

YAO LU

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Sociology University of California, Davis One Shields Avenue Davis, CA 95616	<i>Email:</i> jzylu@ucdavis.edu <i>Website:</i> www.yaolusociology.com
RESEARCH FOCUS	Global historical sociology; race and ethnicity; political sociology; empire and colonialism; sociology of Africa; capitalism and financialization	
EDUCATION	University of California, Davis M.A. in Sociology, 2020 Ph.D. in Sociology, 2026 (expected) Dissertation: “Enumerating Race and Ethnicity: Violence, Belonging, and Statecraft in Post-Colonial Zambia and Zimbabwe” Dissertation committee: Stephanie Mudge (Chair), Orly Clerge, Drew Halfmann, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Mhoze Chikowero	
	Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST) M.Sc. in Global China Studies, 2015 M.Phil. in Social Science, 2017	
	Marquette University B.Sc. Business Administration, 2011	
RESEARCH AFFILIATION	University of Zambia Department of Social Work and Sociology	2023-present
	University of Zimbabwe Department of History Heritage and Knowledge Systems	2023-present
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	Yan, Hairong, Barry Sautman, and Yao Lu . 2021. Contract Mobility, Self Mobility, and Chinese Localization in Africa. <i>Open Times</i> . 1:131-155. 严海蓉、沙伯力、路瑶.“合同流动、自主流动和中国人在非洲的本地化.”《开放时代》	
	Yan, Hairong, Barry Sautman, and Yao Lu . 2019. “Chinese and ‘Self-Segregation’ in Africa.” <i>Asian Ethnicity</i> 20(1): 40–66. Reprinted in <i>Chinese in Africa: ‘Chineseness’ and the Complexities of Identities</i> , edited by Obert Hodzi. Routledge.	
WORKING PAPER	Enumerating Race, Ethnicity, and Tribe in African Censuses, 1955-2024. (Revise and resubmit) Classifying the Nation: Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Independent Statecraft in Zambia and Zimbabwe. (Presented at the Junior Theorists Symposium, 2025.) What Shapes Racial Attitudes in Post-Colonial Africa? Evidence from Zambia (Best Qualifying Paper, UC Davis) Big Dispersal and Small Concentration: Chinese Spatial Assimilation in Lusaka, Zambia (with YAN Hairong and Barry Sautman). (Under review)	
WORKS IN PROGRESS	The Political Economy of Mobile Money in Africa (with Stephanie Mudge)	

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

Review of T.J. Tallie, *Queering Colonial Natal: Indigeneity and the Violence of Belonging in Southern Africa*, in *EuropeNow*. 2020. Part of special feature on "Race and Racism in Europe: The Urgency of Now"

Review of Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment in Africa*, in *Journal of Overseas Chinese*. 2019. 15(2):295-297

Lu, Yao, Barry Sautman, Hairong Yan, and Weixuan Zhou. 2017. Adaptation of Chinese Immigrants in Zambia. *SAIS-CARI Policy Brief* 19

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR

Intro to Sociology

Summer 2023

TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of California, Davis

<i>Intro to Social Statistics</i> , Prof. Jacob Hibel	Spring 2023
<i>Intro to Social Research</i> , Prof. Xiaoling Shu & Dr. Tina Fitzgerald	W&F 2019, Sp 2022, W 2023
<i>Intro to Research Methods</i> , Elizabeth Witcher	Fall 2022
<i>Sociology of Culture</i> , Dr. David Orzechowicz	Winter 2022
<i>Political Sociology</i> , Prof. Stephanie Mudge	Fall 2021
<i>Classical Theory</i> , Prof. David McCourt	Spring 2021
<i>Global Social Change</i> , Prof. David McCourt	Winter 2021
<i>Social Movements</i> , Dr. Sean Arseo	Fall 2020
<i>Social Policy</i> , Prof. Drew Halfmann	Spring 2020
<i>Immigration and Opportunity</i> , Prof. Erin Hamilton	Winter 2019
<i>Data Visualization</i> , Prof. Ryan Finnigan	Spring 2019
<i>Self and Society</i> , Dr. Lalia Kiburi	Fall 2018

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

<i>China and Africa</i> , Prof. Barry Sautman	2017-18
<i>International Law</i> , Prof. Barry Sautman	Spring 2017
<i>China and the World</i> , Prof. Barry Sautman	Fall 2016
<i>China-U.S. Relations</i> , Prof. Barry Sautman	Spring 2016
<i>Understanding Society</i> , Prof. Julian Groves	Fall 2015

AWARDS AND
HONORS

ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$15,960)	2025-26
Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, UC Davis (\$43,925.06)	2025-26
Graduate Program Fellowship, UC Davis (\$13,547)	2024-25
Sociology Small Research Grant, UC Davis (\$1,000)	2024
Sociology Travel Grant, UC Davis (\$1,500)	2024
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, UC Davis (\$500)	2023
Graduate Program Fellowship, UC Davis (\$14,359)	2023-24
Dean's Summer Graduate Fellowship, UC Davis (\$4,050)	2022
Leon Mayhew Prize for the Best Qualifying Paper in Sociology, UC Davis (\$1,000)	2022
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, UC Davis (\$250)	2020
Sociology Graduate Program Travel Grant, UC Davis (\$750)	2019
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, UC Davis (\$500)	2019
Postgraduate Studentship, HKUST (\$24,285)	2016-17
Fieldwork Grant, HKUST (\$900)	2016
Research Travel Grant, HKUST (\$1,675)	2016
Postgraduate Studentship, HKUST (\$23,200)	2015-16

