

# YAO LU

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Sociology University of California, Davis One Shields Avenue Davis, CA 95616	<i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:jzylu@ucdavis.edu">jzylu@ucdavis.edu</a> <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.yaolusociology.com">www.yaolusociology.com</a>
RESEARCH FOCUS	Global historical sociology; race and ethnicity; political sociology; empire and colonialism; sociology of Africa; capitalism and financialization	
EDUCATION	<b>University of California, Davis</b> 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 Clergé, Drew Halfmann, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Mhoze Chikowero  <b>Hong Kong University of Science &amp; Technology (HKUST)</b> M.Sc. in Global China Studies, 2015 M.Phil. in Social Science, 2017  <b>Marquette University</b> B.Sc. Business Administration, 2011	
POSITIONS	<b>Postdoctoral Research Associate (Incoming)</b> Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellows Department of Sociology, Princeton University 2026-2027  <b>Dissertation Fellow</b> Provost’s Dissertation Year Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences University of California, Davis 2025-2026	
RESEARCH AFFILIATION	<b>University of Zambia</b> Department of Social Work and Sociology	2023-present
	<b>University of Zimbabwe</b> Department of History Heritage and Knowledge Systems	2023-present
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	Yan, Hairong, Barry Sautman, and <b>Yao Lu</b> . 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 <b>Yao Lu</b> . 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**

*Intro to Social Statistics*, Prof. Jacob Hibbel Spring 2023

*Intro to Social Research*, Prof. Xiaoling Shu & Dr. Tina Fitzgerald W&F 2019, Sp 2022, W 2023

*Intro to Research Methods*, Elizabeth Witcher Fall 2022

*Sociology of Culture*, Dr. David Orzechowicz Winter 2022

*Political Sociology*, Prof. Stephanie Mudge Fall 2021

*Classical Theory*, Prof. David McCourt Spring 2021

*Global Social Change*, Prof. David McCourt Winter 2021

*Social Movements*, Dr. Sean Arseo Fall 2020

*Social Policy*, Prof. Drew Halfmann Spring 2020

*Immigration and Opportunity*, Prof. Erin Hamilton Winter 2019

*Data Visualization*, Prof. Ryan Finnigan Spring 2019

*Self and Society*, Dr. Lalia Kiburi Fall 2018

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**

*China and Africa*, Prof. Barry Sautman 2017-18

*International Law*, Prof. Barry Sautman Spring 2017

*China and the World*, Prof. Barry Sautman Fall 2016

*China-U.S. Relations*, Prof. Barry Sautman Spring 2016

*Understanding Society*, 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**

<b>Graduate Student Researcher</b> , Prof. Erin Hamilton, UC Davis	Summer 2020
<b>Research Assistant</b> , Prof. Barry Sautman, HKUST	2014-15

**FIELDWORK**

<b>Zambia and Zimbabwe</b> (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
<b>Princeton University Libraries</b> , three months	2024
<b>D.C. Library of Congress</b> , three days	2024
<b>Zambia</b> (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	<b>Student Liaison</b> for Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Research Cluster, UC Davis	2021-24
	<b>Student Representative</b> for Sociology Colloquium Committee, UC Davis	2021-22
	<b>Co-Founder</b> for GlobalTea Student Research Group, UC Davis	2020-present
	<b>Mentor</b> for students at the University of Zambia	2016-present
	<b>Reviewer</b> for <i>African Studies Review</i> ; <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> ; <i>Society and Space</i>	
	<b>Member</b> of American Sociological Association; International Sociological Association; African Stud-	

ies 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

**Stephanie Mudge**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of California, Davis  
[slmudge@ucdavis.edu](mailto:slmudge@ucdavis.edu)

**Drew Halfmann**  
Associate Professor  
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Department of History  
Stanford University  
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