

Yiang Li

PhD Student in Sociology, The University of Chicago

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago	June 2029 (Expected)
Ph.D. Sociology	
Certificate in Advanced Quantitative Methods	
University of Chicago	June 2024
M.A. Computational Social Science	
University College London (UCL)	June 2022
B.Sc. Social Sciences with Quantitative Methods	First Class Honours

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health & Medical Sociology; Social Demography; Social Stratification; Aging & the Life Course; Causal Inference

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

≡ indicates authors contributed equally to this work and share the first authorship; † indicates co-authors who were graduate students at the time of writing

Sociology and Demography

2026 Li, Yiang, Jason Wong[†], and Linda J. Waite. “[Yours, Mine and Ours: Childhood Disadvantage and Late-Life Social Connectedness in Marital Dyads](#).” *Social Science Research* 134:103301.

– Featured in *Council on Contemporary Families: Yours, Mine, and Ours: How Childhood Inequality Becomes a Shared Marital Experience*

Li, Yiang. “Brothers, Sisters, and the Legacy of Sibship: Childhood Co-residing Siblings and Late-Life Cognitive Decline in the United States.” *Demographic Research* 54(8):215–262.

– Featured in *N-IUSSP (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population): How siblings shape cognitive aging. Evidence from American families*

Li, Meiyi[†], Yiang Li, and Michal Engelman. “Gender Differences in Associations Between Spousal Cognitive Decline and Marital Strain: Evidence from the U.S. Older Couples.” *Social Science and Medicine* 388:118772.

2025 Li, Yiang, and Linda J. Waite. “It Is Not What You Weigh, It Is How You Present It: Body Size, Attractiveness, Physical Functioning, and Access to Partnership and Sexuality for Older Men and Women.” *Social Forces* 104(2):776–802.

– Featured in *Council on Contemporary Families: When Waistlines Shape Love Lives: Body Size, Attractiveness, Partnership, and Partnered Sex*

Population Health and Aging

2025 Zhou, Xingzuo, Jolene Skordis, Junjian Yi, Yiang Li, Jonathan Clarke, and Hongkun Zhang. “[Can wage changes solve the labour crisis in the National Health Service?](#)” *The European Journal of Health Economics* 26(5):839–53.

2024 Li, Yiang, Xingzuo Zhou, and Zejian Lyu. “[Regional Contagion in Health Behaviors: Evidence from COVID-19 Vaccination Modeling in England with Social Network Theorem](#).” *Journal of Computational Social Science* 7(1):197–216.

2023 Zhou, Xingzuo[≡], Yiang Li[≡], Ana Correa, Francesco Salustri, and Jolene Skordis. “[The Need for Voices from the Grassroots in China’s Public Health System](#).” *The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific* 32.

Zhou, Xingzuo[≡], Yiang Li[≡], Tianning Zhu, and Yiran Xu. “[Individuals with Long-Term Illness, Disability or Infirmary Are More Likely to Smoke than Healthy Controls: An Instrumental Variable Analysis](#).” *Frontiers in Public Health* 10.

– 2022 Inter-University Undergraduate Big Data Challenge Research Solution Award (\$600)

2022 Chen, Lijuan, **Yiang Li**, and Qiuyue Yang. “The Effect of Grandparenting on the Depression and Life Satisfaction among Middle-Aged and Older Chinese Adults.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19(17):10790.

Zhou, Xingzuo, and **Yiang Li**. “Forecasting the COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Rate: An Infodemiological Study in the US.” *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics* 18(1):2017216.

– 2021 STEM Fellowship Undergraduate Big Data Challenge Runnerup

BOOK CHAPTERS

2026 **Li, Yiang**, and Linda J. Waite. “Social Well-Being as a Component of Overall Health at Older Ages.” Forthcoming in *Handbook of Sociology of Aging* (2nd ed.), edited by Markus Schafer, Dawn Carr, Jacqueline Angel, and Rick Settersten. New York: Springer.