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Graduate Student Researcher, Prof. Erin Hamilton, UC Davis
Research Assistant, Prof. Barry Sautman, HKUST

Summer 2020
2014-15

FIELDWORK

Zambia and Zimbabwe (National Archives of Zambia, National Archives of Zimbabwe, Zambia Statistics Agency, Zimbabwe Statistics Agency, University of Zambia, University of Zimbabwe, interviews and oral histories), six months 2023-25
Princeton University Libraries, three months 2024
D.C. Library of Congress, three days 2024
Zambia (surveys, interviews, National Archives of Zambia), six months 2014-17

CONFERENCES

“Classifying the Nation: Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Independent Statecraft in Zambia and Zimbabwe.” Paper Session. African Studies Association, Chicago IL 2025

“Classifying the Nation: Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Independent Statecraft in Zambia and Zimbabwe.” Paper Session. Social Science History Association, Chicago IL 2025

“Colonial Bureaucracy, Ethnic Conflict, and Post-Independent Statecraft: Racial Classification in Zambia and Zimbabwe.” Junior Theorists Symposium and Roundtable. American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL 2025

“Colonial Bureaucracy, Ethnic Conflict, and Post-Independent Statecraft: Racial Classification in Zambia and Zimbabwe.” Roundtable. 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat, Morocco 2025

“Counting “Colonial-Race”: Censuses in Africa from 1880 to 2000.” Paper Session. African Studies Association, San Francisco, CA 2023

“Counting “Colonial-Race”: Censuses in Africa from 1880 to 2000.” Paper Session. American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA 2023

“Counting “Colonial-Race”: Censuses in Africa from 1880 to 2000.” Comparative Historical Sociology Section Paper Reading Day. Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 2023

“Counting “Colonial-Race”: Censuses in Africa from 1880 to 2000.” Junior Scholar Symposium: Global Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity. Boston University, Boston, MA 2023

“State and Racial Classification in Post-Colonial Africa: Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.” Panel. UC Africanists’ Workshop, Berkeley, CA 2022

“Chinese Assimilation in Zambia: Testing Migration Theories in the Global South.” Roundtable. American Sociological Association, New York, NY 2019

“Chinese Assimilation in Zambia.” Roundtable. Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, NY 2019

“Chinese Assimilation in Zambia.” Panel. Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA 2019

“Migrant Integration and Perceptions in Zambia: A Comparison of Chinese migrants and other foreign nationals.” Individual paper. The World and Africa in the 21st Century, Howard University,

Washington D.C.

2017

“Comparative Analysis of Indigenous Perception of Non-Indigenous Ethnicities in Zambia: The Ethnic Hierarchy.” Individual paper. Researching Africa Day 2017, Studying Africa, Studying Anywhere: Area Studies for an Interconnected World, University of Oxford, Oxford, England 2017

“Comparative Analysis of Indigenous Perception of Non-Indigenous Ethnicities in Zambia: The Ethnic Hierarchy.” Individual paper. African Studies Association, Washington D.C. 2016

“Comparative Analysis of Zambian Perception on Non-Indigenous Ethnicities in Zambia.” Individual paper. Hong Kong Political Science Association, Hong Kong 2016

“Zambian Perception of Non-Indigenous Groups: Caucasians, Chinese and Indian.” Individual paper. Imagining Asia: Urbanization, Migration, Exchange, Sustainability, Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast, Northridge, CA 2016

INVITED TALKS

“Counting “Colonial-Race”: Censuses in Africa from 1880 to 2000.” Department of History Heritage and Knowledge Systems, University of Zimbabwe, Hahare, Zimbabwe 2023

“The Solar Hammer Mill Project: Sustainability Implications to Agriculture and Construction in Zambia,” Africa-China Dialogue Platform: Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on China’s Engagement with Zambia: Opportunities and Challenges for Achieving SDGs, Oxfam, Lusaka, Zambia 2016

“So what do Zambians really think of Chinese immigrants?” Audio podcast. China in Africa, hosted by Dr. Cobus van Staden and Eric Olander 2016

“The Ethnic Hierarchy of Non-Indigenous People in Zambia: A Comparative Analysis of Caucasian, Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, and South African Migrants.” School of Education, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia 2016

SERVICE AND
AFFILIATION

Student Liaison for Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Research Cluster, UC Davis 2021-24

Student Representative for Sociology Colloquium Committee, UC Davis 2021-22

Co-Founder for GlobalTea Student Research Group, UC Davis 2020-present

Mentor for students at the University of Zambia 2016-present

Reviewer for *African Studies Review*; *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*; *Society and Space*

Member of American Sociological Association; International Sociological Association; African Studies Association (Emerging Scholars Network); Social Science History Association; Population Association of America; International Union for the Scientific Study of Population; Union for African Population Studies; Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network

REFERENCES

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Associate Professor

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