

Yongren Shi

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University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.
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Academic Positions	Assistant Professor	August, 2025 -
	Department of Sociology, University of Arizona	
	Assistant Professor	2018 - June, 2025
	Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Iowa	
Education	Fellow in Residence	2023 Summer
	Public Policy Center, The University of Iowa	
	Post-Doctoral Research Associate	2016 - 2018
	Yale Institute for Network Science	
Research Interests	Cornell University	
	<i>Ph.D. in Sociology,</i>	2016
	Committee: Michael W. Macy (Chair), Douglas D. Heckathorn, Edward J. Lawler.	
Peer-Reviewed Publications	Huazhong University of Science and Technology	
	<i>Master of Engineering,</i>	2007
	<i>Bachelor of Engineering,</i>	2005
Research Interests	Culture; Social Psychology; Social Networks; Public Opinions; Group Processes; Organizations; Computational Social Science; Mathematical Sociology.	
Peer-Reviewed Publications	Smock, Regan, Yongren Shi and Steven Hitlin. Forthcoming. "The Empirical Sociology of Morality: Social Roles and Power Distance in Everyday Moral Blame Judgments" <i>Handbook of Social Psychology</i> .	
Peer-Reviewed Publications	Shi, Yongren , Regan Smock and Steve Hitlin. 2025. "Moral Disagreement in Everyday Life: An Inductive, Structural Model of Moral Order" <i>Social Science Research</i> . Volume 127, 103139 https://doi.org/	

10.1016/j.ssresearch.2024.103139

Shi, Yongren, Kevin Kiley, and Freda B. Lynn. 2025. "Beyond Statistical Variables: Examining the Duality of Persons and Groups in Structuring Opinion Space." *Poetics: Journal of Empirical Research on Culture, the Media and the Arts* Volume 108, 101967 <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231241272681>

Baiqi Li, Celine Song, **Yongren Shi**, and Hsuan-Ting Chen. 2025. "Unpacking the Complexity of Incivility in Online Discourse: An Analysis of Characteristics and Impact of Uncivil Behavior during the Hong Kong Protests." *Internet Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231241272681>

Shi, Yongren, Kevin Kiley, and Stephanie M. DiPietro. 2024. "To the Extreme: A Descriptive Exploration of the Rise of a Radical Culture in a Misogynist Digital Community." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* Volume 10: 1-18 <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231241272681>

Lynn, Freda B., **Yongren Shi**, and Kevin Kiley. 2024. "Intersectional Group Agreement on the Occupational Order." *Social Psychology Quarterly* Vol. 88(1) 135-148. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725241256378>

Sauder, Michael E.*, **Yongren Shi***, and Freda B. Lynn. 2024. "Multiple Meritocracies: A Text-Based Analysis of Personal Narratives Revealing Distinct Frames of Success" *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 10 (5) 86-117; <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2024.10.5.04> (* Equal contribution)

Jarratt, Lindsay, Freda B. Lynn, **Yongren Shi** and Katharine M. Broton. 2024. "Up-or-Out Systems? Majors, Path Flexibility, and College Attainment" *Research in Higher Education* Volume 65, 1185-1207 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-024-09789-4>

Qianyi Shi* and **Yongren Shi***. 2023. "Distinguishing Social Mechanisms of Membership Adoption in Emerging Technology Communities" *Social Science Research* 114:102917. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2023.102917> (* Equal contribution) .

Shi, Yongren and Qianyi Shi. 2023. "The Social Overload Thesis Revisited: Exploring the Mechanisms of Size-dependent Participation Behavior in Voluntary Communities" *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* Volume 9: 121. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231231209140>

Sirianni, Antonio, Christopher J. Cameron, **Yongren Shi**, and Dou-

glas D. Heckathorn. 2021. “Bias Decomposition and Estimator Performance in Respondent-Driven Sampling.” *Social Networks* 64: 109-121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.08.002>

Shi, Yongren, Chris Cameron and Douglas Heckathorn. 2019. “Model-based and Design-based Inference: Reducing Bias Due to Differential Recruitment in Respondent-Driven Sampling.” *Sociological Methods and Research* vol. 48(1), 3-33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124116672682>

Shi, Yongren, Craig E. Pollack, Pamela R. Soulos, Jeph Herrin, Nicholas A. Christakis, Xiao Xu, and Cary Gross. 2019. “Association Between Degrees of Separation in Physician Networks and Surgeons Use of Perioperative Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging.” *Medical Care* vol. 57(6): 460-467. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MLR.0000000000001123>

