

Wencheng Zhang
Center on Aging and the Life Course (CALC)
Purdue University
Zhan5119@purdue.edu

Education

2024-current	Post-doctoral Research Associate, Purdue University
2023	Ph.D., Sociology, Syracuse University
2015	M.A., Sociology, Renmin University
2013	B.A., Sociology, Shanghai University

Research Interests

Medical Sociology, Aging and Life Course, Intergenerational family dynamics, Quantitative Research Methods

Awards, Fellowships, and Research Experience

2024	University Doctoral Prize, Syracuse University
2023	Sociology Research Excellence Doctoral Funding (REDF) Fellowship
2015-2018	Research Assistant for Jennifer Karas Montez, Aging Studies Institute, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
2016-2023	Research Assistant for Merrill Silverstein, Aging Studies Institute, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
2013-2014	First-class Scholarship for Master's candidate of Renmin University of China

Publications

Zhang, W., & Silverstein, M. (2023). Does the Economic Status of Adult Children Influence Self-Rated Health Among Older Adults in China? *The journals of gerontology. Series B, Psychological sciences and social sciences*, gbad078. Advance online publication.

Zhang, W., Rodziewicz, G., Lane, S. D., & Voss, M. A. (2021). Historical Trauma and Epigenetics. In S. C. Scrimshaw, S. D. Lane, R. A. Rubinstein, & J. Fischer, *Handbook of Social Studies in Health and Medicine* (2nd ed.). SAGE Publications.

Zhang, W., & Silverstein, M. (2021). Family Structure, Socioeconomic Achievement of Children, and Preferences for Long-term Care Among Rural and Urban Older Adults in China. In M. Silverstein, *Aging Families in Chinese Society*. Routledge Press.

Silverstein, M., & Zhang, W. (2019). Grandparents' financial contributions to grandchildren in rural China: The role of remittances, household structure, and patrilineal culture. *The Journals of Gerontology. Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Science*.

Montez, J. K., Zhang, W., Zajacova, A., & Hamilton, T. G. (2018). Does college major matter for women's and men's health in midlife? Examining the horizontal dimensions of educational attainment. *Social Science & Medicine*, 130-138.

Work in Progress

Wencheng Zhang. “The Association of Children’s Gender, Children’s Sibling Network Type, and Parental Support in China.”

Maria Teresa Brown, Wencheng Zhang, Woosang Hwang, Merrill Silverstein. “Does religiosity in early middle age reduce risk of mortality over five decades? A multidimensional consideration within a hazard modeling framework.”

Woosang Hwang, Narges Hadi, Wencheng Zhang, Maria Teresa Brown, and Merrill Silverstein. “Does Intergenerational Solidarity with Adult Children in Middle Age Reduce Risk of Mortality Over Time?”

Merril Silverstein, Seonhwa Lee, Tae K. Lee, RianSimone O. Harris & Wencheng Zhang. “Religion as a Basis for the Transmission of Values between Generations.”

Silverstein, M., Zhang, W., Wolf, D. A., & Brown, M. T. “Early Intergenerational Relationships and Later Support Provided to Older Parents: Time-to-Death as a Contingency.”

Presentations

- 2024 Wencheng Zhang, Merrill Silverstein. “Sibling’s Influence on Children’s Provision of Instrumental and Financial Support to Parents in Rural China.” 2024 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America.
- 2023 Wencheng Zhang, Merrill Silverstein. “Coresidence with a Widowed Parent and Financial Support from Siblings: Testing Altruism and Bargaining Theories.” 2023 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America.
- 2022 Maria Teresa Brown, Wencheng Zhang, Woosang Hwang, Merrill Silverstein. “Does religiosity in early middle age reduce risk of mortality over five decades? A multidimensional consideration within a hazard modeling framework.” 33rd REVES Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 2021 Silverstein, M., Zhang, W., Wolf, D. A., & Brown, M. T. (2021). Early Intergenerational Relationships and Later Support Provided to Older Parents: Time-to-Death as a Contingency. GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting.
- 2018 Wencheng Zhang, Merrill Silverstein. “Health Inequality in the Older Population of China: The Contribution of Adult Children’s Socioeconomic Status” Presented in the session of Comparative Perspectives on Inequality in Later Life, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 2018.
- 2017 Wencheng Zhang, Sandra Lane. “Genetics, Epigenetics and Biocultural Influences on Type II Diabetes.” Presented at the Dept of Ob/Gyn Grand Rounds, SUNY Upstate Medical University.
- Jennifer Karas Montez, Wencheng Zhang, Anna Zajacova, Tod G. Hamilton. “Does College Major Matter for Women’s and Men’s Health? Examining the Horizontal Dimensions of Educational Attainment.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

- Wencheng Zhang. "Early-life Exposure to the China Famine and the Subsequent Risk of Type 2 Diabetes." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.
- 2016 Wencheng Zhang. "Children's Siblings Network and the Parental Caregiving Task in China." Presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society.
- Merril Silverstein, Ling Xu, Wencheng Zhang. "Caregiving Grandparents in Rural China: Emotional and Financial Investments in Grandchildren." Presented at annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.
- 2014 Wencheng Zhang. "Social Medical Insurance and Physical Health of the Elderly in China." Presented at National Seminar on Population and Health, China.
- 2013 Wencheng Zhang. "Living arrangement and psychological well-being of the elderly in China." Presented at the 2013 IUSSP panel on Understanding Intergenerational Relationships and Support, University of Southampton.

Teaching Experience

- 2021 Teaching Introduction to Sociology as an independent instructor
- 2019 Teaching assistant for Introduction to Sociology
- 2019 Teaching assistant for Aging and Society
- 2019 Guest Lecture "Introduction to Research" for Intermediate Social Statistics at undergraduate level at Syracuse University
- 2018 Guest Lecture "Introduction to Multivariate Regression" for Intermediate Social Statistics at graduate level at Syracuse University
- Teaching aide for lab sessions of Intermediate Social Statistics at graduate level at Syracuse University

Training Experience

- 2024 Mixture Modeling and Latent Class Analysis, by Dan Bauer
- 2023 Multilevel Modeling, by Dan Bauer & Patrick Curran.
- 2022 Structural Equation Modeling, by Paul Allison.
- 2020 Missing Data, by Paul Allison
- 2020 Treatment Effect Analysis, by Stephen Vaisey
- 2017 Longitudinal Analysis. ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.
- 2017 Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics. ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.
- 2016 Multilevel and Mixed Models Using Stata. ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.
- 2014 Survey Data Analysis, instructed by Donald J. Treiman, Ph.D, Professor from the University of California at Los Angeles.
- 2013 The 2nd Training Workshop on Applied Social Science Research Methods,

instructed by Xiaogang Wu

Institutional and Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences

Journal of Health and Social Behavior

Journal of Social and Personal Relationships

Service

2018-2020	Student Representatives at the Sociology Faculty Meeting, Sociology Department, Syracuse University
2019-2020	Academic Integrity Hearing Panel, Syracuse University
2011-2012	Serving as the president of Sociology Student Association, Sociology Department, Shanghai University, China.
2009-2010	Volunteer at Migrant Worker's Community at Dachang Town, Baoshan District, Shanghai, China.

Professional Memberships

Member, American Sociological Association

Member, Eastern Sociological Society

Member, Population Association of America

Member, Gerontological Society of America (GSA)