Li, Yiang, and Linda J. Waite. “Partner Relationship Quality and Inclusion of Intimate Partners as Network Confidants of Older Adults.” Forthcoming in *Social Networks, Social Organization, and Health: Edward O. Laumann’s Influence on Contemporary Network Studies*, edited by Benjamin Cornwell and Peter Marsden. London: Edward Elgar.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

- Waite, Linda J., and **Yiang Li**. Social Well-being as a Component of Health in Predicting Short and Long-Term Mortality.
- **Li, Yiang**[≡], and Kyung Won Choi[≡]. Partnership Life Course Trajectories and Health Disparities: Evidence from the US and Europe.
- **Li, Yiang**, Yang Claire Yang, Linda J. Waite, Allison Aiello, and Kathleen Mullan Harris. Is Growing up in a Poor Family Worse in a Poor Neighborhood? Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Biological Age Acceleration.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Li, Yiang**, and Geoffrey T. Wodtke. A Life-course Model of Neighborhood Effects on Health. [SSRN Working Paper](#).
- **Li, Yiang**, and Kyung Won Choi. A National Portrait of Life-Course Marital and Cohabiting History in the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project. *Full draft available upon request*.
- Bessega, Enzo[≡], and **Yiang Li**[≡]. Loved Yet Harmful: The Mortality Paradox of Partner Embeddedness

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **Li, Yiang**, and Geoffrey T. Wodtke. A Life-course Model of Neighborhood Effects on Health.
 - International Sociological Association (ISA) Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility, Summer Meeting 2026, Oral Session, New York NY, forthcoming
 - University of Chicago, Donald J. Bogue Demography Workshop, Chicago IL, April 2026
 - Stone Center of Wealth Inequality and Social Mobility at the University of Chicago, Inequality Working Group, Chicago IL, April 2026
- **Li, Yiang**, Yang Claire Yang, Linda J. Waite, Allison Aiello, and Kathleen Mullan Harris. Is Growing up in a Poor Family Worse in a Poor Neighborhood? Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Biological Age Acceleration.
 - American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2026, Oral Session, New York NY, forthcoming
- **Li, Yiang**[≡], and Kyung Won Choi[≡]. Partnership Life Course Trajectories and Health Disparities: Evidence from the US and Europe
 - Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2026, Oral Session, St. Louis MO, April 2026
 - University of Chicago, Donald J. Bogue Demography Workshop, Chicago IL, May 2025
 - Stone Center of Wealth Inequality and Social Mobility at the University of Chicago, Inequality Working Group, Chicago IL, May 2025
 - American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2025, Roundtable Session, Chicago IL, August 2025
- **Li, Yiang**, and Linda J. Waite. It’s Not What You Weigh, It’s How You Present It: Body Size, Attractiveness, Physical Functioning and Access to Partnership and Sexuality for Older Men and Women.

- *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2025, Poster Session, Washington DC, April 2025*
- *University of Chicago, Committee on Quantitative Methods in Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences, Chicago, IL, May 2025*
- *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2025, Roundtable Session, Chicago, IL, August 2025*
- *University of Chicago, Donald J. Bogue Demography Workshop, Chicago, IL, March 2023*
- **Li, Yiang**, Jason Wong, and Linda J. Waite. Yours, Mine and Ours: Childhood Disadvantage and Late-Life Social Connectedness in Marital Dyads.
 - *Stone Center of Wealth Inequality and Social Mobility at the University of Chicago, Inequality Working Group, Chicago IL, July 2025*
 - *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2024, Regular Session, Montreal, QC, August 2024*
 - *Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting 2024, Oral Session, Seattle, WA, November 2024*
 - *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2025, Poster Session, Washington DC, April 2025*
 - *National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project Data User Workshop, Oral Session, Chicago, IL, November 2024*
- **Li, Yiang**. Rivalry or Solidarity: Examining the Influence of Co-residing Siblings in Childhood on Cognitive Function and Cognitive Decline in Later Life.
 - *University of Chicago, Donald J. Bogue Demography Workshop, Chicago IL, October 2025*
 - *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2024, Regular Session, Montreal, QC, August 2024*
 - *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2024, Poster Session, Columbus, OH, April 2024*
 - *University of Minnesota Life Course Center and IPUMS, Oral Session, Minneapolis, MN, July 2024*
 - *University College London, Institute for Global Health Seminar, Virtual, May 2024*
 - *Population Association of America (PAA) Applied Demography Conference, Oral Session, Virtual, February 2024*
 - *University of Chicago, Division of the Social Sciences, Oral Session, Chicago, IL, May 2023*
- **Li, Yiang**, Jason Wong, and Emma Zang. Migration Trajectories and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: The Role of State-Level Mobility
 - *University of Minnesota Life Course Center and IPUMS, Oral Session, Minneapolis, MN, July 2024*
- Waite, Linda J., and **Yiang Li**. Bringing Social World into Our Understanding of Health.
 - *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2024, Oral Session, Columbus, OH, April 2024*
- Li, Meiyi, **Yiang Li**, and Michal Engelman. Cognitive Impairment and Social Participation: A Dyadic Analysis of Older Couples.
 - *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2024, Roundtable Session, Montreal, QC, August 2024*
 - *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting 2024, Poster Session, Columbus, OH, April 2024*
 - *Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting 2023, Oral Session, Tampa, FL, November 2023*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Research Grants