Shi, Yongren, Yisook Lim and Chan S. Suh. 2018. “Between Deviation and Innovation: Boundary Crossing and Audience Evaluation in the Music Field.” *Plos One* <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0203065>

Behler, Rachel, Chan S. Suh, Matthew E. Brashears and **Yongren Shi**. 2018. “Familiar Faces, Familiar Spaces: Social Similarity and Co-Presence in Non-Relational Behavioral Convergence.” *Network Science* 6(3), 396-429. <https://doi.org/10.1017/nws.2018.12>

Shi, Yongren, Fedor Dokshin, Michael Genkin and Matthew E. Brashears. 2017. “A Member Saved is a Member Earned? The Recruitment-Retention Trade-Off and Organizational Strategies for Membership Growth.” *American Sociological Review* 82(2): 407 - 434. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122417693616>

Feng Shi*, **Yongren Shi***, Fedor Dokshin, Michael W. Macy and James Evans. 2017. “Millions of Online Book Co-purchases Reveal Partisan Differences in the Consumption of Science.” *Nature Human Behaviour* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-017-0079> (Cover Article) (* co-first authors with equal contribution).

- “How to judge a book by its network.” editorial *Nature* 544, 5-6.
- Selected media coverage: *The Guardian*, *Wired*, *The LA Times*, *Scientific American*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Huffington Post*, *phys.org*, *UChicago News*, *Cornell Chronicle*, *Nature Asia*, *the Australian*.
- According to Altmetric, the paper ranks above 99% of all the contemporaries in media coverage. www.altmetric.com/details/18460745

Suh, Chan S., **Yongren Shi** and Matthew E. Brashears. 2017. "Negligible Connections? The Role of Familiar Others in the Diffusion of Smoking among Adolescents." *Social Forces* 96(1): 423 - 448. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/sox046>

Shi, Yongren, Kai Mast, Ingmar Weber, Agrippa Kellum and Michael W. Macy. 2017. "Cultural Fault Lines and Political Polarization." in *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Web Science*: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3091478.3091520>

- Website: lifestyle-politics.com

Shi, Yongren and Michael W. Macy. 2016. "Measuring Structural Similarity in Large Online Networks" *Social Science Research* 59:97-106. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2016.04.021>

DellaPosta, Daniel, **Yongren Shi** and Michael W. Macy. 2015. "Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes?" *American Journal of Sociology* 120(5):1473-1511. <https://doi.org/10.1086/681254>

- Outstanding Article Publication Award at the Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
- Press coverage: *BBC News*, *Boston Globe*, *National Affairs*, *London School of Economics*, *TheSocietyPage*, *ChinaDaily*.

Shi, Yongren, Liang Gao and Jiang Zhang. 2006. "Agent-Based Computational Economics and its Application in Supply Networks" *Complex Systems and Complexity Science* Vol.3: 69-76. (in Chinese)

Manuscripts or Under Review **Shi, Yongren**, Edo Airolidi, and Nicholas Christakis. Multiplex Networks Provide Structural Pathways for Behavioral Contagion in Rural Social Networks.

Shi, Yongren and Kevin Kiley. Culture from Conversation: How Conversation Transition Structures Shape Online Communities

Book reviews, proceedings, chapters, reports **Shi, Yongren**. 2022. Book review of Michael H. Gavins book *The New White Nationalism in Politics and Higher Education: The Nostalgia Spectrum*. in *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*.

Shi, Yongren. 2020. Review of Yanjie Bian's book *Guanxi: How China works*. in *Work and Occupations*.

Kitts, James and **Yongren Shi**. 2018. "Toward an Analytic Framework

of Social Influence: Behavioral Diffusion.” Invited contribution for the *National Academy of Science*.

Shi, Yongren. 2018. “Culture, Opinions and Social Influence.” Book chapter in *Computational Social Science: Social Science Research in the Digital Age* Zhejiang Publishing Group (in Chinese).

Heckathorn, Douglas D., Christopher Cameron, and **Yongren Shi**. 2014. Respondent-Driven Sampling: Origins, Current Developments, and Alternative Estimators. By *Proceedings of the International Methodology Symposium 2013*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa.

Shi, Yongren. 2007. “Is it Possible to Create Life in Computer?” Review of the Book *Digital Genesis - The New Science of Artificial Life. Studies in Dialectics of Nature* Vol. 23: 44-49. (in Chinese)

Shi, Yongren, Jiang Zhang, Liang Gao and Chi Zhou. 2006. “Scale-Free Networks Emerge out of Micro-Mechanism in an Agent-based Computational Economic Model.” In *Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computational Cybernetics*.

