

Yuchen Yang, Ph.D.

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EMPLOYMENT

2024 – Assistant Professor in Sociology, University of Birmingham

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D., Sociology (with certificate in gender & sexuality studies), University of Chicago

2019 M.A. Sociology, University of Chicago

2017 B.A. (Highest Distinction), Sociology and Asian Studies, UC Berkeley

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

gender, sexuality, culture, childhood, theory, semiotics, ethnomethodology, qualitative methodology

BOOK MANUSCRIPT UNDER CONTRACT

In prep. *When Gender Happens: Non-Sexist Parenting and the Perplexity of Normativity*. Under contract with University of Chicago Press.

* Richard Saller Prize for the Most Outstanding Dissertation in the Social Sciences Division (across 8 disciplines) at the University of Chicago, 2025

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2025 **Yang, Yuchen**. “Gender Uptake: Theorizing the Semiotics of (Un)Doing Gender.” *Sociological Theory* 43(4):360–384. [Featured article]

* ASA Junior Theorist Award, 2025

* SSSI Herbert Blumer Award, 2025

* ASA EMCA Section Graduate Student Paper Award, 2023

* 4th most-downloaded article in *Sociological Theory*, 2025

2024 Winer, Canton, Megan Carroll, **Yuchen Yang**, Katherine Linder, and Brittney Miles. “I Didn’t Know Ace Was a ‘Thing’: Bisexuality and Pansexuality as Identity Pathways in Asexual Identity Formation.” *Sexualities* 27(1–2):267–289.

* ASA Sexualities Section Distinguished Article Award, 2025

2023 **Yang, Yuchen**. “Gender Uncoupled: Asexual People Making Sense of High School Sex Talk.” *Sexualities* 26(3):372–387.

2022 **Yang, Yuchen**. “The Art Worlds of Gender Performance: Cosplay, Embodiment, and the Collective Accomplishment of Gender.” *The Journal of Chinese Sociology* 9:Article 9.

* SSSI Herbert Blumer Award, 2023

* ASA Body & Embodiment Section Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention, 2023

2020 **Yang, Yuchen.** “What’s Hegemonic about Hegemonic Masculinity? Legitimation and Beyond.” *Sociological Theory* 38(4):318–333. [Featured article]

* ASA Sex & Gender Section Distinguished Article Award, 2022

* ASA Theory Section Shils-Coleman Prize, 2021

* 2nd most downloaded article in *Sociological Theory*, 2021

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTER IN PROGRESS

In prep. “‘Doing Gender’ as a Social Theory of Children”

* ASA History of Sociology and Social Thought Section Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention, 2024

“Against Adult Imperialism: The Missing Childist Revolution in Feminist Sociology” (with Freeden Blume Oeur)

“Extending the Extended Case Method for Interactionist and Ethnomethodological Theorizing.” Invited chapter for *Handbook of Sociological Theorizing*, edited by S. Abrutyn and O. Lizardo. Oxford: University of Oxford Press.

REPORT

2025 **Yang, Yuchen** and Atticus Wolfe. “The ‘Not Sociology’ Problem Revisited: Key Findings from the 2024 ASA Sex & Gender Section Student Survey.” *American Sociological Association Sex & Gender Section Newsletter* June 2025:3–8.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2026 Commended Finalist for Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award, University of Birmingham

2025 Junior Theorist Award, American Sociological Association Section on Theory

2025 Herbert Blumer Award, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

2025 Distinguished Article Award, American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities

2025 Richard Saller Prize for the Most Outstanding Dissertation in the Social Sciences Division, the University of Chicago

2024 Honorable Mention for Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association Section on History of Sociology and Social Thought

2023 Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association Section on

- Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis
- 2023 Herbert Blumer Award, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
- 2023 Honorable Mention for Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association Section on Body and Embodiment
- 2022 Distinguished Article Award, American Sociological Association Section on Sex and Gender
- 2021 Shils-Coleman Prize, American Sociological Association Section on Theory
- 2019 Honors pass, Special field exam, UChicago Department of Sociology
- 2017 Departmental Citation Winner, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology
- 2017 Departmental Citation Winner, UC Berkeley Group in Asian Studies

