

# Haotian Zheng

[Click to pronounce](#)

1 Brookings Dr, St. Louis, MO 63130

[haotian.z@wustl.edu](mailto:haotian.z@wustl.edu)

## Education, Training, & Certification

---

### Education

- 2020-Present   PhD Student, Social Work  
*Brown School of Social Work*  
**Washington University, St. Louis**  
Proposed Dissertation: Three Papers on Assessing Financial Capability:  
Evaluating Its Association with Financial Well-Being Dissertation  
Chair: Michael Sherraden, PhD
- 2023   Master of Arts, Economics  
*Dept. of Economics*  
**University of Missouri-Columbia**
- 2019   Master of Social Work  
*School of Social Work*  
**University of Michigan**
- 2017   LL.B., Sociology / Social Work  
*School of Sociology*  
**Central China Normal University (CCNU)**
- 2016   [BISP](#) Student, Sociology (CSC-Funded For Outstanding Undergrads)  
*Dept. of Sociology*  
**University of California-Berkeley**
- 2015   Exchange Student, Psychol. Counseling  
*Dept. of Psychol. Counseling*  
**National Taipei University of Education**

### Training

- 2020   Summer Workshop: Introduction to the Health and Retirement Study  
University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- 2019   Analysis Methods for Complex Sample Survey Data  
University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
- 2019   Race at the Forefront: Sharpening a focus on race in applied research  
Washington University Brown School of Social Work
- 2018   Entering, Engaging, and Exiting Communities Training  
University of Michigan Ginsberg Center
- 2017   Innovation Training Program  
CCNU

## Certificates

- 2021 Completed Coursework in Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Data Analysis (Certification not issued due to departmental policy)  
Washington University
- 2019 Financial Social Work Certificate  
Center for Financial Social Work
- 2019 Human Service Management Certificate  
University of Michigan School of Social Work
- 2018 Online Certificate in Political Social Work  
University of Michigan School of Social Work

## Research Interests, Experience, & Skills

---

### Interests

Financial well-being; Financial capability theory/intervention; Social policy; Asset-based theory

### Experience

- 2021-Present **Research Associate**  
Center for Social Development, Washington University  
Supervised by Jin Huang, Ph.D.  
*Project/Grant:* SEED for Oklahoma Kids
- 2021-Present **Research Assistant**  
Social Policy Institute, Washington University  
PI: Stephen Roll, Ph.D.  
*Project/Grant:* Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 Survey; Household Financial Survey; Workforce Financial Stability Initiative
- 2018-Present **Research Assistant**  
Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, University of Michigan  
PI: William Elliott, Ph.D.  
*Project/Grant:* Wabash County Promise Scholarship Program; Harold Alfond College Challenge (HACC); Kickstart to Career Newaygo County
- 2019-2020 **Research Assistant**  
School of Social Work, University of Michigan  
PI: Terri Friedline, Ph.D.  
*Project/Grant:* Mapping Financial Opportunity
- 2019-2020 **Research Assistant**  
School of Social Work, University of Michigan  
PI: Anao Zhang, Ph.D.  
*Project/Grant:* Research methodologies in systematic review and meta-analysis

### Skills

- **Statistical Modeling/Research Design:** OLS, GLM, HLM/MLM, SEM, Panel Data and Longitudinal Modeling, Experimental Design, Causal Inference Methods (PSA, IV, DID, RDD, Synthetical Control, Interrupted Time Series, Randomization/Permutation Tests), Applied Machine Learning Methods, Measurement Theory, Power Analysis,
- **Software Packages and Version Control:** R, Stata,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Git