External Grants

National Science Foundation. “RII Track-2 FEC: Data-Advanced Research and Education (DARE) to improve weather intelligence and localized climate change assessment and resilience in ag-based communities.” (#2420405) Role: co-investigator, with Jun Wang (PI) and others. Total amount: \$5,999,700 2025-2029

National Science Foundation. “Group Processes Underlying Behavioral Deviance in Online Public Spaces” (#2048670) Role: PI. Total amount: \$263,330. 2021-2024

General Research Fund of Hong Kong. “Mapping the Status of Political Incivility in Hong Kong’s Digital Space: From the Umbrella Movement to the Anti-Extradition Protests.” Role: co-investigator, with Celine Yunya Song (PI). Total amount: ~HK\$396,720. 2021-2022

National Science Foundation. “Mapping the Many Pathways (In and Out) of the Post-secondary STEM Pipeline.” (#1922906) Role: co-PI, with Freda B. Lynn (PI) and Katharine Broton (co-PI). Total amount: \$233,989. 2019-2021

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. “Examining Social Clustering and Division via Patterns of Purchasing and Reviewing.” (#1409593) Role: co-PI, with Michael W. Macy

(PI). Total amount: \$11,938. 2014

Internal Grants Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost - “Curricular Analytics: Identifying and Addressing Bottlenecks to Improve Student Retention and Timeliness to Degree.” (with Freda Lynn and Lindsay Jarratt) Total amount: \$105,000. 2024-2025

Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost - Investment in Strategic Priorities. Total amount: \$5,000. 2023-2024

International Program - Summer Research Fellowship. Total amount: \$3,000. 2023-2024

Office of the Vice President for Research - Seeding Excellence: DEI Supplements. “Qualitative Analyses of Threaded Conversations in Deviant Online Communities” Total amount: \$25,000. 2022-2023

Iowa Center for Research, Undergraduates Research Fellowship. 2022-2023

Grant Writing Support Summer Program. “Understanding Membership Dynamics and Transformation of Online Deviant Groups” Department of Sociology, University of Iowa. 2019

Digital Humanities Laboratory Corpus Creation Seed Grant. Yale University \$1500. 2017

Awards and Fellowship Fellow in Residence. Public Policy Center, University of Iowa. 2023

Old Gold Summer Fellowship. University of Iowa. 2019

Travel Award. Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University. 2018

Outstanding Article Publication Award of Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association. 2016

Dissertation-in-Progress Award of Mathematical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association. 2016

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University. 2015-2016; 2007-2009

Graduate School Travel Awards, Cornell University. 2013; 2016

Government Award for Outstanding Students Studying Abroad, Chinese Consulate at New York City. \$6,000. 2015

Excellence in Graduation Thesis Award in Hubei Province, China. 2007

Fellowship in Complex System Summer School, Santa Fe Institute, Beijing, China. 2007

Invited Talks

“The Spontaneous Emergence of Group Style Via Recurrent Conversations” The Institute for Analytical Sociology Seminar, Linköping University (on zoom). April, 2025

“Beyond Statistical Variables: Analyzing the American Political Beliefs in Cultural Space” Department of Sociology, University of Arizona (Tucson, Arizona). October, 2024

“Beyond Statistical Variables: Analyzing the American Political Beliefs in Cultural Space” Department of Sociology, University of Georgia (Athens, Georgia). October, 2024

“Beyond Social Survey: Millions of Online Book Co-purchases and Reviews Reveal New Battlefields in Culture Wars.” AI Youth Camp (Iowa City, Iowa). June, 2024

“Network-based Interventions” Nanhuan Shiyuan Middle School (Suzhou, China). June, 2024

“Interaction Rituals and Opinion Radicalization in Online Public Conversations” Public Policy Center, University of Iowa. April, 2023

“Interaction Rituals and Opinion Radicalization in Online Public Conversations” Peking University, Beijing, China. May, 2022

“Beyond Social Survey: Millions of Online Book Co-purchases and Reviews Reveal New Battlefields in Culture Wars” Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong) Jun., 2021

“Through the Lens of Multiple Networks: How Institutions and Infrastructure Shape Network Structure.” Duke Network Analysis Center. (Durham, North Carolina). Oct., 2019

“Evolution and Turnover of Online Social Groups” IBS AI+X Forum, Institute for Basic Science (Daejeon, Korea). June, 2019

