

Tianyao Qu

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2024–present Postdoctoral Researcher, Irsay Institute, Indiana University Bloomington (PI: Brea Perry)

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D., Sociology, Cornell University

Areas of Concentration: Health, Social Networks, and Economic Sociology

Committee: Benjamin Cornwell (Chair), Vida Maralani, Filiz Garip (Princeton), Will Hobbs

Dissertation: A Structural Perspective on Social Relationships and Well-Being

2021 M.A., Sociology, Cornell University

2018 B.A., Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Graduated with distinction

Thesis: Do Higher Social Classes Exhibit Greater Ignorance? Evidence from Visual Attention in an Eye-Tracking Experiment

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Networks, Sociology of Health and Illness, Aging and the Life Course, Gender, Economic Sociology, Social Inequality, Quantitative Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Qu, Tianyao. 2024. "A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as a Determinant of Depression in Later Life." *Social Science & Medicine* 345:116684.

Cornwell, Benjamin, **Tianyao Qu**, and Erin York Cornwell. 2024. "The Social Connectedness of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence by Survey Mode and Respondent Dementia." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. 2024. "'I Love You to Death': Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 00221465231175685

[Media Coverage: [Cornell Chronicle](#)]

Wright, Lucas, Roxana Mika Muenster, Briana Vecchione, **Tianyao Qu**, Pika (Senhuang) Cai, Alan Smith, COMM 2450 Student Investigators, Jacob Metcalf, and J. Nathan Matias. 2024. "Null Compliance: NYC Local Law 144 and the Challenges of Algorithm Accountability." In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM*

Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '24), pp. 1701–1713. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery.

[Media Coverage: [Wall Street Journal](#)]

Qu, Tianyao. 2023. “Chronic Illness and Social Network Bridging in Later Life.” *Social Networks* 74:1–12.

Yan, Xuewen, and **Tianyao Qu.** 2022. “Linked through the Life Course: Core Family Members’ Infection, COVID-19 Illness Severity, and the Moderating Role of Age.” *Chinese Sociological Review* 54:482–515.

Yan, Xuewen, **Tianyao Qu**, Nathan Sperber, Jinyuan Lu, Mengzhen Fan, and Benjamin Cornwell. 2021. “Social Connectedness to Other COVID-19 Patients as a Risk Factor for Illness Severity: A Network Analysis of 417 Cases in Shenzhen, China.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 65:1901–1928.

Dai, Simin, **Tianyao Qu**, and Zicheng Du. 2017. “The Implications of China’s Nationwide Online Live Show: Young Adults’ Attempts to Reconstruct Community in the Postmodern Society.” *Youth Exploration* 3:5–15. (in Chinese). Reprinted in *Proceedings of China Social Science Excellence*.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PREPARATION

Qu, Tianyao, Maleah Ann Fekete, Siyun Peng, Brea Perry, and Adam Roth. “Hidden Gendered Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction.” Under review at *American Journal of Sociology*.

Qu, Tianyao. “Paying for Affection, Intimacy, or Status? Virtual Gifting and Emotional Value in Chinese Live-Streaming.” Under review at *American Sociological Review*.

Qu, Tianyao. “Stay Connected or Regulated? Social Sequences of Everyday Activities and Health during the Global Pandemic.” *In preparation for submission*.

Fekete, Maleah Ann, **Tianyao Qu**, Siyun Peng, Brea Perry, and Adam Roth. “Later Life Social Interactions in Community Spaces.” Revise & Resubmit at *Social Forces*

Qu, Tianyao, Maleah Ann Fekete, Siyun Peng, Brea Perry, and Adam Roth. “Daily Routine and Health in Later Life: An Innovative Use of Ecological Momentary Assessment Data.” Under Review at *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B*

Qu, Tianyao, Jessica Brantez, and Brea Perry. “Bridging on Gendered Terms: Role Accumulation and Network Inequality.” (Draft available)

Qu, Tianyao, Zoey Lai, Jessica Brantez, and Brea Perry. “Ties That Matter: Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Cognitive Rewards in Later Life.” (Draft available)

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. "How the COVID-19 Pandemic Reshaped Non-Household Social Participation." In Progress.

Cornwell, Benjamin, and Tianyao Qu. "Social Network Change and COVID-19 Transmission Among Older Americans." In Progress.

INVITED TALKS

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. "'I Love You to Death.' Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality." Duke Network Analysis Center, May 2022.

Qu, Tianyao. "The Power of Connection: Social Capital and Well-being in Later Life." Department of Social Work, Shenzhen, China, June 2025. (in Chinese)

Qu, Tianyao. "Hidden Gendered Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction". Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, September 2025. (in Chinese)

Qu, Tianyao. "Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Gender Inequality in Cognitive Aging". Department of Sociology, Xiamen University, December 2025. (in Chinese)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Qu, Tianyao, Maleah Fekete, Brea Perry, Siyun Peng, and Adam Roth. "Hidden Gender Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction."

- Paper Presentation, ASA Annual Meeting (Gender Inequality Session), Chicago, 2025

Qu, Tianyao. "Stay Connected and Regulated? Social Sequences of Everyday Activities and Health During the Global Pandemic."

