

YAO LU

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Sociology Princeton University 327 Wallace Hall Princeton, NJ 08544	<i>Email:</i> lu.yao@princeton.edu <i>Website:</i> www.yaolusociology.com
RESEARCH FOCUS	Global historical sociology; race and ethnicity; political sociology and political economy; empire, colonialism, and post-colonialism; sociology of Africa	
EMPLOYMENT	Princeton University Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Sociology	2026-
EDUCATION	University of California, Davis M.A. in Sociology, 2020 Ph.D. in Sociology, 2026 Dissertation: “Race and Ethnicity in Post-Colonial Africa: Violence, Legibility, and Concealment in Zambia and Zimbabwe” Dissertation committee: Stephanie L. Mudge (Chair), Orly Clergé, Drew Halfmann, Mhoze Chikowero (UC Santa Barbara), Rachel Jean-Baptiste (Stanford University) Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) M.Sc. in Global China Studies, 2015 M.Phil. in Social Science, 2017 Marquette University B.Sc. Business Administration, 2011	
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	Lu, Yao. Forthcoming. “Enumerating Race and Ethnicity in Post-Colonial Africa, 1955-2024.” <i>Ethnicities</i> . Yan, Hairong, Barry Sautman, and Yao Lu. 2021. “Contract Mobility, Self-Mobility and Localization of the Chinese in Africa.” <i>Open Times</i> . 1:131-155. [In Chinese: 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, 2020).	
BOOK PROJECTS	<i>Classifying Belonging: Race, Ethnicity, and Statecraft in Zambia and Zimbabwe</i> (Book manuscript in preparation). <i>Empire and the Making of Race and Ethnicity in Africa</i> (Second book project; archival research in progress).	
WORK IN PROGRESS	“Classifying Race and Ethnicity in Post-Colonial Africa: Violence, Legibility, and Concealment in Zambia and Zimbabwe.” (Presented at the 2025 Junior Theorists Symposium). “Bringing Colonial Categories Back: Colonial Legacy, Party Ethnicization, and Violence in Zimbabwe.” (with Stephanie L. Mudge).	

“From Colonial Racial Capitalism to Peripheral Crisis: Oral Histories from Zambia.” (To be presented at the 2026 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting and the 2026 African Studies Association Annual Meeting).

“Filling the Archival Gap for Whom? Oral History and Collective Knowledge Production in Zambia.” (To be presented at *The Archival Gap in the Global Imagination*, Stanford University, February 2027).

“Enumerating Nationality and Citizenship in Post-Colonial Africa, 1955-2024.”

“The Political Economy of Mobile Money in Africa.” (with Stephanie L. 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

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR
University of California, Davis
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 L. 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

American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (ASA DDRIG) (\$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	Summer 2020
Research Assistant , Prof. Barry Sautman, HKUST	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

"Filling the Archival Gap for Whom? Oral History and Collective Knowledge Production in Zambia." To be presented at The Archival Gap in the Global Imagination Conference, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.	2027
"Living Race and Ethnicity in a Lower Racial Space: Oral Histories from Zambia and Zimbabwe." Paper Session. To be presented at African Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.	2026
"From Racial Capitalism to Peripheral Crisis: Oral Histories of Zambia and Zimbabwe in the Neoliberal Age." Paper Session. To be presented at Social Science History Association, Atlanta, GA.	2026
"Classifying the Nation: Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Independent Statecraft in Zambia and Zimbabwe." Paper Session. African Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.	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, Harare, 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
- “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	Panel Moderator, “Desiring Intimacy,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting	2026
	Mentor, ASA Political Sociology Mentorship Program	2026
	Mentor, Sociology Mentorship Program, UC Davis	2024-26
	Mentor, University of Zambia	2023-
	Student Liaison, Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Research Cluster, UC Davis	2021-24
	Student Representative, Sociology Colloquium Committee, UC Davis	2021-22
	Co-founder, GlobalTea Student Research Group, UC Davis	2020
	Manuscript Reviewer: <i>African Studies Review</i> ; <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> ; <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i>	
RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS	University of Zambia Research Affiliate, Department of Social Work and Sociology	2023-
	University of Zimbabwe Research Affiliate, Department of History Heritage and Knowledge Systems	2023-
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	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	Stephanie L. Mudge Associate Professor Department of Sociology University of California, Davis slmudge@ucdavis.edu	Orly Clergé Associate Professor Department of Sociology University of California, Davis oclerge@ucdavis.edu
	Drew Halfmann Associate Professor Department of Sociology University of California, Davis dhalfmann@ucdavis.edu	Mhoze Chikowero Associate Professor Department of History University of California, Santa Barbara chikowero@history.ucsb.edu
	Rachel Jean-Baptiste Professor Department of History Stanford University rjeanbaptiste@stanford.edu	

LAST REVISED: SEPTEMBER 2026