“Evolution and Turnover of Online Social Groups” The 2019 World Congress Korea, Konkuk University (Seoul, Korea). June, 2019

“Social Networks in Rural Honduras,” Kohn Colloquium, Department of

Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA). Mar., 2019

“Social Networks and Big Data,” Cosponsored by Tencent Research Institute and the Swarma Club (Shenzhen, China). Nov., 2017

“The Structure and Function of Multiplex Social Networks,” University of Iowa (Iowa city, IA). Nov., 2017

“Multiplexity Matters,”
Harvard University (Cambridge, MA);
University of Indiana, Bloomington (Bloomington, IN);
University of Toronto (Canada);
Chinese University of Hong Kong (HK, China);
Stanford University (Stanford, CA). Nov.-Dec., 2017

“Robot-Human Interactions in Social Network Experiments,” School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University (Beijing, China). Jul., 2017

“Computational Social Science” Department of Sociology, Shanghai University (Shanghai, China). Jul., 2017

“Can We Agree on Science? Millions of book co-purchases reveal the political alignment and polarization of U.S. science.” Department of Sociology, the University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA). Feb., 2016

Conference and Colloquium Presentations (selected) “Beyond Statistical Variables: Analyzing the American Political Beliefs in Cultural Space” Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Iowa (Iowa City, Iowa). October, 2024

“Beyond Statistical Variables: Examining the Duality of Persons and Groups in Structuring Opinion Space” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada. Aug., 2024

“Using Affect Control Theory to Understand Moral Evaluation” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. (with Regan Smock.) Aug., 2023

“Conversational Processes of Opinion Radicalization in a Digital Community” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. Aug., 2022

“Why are Members More Active in Larger Voluntary Communities? Niche

Competition and Size-dependent Behavior” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. Aug., 2022

“Conversational Processes of Opinion Radicalization in a Digital Community” International Conference on Computational Social Science, Chicago, IL. July, 2022

“Two Wrongs Sometimes Make a Right: Morality, Interaction, and Assholes” with Steven Hitlin. Departmental Colloquium, Department of Sociology and Criminology (Iowa City, IA) Jan., 2022

“Structural Variation of Social Networks in Rural Honduras,” Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University (Princeton, NJ). Aug., 2018

“Tie Multiplexity, Network motifs and Health Knowledge in Rural Honduras.” Human Nature Lab (New Haven, CT). Feb., 2017

“Connections and Commitment: The Recruitment-Retention Trade-Off and Organizational Strategies for Membership Growth.” Human Nature Lab (New Haven, CT). Nov., 2016

“How are music genres perceived and reconstructed in the consumer market?” INSNA Sunbelt Conference (Newport Beach, CA). Apr., 2016

“How are music genres perceived and reconstructed in the consumer market?” Cornell Sociology Research Symposium (Ithaca, NY). Mar., 2016

“Studies of Political and Cultural Polarization Using Online Datasets.” Yale Institute for Network Science (New Haven, CT). Nov., 2015

“Pulp Friction: Book Co-Purchasing Patterns of Conservative and Liberal American.” Brown Bag Series Talk, Department of Sociology, Cornell University. (Ithaca, NY). Nov., 2014

“Is Greed Good? An Ecological Analysis of Organizational Membership.” American Sociological Association, Mathematical Sociology Section (San Francisco, CA). Aug., 2014

“Is Greed Good? An Ecological Analysis of Organizational Membership.” Sunbelt Conference (St. Peter, FL). Feb., 2014

“Network Autocorrelation and Opinion Dynamics,” Graduate Student Mini-conference, Department of Sociology. (Ithaca, NY). 2011

**Teaching
Experiences**

University of Arizona

- Social Issues in America (undergraduate)
- Intro to Computational Social Science (undergraduate)
- Statistics 2 (graduate)
- Social Networks (undergraduate)

2025-

University of Iowa

- Contemporary Social Problems (undergraduate)
- Data Science for Social Good (undergraduate)
- Social Research Methods: Big Data (graduate)
- Linear Models in Sociological Research (graduate)

2018-

New York University Shanghai and Shanghai University

- Introduction to Computational Social Science
- Quantitative Textual Analysis Summer 2019,2020,2021,2025

Renmin University of China

- Big Data in Social Science Research Summer 2019, 2020

**Professional
Services and
Activities**

Departmental and University Services (U. Iowa)

- Department Executive Committee (elected) (2024-2025)
- Faculty Senate (elected) (2022-2025)
- Diversity and Inclusion (2023-2024)
- Graduate Admission (2022-2023)
- Graduate Study (2021-2022)
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2020-2021)
- Department Executive Committee (elected) (2019-2020)
- Computer Committee (2019-)
- Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio's Faculty Committee (2019-2020)

Services to the Profession

- 2024-2027. Council member (elected): Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.
- 2025. Committee chair: Best Paper Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.