- Paper Presentation, Sequence Analysis Workshop, PAA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2025
- Paper Presentation, ASA Annual Meeting (Health Inequality Session), Chicago, 2025

Qu, Tianyao. "Paying for Affection, Intimacy, Status? How Virtual Gifting Creates Emotional Value in the Chinese Live-Streaming Industry."

- Early Career Workshop, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Montreal, Canada, July 2025
- Roundtable, ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 2024

Qu, Tianyao. "A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as a Determinant in Depression in Later Life."

- Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, 2023

- Paper Presentation, Collaborative for Innovation in Data & Measurement in Aging (CIDMA) Workshop, University of Chicago, September 2023
- Paper Session, PAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2023

Qu, Tianyao. “Chronic Illness and Social Network Bridging in Later Life.”

- Paper Session, PAA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 2022
- Paper Session, North American Social Networks Conference, 2021.

Tianyao Qu, Hong Zhang, Yucheng Liang. “Do Higher Social Classes Exhibit Greater Ignorance? Evidence from Visual Attention in an Eye-Tracking Experiment.”

- Paper Session, Annual Meeting of Chinese Sociological Association, Kunming, China, 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(* indicates independent teaching of discussion sections or labs)

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

- * COMM 2820 Research Methods in Communication Studies, Fall 2022
- * SOC 6020 Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research (Graduate level), Spring 2022
- * SOC 3010/6010 Statistics for Sociological Research (Undergrad & Graduate Level), Fall 2019
- * SOC 2220 Controversies About Inequality, Fall 2020
- * SOC 1101 Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2020
- COMM/INFO 3400 Technology and Interpersonal Relationship, Spring 2021
- COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Summer 2023 (Head TA; assisted with syllabus design, course assignments, and personnel coordination)

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 SALC BIPOC Student Travel Award, Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association

2025 Early-Career Scholar Travel Grant, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

2023 Small Grant, Qualitative & Interpretive Research Institute, Cornell Center for Social Sciences (\$800)

2023 Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University (\$250)

2023 Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University (\$2,000)

2022 Citation for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Sociology, Cornell University (SOC 6020, *Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research*)

2021–2023 Conference Travel Grant, Cornell Population Center (\$500)

2021–2022 Seed Grant, Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality (\$1,000)

2020 Graduate Research Funding, Cornell Center for the Study of Economy & Society (\$1,500)

2020 Clogg Scholarship, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

2019–2024 Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University

2018, 2023 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2018 Outstanding Undergraduate Award, Sun Yat-sen University, China
2018 Bachelor's Thesis Research Funding, Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, China
2017 National Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate, Baosteel Education Foundation, China
2014–2017 Excellent Student Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University, China
2017 Department Scholarship, Empirical Social Science Research Summer Class, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

At Cornell University

Co-Investigator, NYC Hiring Algorithm Research Project

2023-2024 (PI: Nathan Matias, Department of Communication)

- Collected transparency notices and bias audits for 500+ New York State companies using Automated Employment Decision Tools (AEDTs) in job listings, analyzed compliance with NYC Local Law 144, and surveyed 500+ college students on perceptions of AI-based screening.

Research Assistant, Multiverse Analysis: Social Capital and Income Inequality

2021- 2022 (PIs: Cristobal Young, Benjamin Cornwell, and Barum Park, Department of Sociology)

- Curated multiple dimensions of social capital (name-, position-, and resource-generators)
- Harmonized social capital measures and inflation-adjusted household income across national datasets (GSS 1972-2020, CPS, ANES, CNES, American Changing Lives 1986-2011, American Trends Panel Survey) and visualized their relationships.

At Sun Yat-sen University

Research Assistant & Field Interviewer, China Labor Force Dynamics Survey (CLDS)

Summer 2016 (Center for Social Survey & Department of Sociology)

- Household interview supervisor: Selected on-site samples, mapped community boundaries, trained and led a team of 8 interviewers to complete 120 household interviews in three Shenzhen neighborhoods, improved longitudinal follow-up rates by ~10%; Research assistant: cleaned data for errors and missing items.

SERVICE

- Judge, Cornell Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2023
- Co-organizer, 12th Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Research Symposium, 2020
- Treasurer, Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2020-2021
- Graduate Student Mentor, 2019-2020

Ad hoc reviewer: *American Sociological Review*; *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (*3); *Social Forces* (*2); *Social Science and Medicine- Population Health* (*3); *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B* (*2);

*Chinese Sociological Review; BMC Public Health; Sociological Focus; SOCIUS; Current Psychology; 2023
PAA poster discussant*

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association, 2019-2025
Population Association of America, 2021-2025
International Network for Social Network Analysis, 2019-2024
Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2021-2025
International Chinese Sociological Association, 2021-2025
Irsay Research Institute
Cornell Population Center, Cornell University
Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University

COMPUTER LANGUAGES

Stata, R, UCINET, Network Canvas, MAXQDA

METHODS AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Social Network Analysis, Social Sequence Analysis, Multilevel and Longitudinal Modeling, Time Use and Event Data, Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA), Survey and Experimental Design (Qualtrics, MTurk), In-depth Interviews, Mixed Methods

REFERENCES

Brea Perry (blperry@iu.edu), Allen D. and Polly S. Grimshaw Professor of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47408

Benjamin Cornwell (btc49@cornell.edu), Professor of Sociology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850

Vida Maralani (vida.maralani@cornell.edu), Associate Professor of Sociology & Director of Graduate Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850