## Publication

---

### Peer-Reviewed

- Shanks, T., Huang, J., Elliott, W., **Zheng, H.**, Clancy, M., & Sherraden, M. (accepted). A Policy Platform to Deliver Black Reparations: Building on Evidence from Child Development Account. *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.
- Jabbari, J., Terada, T., **Zheng, H.**, & Roll, S. (accepted). Student Loan Policies and Payments during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Closing the Gap or Widening Inequalities? *Journal of Student Financial Aid*.
- Despard, M., **Zheng, H.**, & Fox-Ditcher, S. (2023). Access to Employer Benefits and Financial Well-Being among Frontline Healthcare Workers. *Compensation & Benefits Review*.
- Jabbari, J., **Zheng, H.**, Roll, S., Auguste, D., & Heller, O. (2023). How Did Reskilling during the COVID-19 Pandemic Relate and Entrepreneurship in Optimism? Barriers, Opportunities, and Implications for Equity. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-023-09906-y>
- Elliott, W., **Zheng, H.**, O'Brien, M., & Choi, T. (2023). Children's Savings Accounts and Rural Children's College Expectations: The Case of Kickstart Newaygo County. *Sociology Mind*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.4236/sm.2023.131003>
- Elliott, W., Sorensen, N., **Zheng, H.**, & O'Brien, M. (2023). Early Award Scholarship Program Results in Improved Attendance and State Math Test Scores for Students from Lower-Income Households. *Economies*, 11(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies11030082>
- Chen, Z., O'Brien, M., Nielsen, S., **Zheng, H.**, & Starks, B. (2023). A Cross-Sectional Examination of Educational Expectation Among Welfare Users in an Asset Building Program. *Global Social Welfare: Research, Policy & Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-023-00263-0>
- Zheng, H.**, Elliott, W., & O'Brien, M. (2022a). The Importance of Parent/Child Communications About Children's Savings Accounts for Developing a College-Bound Identity. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 9(9). <https://doi.org/10.14738/assrj.99.13030>
- Zheng, H.**, Elliott, W., & O'Brien, M. (2022). Using Children's Savings Accounts and Early Awards to Build College Savings among Welfare Recipients: The Case of Promise Scholars. *Journal of Poverty*, 26(4). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2021.1910105>
- Zheng, H.**, Harris, E., Elliott, W., & O'Brien, M. (2022). The Role of Children's Savings Accounts in Promoting Savings for College Among Welfare Recipients: The Case of Harold Alfond College Challenge (HACC). *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-022-09837-0>
- Chen, J.-H., Wu, C.-F., & **Zheng, H.** (2022). Who Stays Poor and Who Doesn't? An Analysis Based on Joint Assessment of Income and Assets. *Journal of Social Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279422000563>
- Elliott, W., **Zheng, H.**, Sabol, T., & O'Brien, M. (2021). A step toward measuring children's college-bound identity in children's savings accounts programs: The case of promise scholars. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105791>
- Elliott, W., Sorensen, N., O'Brien, M., Chen, Z., Starks, B., & **Zheng, H.** (2021). The Impact of Grocery Store Rewards Cards on Saving and Asset Accumulation in Children's Savings Account Programs. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/717105>
- Friedline, T., Wood, A. K., Wheatley, M., Oh, S., & **Zheng, H.** (2021). Doubling Down on Racial Capitalism during COVID-19: Qualitative Interviews with Bank Employees. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 698(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162211061277>

- Zheng, H.**, Starks, B., Ellis, J., O'Brien, M., & Elliott, W. (2020). An Examination of Parental College Expectations' Mediating Role between Children's Savings Accounts and Children's Educational Attainment by Income Level. *Sociology Mind*, 10(3). <https://doi.org/10.4236/sm.2020.103011>
- Chen, Z., Elliott, W., Wang, K., Zhang, A., & **Zheng, H.** (2020). Examining parental educational expectations in one of the oldest children's savings account programs in the country: The Harold Alfond College Challenge. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chidyouth.2019.104582>
- Franklin, C., Guz, S., Zhang, A., Kim, J., **Zheng, H.**, Hai, A. H., Cho, Y. J., & Shen, L. (2022). Solution-Focused Brief Therapy for Students in Schools: A Comparative Meta-Analysis of the U.S. and Chinese Literature. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, 13(2). <https://doi.org/10.1086/712169>
- Wang, K., Zhang, A., **Zheng, H.**, Kim, Y., & Padilla, Y. (2021). Proximal Social Determinants of Adolescents' Health: The Importance of Everyday Life Circumstances. *Youth & Society*, 53(6). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X20918436>

### Under Consideration

- Conroy, S., **Zheng, H.**, Roll, S., & Despard, M. (Under review). Volatility or Variability? Redirecting the Management Conversation on Pay Volatility.
- Zheng, H.**, Roll, S., & Despard, M. (Revised & Re-submitted). Job Loss During COVID-19 on Early Retirement Withdrawals: A Moderated-Mediation Analysis. *Submitted to The Journal of Consumer Affairs*.
- Roll, S., **Zheng, H.**, Hamilton, L., Despard, M., & Chun, Y. (Revised & Re-submitted). The Impacts of the Child Tax Credit on Financial Resilience and the Use of High-Cost Financial Resources: Evidence from a Panel Survey. *Submitted to Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*.
- Sherraden, M., **Zheng, H.**, Shanks, T., & Huang, J. (Under review). Historical Harms by Race in the United States: A Family Level Assessment.
- Bartosiak, A., Loibl, C., **Zheng, H.**, & Roll, S. (Revised & Re-submitted). To What Extent Did Social Media Use Contribute to Financial Hardship One Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic? Examining the Role of Fear of Missing Out. *Submitted to International Journal of Communication*.