- 2025. Committee member: Best Paper Award, Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, ASA.
- 2024. Committee chair: Graduate Student Best Paper Award, Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, ASA.
- 2024. Committee member: Outstanding Article Publication Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA, 2024.
- 2023-2025. Council member (elected): Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Section, ASA.
- 2023. Co-organizer: Summer Institute for Computational Social Science. NYU Shanghai.
- 2023. Committee member: Outstanding Article Publication Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.
- 2023. Committee member: Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article committee, Sociology of Culture section, ASA.
- 2022. Panelist: National Science Foundation, the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program.
- 2022. Committee chair: Graduate Student Affairs Committee, Social Psychology Section, ASA.
- 2021-2022. Mentor: the ASA Methodology Section mentoring program.
- 2021. Committee member: Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article committee, Sociology of Culture section, ASA.
- 2021. Panelist: National Science Foundation, the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program.
- 2021. Program committee member. 7th International Conference on Computational Social Science.
- 2021. Committee member: Graduate Student Affairs Committee, Social Psychology Section, ASA.
- 2021. Committee member: Dissertation-in-Progress Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.
- 2020. Program committee member. 6th International Conference on Computational Social Science.
- 2020. Committee member: Dissertation-in-Progress Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.
- 2019. Proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation SciSIP Program.

- 2019. Program committee member. 5th International Conference on Computational Social Science.
- 2018. Committee member: Dissertation-in-Progress Award, Mathematical Sociology Section, ASA.
- Occasional reviewer:
American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; Social Science Computer Review; Computers in Human Behavior; Mass Communication and Society; Mathematical Sociology; Plos One; Poetics; Political Behavior; PNAS; Public Opinion Quarterly; RSSM; Science; Science Advances; Scientific Report; Social Forces; Social Networks; Social Psychological Quarterly; Social Science Research; Sociological Forum; Sociological Methods and Research; Sociological Theory; Socius; The Social Science Journal; Theory and Society; Transactions on Social Computing.

Book Manuscripts Reviewing (invited):

- 2021 *You May Ask Yourself* by Dalton Conley; W.W. Norton & Company.
- 2021 *Coding Social Science* by Matti Nelimarkka; Sage Publishing.
- 2020 *Doing Computational Social Science* by John McLevey; Sage Publishing.

Consultancy:

- Exposure Promotions Limited, *Cruise Mates: The Science.* 2017
- Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Respondent Driven Sampling Analysis Tool (RDSAT) Development and SAS Interface.* PI. Douglas Heckathorn. 2013-2015

Post-doctoral Scholar Advising:

- Kevin Kiley (2021-2022)

Graduate Students Advising:

- Qianyi Shi (Dissertation Committee: co-chair. Sociology.)
- Hannah Espy (Dissertation Committee: member. Sociology.)
- SuYeong Shin (Dissertation Committee: member. Education.)
- Inga Popovaite (Dissertation Committee: member. Sociology.)
- Sulyun Lee (Dissertation Committee: member. Informatics.)
- Regan Smock (Master Thesis: chair. Sociology.)

- Chanhum Yoon (Master Thesis Committee: co-chair. Sociology.)
- Levi Sands (Master Thesis Committee: member. Sociology.)
- Kelci Mueller (Research assistant advisor. Sociology.)

Comprehensive Exam Committee:

- Maryam Torkashvand (Kinship networks and migration)
- Solomon R. Fenton-Miller (Textual analysis)
- Andrea Smith (Culture)
- Hyunsik Chun (Organization)
- Hannah Espy (Social networks)
- Sulyun Lee (Informatics)

Undergraduate Students Advising:

- Yuxin Li (Summer internship advisor)
- Regan Smock (Research assistant advisor)
- Linh T. Pham (Research assistant advisor)
- Zoe J. Day (Research assistant advisor)
- Dena Pyevich (Research assistant advisor)
- Allyson Stoops (ICRU Fellowship advisor)
- Hannah Zadeh (Senior thesis reader)

Memberships	American Sociological Association	2010-
	International Association of Chinese Sociologist	2017-2018