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

University of Birmingham

- 2025 School of Social Policy and Society Research Fund

University of Chicago

- 2023 Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality Dissertation Fellowship
- 2023 Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship [declined][†]
- 2023 Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory Graduate Student Fund
- 2022 Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality Residential Fellowship
- 2022 Society for Social Research Conference Travel Fund
- 2021 Council on Advanced Studies Graduate Student Research Grant
- 2021 Charles R. Henderson Fund Research Grant
- 2021 Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality Research Pivot Grant
- 2020 Center for East Asian Studies Pre-dissertation Research Grant [declined due to Covid]
- 2019 Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality Travel Grant
- 2018 Graduate Council Advanced Travel Fund

[†] One of the highest honors given to UChicago graduate students.

University of California, Berkeley

2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

2015 Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarship

Others

2019 National Women's Studies Association Travel Grant and Conference Scholarship

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

2026 “‘Culture’ in Chicago and Birmingham.” British Sociological Association Annual Meeting Special Event on “Reading Stuart Hall in the Present Conjuncture: Identity and Difference in Nationalist Times,” Manchester, Apr. 10.

2025 “How to Write Theory with Yuchen Yang.” ASA Theory Section Webinar, Online, Nov. 21.

2025 “Rereading ‘Doing Gender.’” Sociology Tank, Online, Aug. 24.

2025 “30 Years of Raewyn Connell’s *Masculinities*: Looking Back and Charting the Future.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Aug. 11.

2023 “Gender Uptake: Theorizing the Semiotics of (Un)Doing Gender.” UC Berkeley Sociology Department, Nov. 6.

2021 “How Do Sociologists Study Masculinities? Frontier and Problems.” Junior Social Theorists: Public Lecture Series, Online, Feb. 28 [790 attendees].

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 “Positioning Positionality: On the Interactional Foundation of Reflexive Social Sciences.” EASA Linguistic Anthropology Network, Leiden, Nov. 6.

2025 “The Missing Childist Revolution in Feminist Sociology: Re-Revisioning Women and Social Change” (with Freedom Blume Oeur; Paper session: Open Topic Paper Session on Sex and Gender). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Aug. 11.

2025 “Positioning Positionality: On the Interactional Foundation of Reflexive Sociology.” Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting, Chicago, Aug. 7.

2025 “Gender Uptake: Theorizing the Semiotics of (Un)Doing Gender.” British Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Paper session: Social Divisions / Social Identities), Manchester, Apr. 23.

2024 “A Jigsaw Puzzle of Identities: Positioning Positionality in In-Depth Interviews.”

UChicago Sociology Spring Institute, Chicago, Apr. 6.

- 2023 “Gender Uptake: Theorizing the Semiotics of (Un)Doing Gender.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Paper session: Critique of the Sign), Philadelphia, Aug. 21.
- 2023 “Positioning Positionality.” Michicagoan Conference in Linguistic Anthropology, Chicago, May 12.
- 2022 “‘Doing Gender’ as a Social Theory of Children.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Paper session: Performance and Power in the History of Sociology), Los Angeles, Aug. 9.
- 2019 “Gender Uncoupled: Asexual People’s Narratives of High School Sex Talks.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, Nov. 14.
- 2019 “Gender Uncoupled: Asexual People’s Narratives of High School Sex Talks.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Paper session: Let’s Talk about Sex), New York, Aug. 11.
- 2018 “Gender Revealed: The Collective Gender Performance in Gender-Crossing Cosplay.” Queer Asia Conference, SOAS University of London, Jun. 27.
- 2017 “Cultural Capital Transmission in Non-Nuclear Family: Evidence from China.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Portland, Apr. 7.

MEDIA APPEARANCE

- 2025 Featured in ASA/Sage Sociology podcast, “Gender Uptake: Theorizing the Semiotics of (Un)Doing Gender”, interviewed by Madison Austin.
- 2025 Quoted in *Vox* article, “What Happens When A Grievance Comedian Turns to Empathy?”, by Aja Romano.