### Presentation

- Zheng, H.**, Huang, J., & Sherraden, M. Historical Harm and Contemporary Wealth Disparities [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *2024 Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Washington, D.C., 2024.
- Zheng, H.**, Despard, M., & Roll, S. COVID-19 Related Job Loss and Early Withdrawals from Retirement Accounts: Mediation by Financial Hardships and Financial Well-being [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *ACCI 2023 Annual Conference*. Las Vegas, NV, 2023.
- Zheng, H.**, Despard, M., & Roll, S. COVID-19 Related Job Loss and Early Withdrawals from Retirement Accounts: Mediation by Financial Hardships and Financial Well-being [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *2023 Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Phoenix, AZ, 2023.
- Sherraden, M., **Zheng, H.**, Shanks, T., Shanadora, B., & Huang, J. Historical Harm by Race in the United States [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *2023 Society for Social Work and Research Conference*. Phoenix, AZ, 2023.
- Despard, M., **Zheng, H.**, Fox-Dicheer, S., & Gilbert, K. Benefits and Financial Security among Frontline healthcare Workers [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *2022 APPAM Fall Research Conference*. Washington, D.C., 2022.

**Zheng, H.**, Elliott, W., & O'Brien, M. The Importance of Parent/Child Communication about Children's Savings Accounts for Developing a College-Bound Identity [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *2021 APPAM Fall Research Conference*. Austin, TX, 2022.

Bartosiak, A., Loibl, C., **Zheng, H.**, & Roll, S. The Association of Fear of Missing Out, Social Media Use and Credit Card Debt [Peer-Reviewed]. In: In *ACCI 2022 Annual Conference*. Clearwater Beach, FL, 2022.

## Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

---

- 2023 Teaching Excellence Award for Doctoral Teaching Fellow of Brown School
- 2022 American Council on Consumer Interests Small Grant (\$2,500)
- 2020 MRDRC HRS Workshop Award(\$550)
- 2020 Global Independent Study Grant (\$2,000)
- 2016 Excellent Student Awards in CCNU
- 2015 Excellent Award of Social Work Case Competition in Hubei Province

## Teaching

---

- 2022 Fall **Teaching Assistant** of MPH 5230 Applied Linear Regression  
Brown School of Social Work, Washington University  
Supervised by RJ Waken, Ph.D.  
*Activities:* Led two lectures, graded three assignments and final papers, and held weekly office hours
- 2022 Fall **Teaching Assistant** of SWCR 5007 Research Methods with Statistical Applications  
Brown School of Social Work, Washington University  
Supervised by Proscovia Nabunya, Ph.D.  
*Activities:* Led three lectures, graded three assignments and final papers, and held weekly office hours
- 2022 Spring **Teaching Assistant** of SWSP 5842 Social Policy Analysis & Evaluation  
Brown School of Social Work, Washington University  
Supervised by Daniel Ferris, Ph.D. and Molly Pearson  
*Activities:* Led one lecture, graded two assignments and final papers, and held weekly office hours

## Services & Professional Experiences

---

**Ad-Hoc Reviewer:** Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning, Journal of Financial and Economic Issues, American Council on Consumer Interests Annual Conference, Journal of Psychosocial Oncology, International Journal of Mental Health Promotion

## Services

- 2019 **Auction Site Manager**  
[Douglas Davies Library Auction](#), University of Michigan-SSW
- 2019 **Project Lead**  
United Way of Washtenaw County Volunteer Landscape Evaluation, University of Michigan Ginsberg Center Community Technical Assistance Collaboration
- 2019 **Member**  
Congressional Research Institute for Social Work & Policy: Social Work Day on the Hill
- 2019 **Interprofessional Student Member**  
+Lab at Center on Positive Organizations, University of Michigan Ross School of Business
- 2015 **Data Analyst**  
Social Work Clinical Case Competition of Hubei Province
- 2015 **International Volunteer**  
Nepal's Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Center

## Professional Experiences

- 2018 **Peer Mentor**  
University of Michigan-SSW Mentorship Program
- 2018 **Intern**  
Department of Services Management, Taikang Healthcare Investment Holdings Co. Ltd
- 2018 **Intern**  
Coordinated Funding, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED)
- 2016 **Intern**  
Summer Youth Program, Wuhan Hongshan District Jinhe Park Youth Space
- 2015 **Intern**  
Community Organization Incubation, Wuhan Boya Social Work Service Center