SICSS) in 2021 and continuing in 2022. (https://sicss.io/2021/hong_kong/)

TEACHING

Courses at Brown

Term	Course	Title	Level	Enrollment
Spring 2025	SOC 2961M	Computational Methods for Social Scientists	Grad	26
Fall 2024	IAPA 1801X	Surveillance: State, Capitalism, and Society	Undergrad	10

Academic Advising & Student Supervision at Brown

Year	Student	Department	Level	Role
2024–	Hsu Huang	Sociology	PhD	Committee Member
2026–2026	Emily Hong	Sociology	Undergrad	Advisor
2025–2026	Derin Aderoju	IAPA	Undergrad	Advisor
2025–2026	Elliot Smith	IAPA	Undergrad	Advisor
2024–2025	Raima Islam	IAPA	Undergrad	Reader

Courses at HKUST

Years	Course	Title	Level
2020–2023	SOSC 5340	Econometric Approaches to Social Science Research	PhD
2020–2023	SOSC 4300/5500	Computational Social Science	UG/Grad

Student Supervision at HKUST

Year	Student	Department/Field	Role
2022–2024	Jingchen Li	Social Science (MPhil)	Chair
2022–2024	Pei Chen	Social Science (MPhil)	Chair
2020–2022	Chuyao Wang	Social Science (MPhil)	Chair

Research Assistant (pre-doc) Supervision

Year	Student	Placement
2022–2024	Zhiyu Li	PhD in Government, Harvard
2023–2024	Shuhan Huang	PhD in Operation Research, Hong Kong PolyU
2021–2022	Yilin Zhu	PhD in Sociology, UCSD

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Research Intern, Microsoft Research (New York City) Summer 2015
Working with Dr. David Rothschild and Dr. Shawndra Hill.
- Research Intern, Microsoft Research (Asia) Summer 2014
Working with Dr. Xing Xie and Dr. Nicholas Yuan Jing.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023–2018
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2025–2016
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2024

INVITED TALKS New York University, Yale University, The City University of New York, The University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, The University of Macau, Peking University, Renmin University of China, Nanjing University, Shanghai University.

REVIEWERS *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, American Political Science Review, Social Forces, Comparative Political Studies, Sociological Methods and Research, Sociological Methodology, Political Analysis, Chinese Sociological Review, Sociological Focus, Sage Open, Mobilization, Social Science Computer Review, The IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*