TEACHING PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **Yang, Yuchen.** “Doing and Undoing Gender Lesson Plan.” *Gender & Society Blog: In the Classroom Teaching Modules.*
- 2020 **Yang, Yuchen,** Melissa Kinsella, and Jihmmy Sanchez. “Men and Masculinities Lesson Plan.” *Gender & Society Blog: In the Classroom Teaching Modules.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- 2024 – Module lead, seminar lead, and/or convener, University of Birmingham
Sociology of Everyday Life (2025)

Transforming Identities (2025, 2026)

Gender & Sexuality (2024, 2025)

Sociology of China Reading Group (non-credit learning opportunity for students)

2019 – 2020 Teaching assistant, University of Chicago

Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations I (2020)

Global Society III: Research Practicum (2020)

Global Society II: Population & Society (2020)

Global Society I: World Social Theory (2019)

2016 – 17 Student DeCal instructor, University of California, Berkeley

Journey to China: Exploration behind Icons (2016, 2017)

2022 – Guest lecturer, Various Institutions

Coding & Interactionist Analysis of Interview Data (2024, UC Berkeley)

Extended Case Method (2022, UChicago)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

University of Birmingham

2025 Inclusive Educator

2024 GenAI Educator

2024 Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

2024 Principles of Assessment and Feedback

2024 Teaching International Students

2024 Open Classroom

2024 Introduction to Large Group Teaching

2024 Navigating the Global Classroom: Teaching Techniques for International Cohorts

University of Chicago

2023 Teaching in the Age of AI

2021 Course Design and College Teaching

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

American Sociological Association

- 2025 – 26 Member, Junior Theorist Award Committee, Theory Section
- 2025 – 26 Member, Culture and Contemporary Life Series Committee, Culture Section
- 2024 – 25 Member, Nomination Committee, Sex & Gender Section
- 2024 – 25 Member, Best Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee, Theory Section
- 2022 – 24 Student Representative, Sex & Gender Section
- 2022 – 24 Co-Chair, Student Concern Committee, Sex & Gender Section

Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

- 2026 Member, Kathy Charmaz Early-in-Career Award Committee
- 2024 Member, Herbert Blumer Award Committee

Sociologists for Women in Society

- 2025 – 27 Member, Professional Development Committee

University of Birmingham

- 2025 – Research Theme Lead, Social Theory, Identities and Social Transformation
- 2025 – 28 Admissions Lead, SPSC Postgraduate Taught Programs
- 2024 – Member, SPSC Awarding Gap Working Group
- 2024 – Member, Sociology Curriculum Group

University of Chicago

- 2023 Panel Moderator, Michicagoan Conference in Linguistic Anthropology
- 2019 – 20 Graduate Student Coordinator, East Asia Workshop: Politics, Economy, and Society

Panel Organization

- 2026 “Childhood and the Cultural Politics of Gender and Sexuality,” ASA Culture Section (co-organized with Jenn David)
- 2026 “Diversity in Culture,” ASA Culture Section (co-organized with Jiwon Yun)
- 2025 “Learning Social Sciences in a Foreign Language,” University of Birmingham
- 2021 “Manning Up for the Nation: State, Media, and China’s Regulation against ‘Sissy’

Men,” UChicago Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality (co-organized with Cate Fugazzola)

Journal & Editorial Service

- 2026 – Deputy Editor, *Sex & Sexualities*
- 2025 – Editorial Board Member, *Men & Masculinities*
- 2025 – 26 Editorial Board Member, *Sex & Sexualities*
- 2023 – 24 Associate Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2019 – 23 Junior Scholar Advisory Board Member, *Gender & Society*
- 2019 – 20 Manuscript Board Member, *American Journal of Sociology*

Ad hoc reviewer *American Journal of Sociology* (7); *American Sociological Review* (1); *Children & Society* (3); *Culture, Sexuality & Health* (3); *Gender & Society* (4); *Men & Masculinities* (6); *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* (2); *Sex & Sexualities* (1); *Social Forces* (1); *Social Media + Society* (1); *Sociological Science* (3); *Sociological Theory* (2); *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* (1); *The Sociological Review* (1)

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), Chinese (Native), Japanese (Advanced)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Conversation analytic transcription: ELAN

Qualitative coding: MaxQDA

Quantitative data analysis: R, STATA

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Sociologists for Women in Society