- *Charles Henderson Research Fund* (\$1,000), Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2026
- *Charles Henderson Research Fund* (\$2,500), Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2025
- *Charles Henderson Research Fund* (\$1,000), Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2024
- *Quadrangle Scholar Research Scholarship* (\$42,500), University of Chicago, 2023
- *Maroon Scholar Research Scholarship* (\$32,500), University of Chicago, 2022
- *Research Solution Award & Finalist* (\$600), Inter-University Undergraduate Big Data Challenge, 2022

Academic Awards

- *Linda Burton Award*, American Sociological Association (ASA) Section on Family, 2026
- *Outstanding Thesis Award*, Runner-up, University of Chicago, 2024
- *Undergraduate Student Award*, Social Research Institute, University College London, 2022

Travel Grants and Professional Development Funds

- *Junior Scholar Travel Grant* (\$250), American Sociological Association Section on Aging and Life Course, 2026
- *Travel Award* (\$1,000), NIA P30 Center on Healthy Aging Behaviors and Longitudinal Investigations, 2025
- *Travel Award* (\$250), Behavioral and Social Sciences, Gerontological Society of America, 2025

- *Junior Scholar Travel Grant* (\$250), American Sociological Association Section on Aging and Life Course, 2024
- *Professional Development Funds* (\$2,000), The Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging Coordinating Center at the University of Michigan, 2024
- *Junior Scholar Travel Grant* (\$250), American Sociological Association Section on Aging and Life Course, 2023
- *Annual Academic Travel Award* (\$2,000), National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project, NORC at the University of Chicago, 2022-26

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

- **Regression & Generalized Linear Models** (2027 Winter, scheduled), Teaching Assistant, *Geoffrey T. Wodtke*
- **Introduction to Applied Statistics and Data Science** (2026 Winter), Teaching Assistant, *Marshall Jean*
- **Introduction to Statistical Methods and Models** (2025 Autumn), Teaching Assistant, *Stephen W. Raudenbush*
- **Sociology of the Family** (2025 Winter), Teaching Assistant, *Linda J. Waite*
- **Perspectives on Computational Analysis** (2023 Autumn), Teaching Assistant, *Jonathan Clindaniel*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

NORC at the University of Chicago

September 2022 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant II

Survey instrument design, proposal writing, grant application, and data validation/cleaning on NIH- and NIA-funded National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project.

Yale University

May 2022 – September 2024

Research Assistant

Proposal writing, grant application, and data validation/analysis with Emma Zang. Contributed to drafting the grant "*Unraveling Geographic Disparities in AD/DR Outcomes Across the United States: Exploring the Multifaceted Interplay of Contextual Factors Throughout the Life Course*" funded by NLCHDD.

UCL Social Research Institute

March 2021 – May 2022

Research Assistant

Worked with Hedvig Horvath, Alex Bryson, and Bilal Nasim on causal inference and computational analysis

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Field

- Assistant Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*, 2026-28
- Ad Hoc Reviewer:
 - *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, *Demography*, *Demographic Research*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Research on Aging*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Society and Mental Health*
- Population Association of America (PAA)
 - Session Organizer, *PAA Annual Meeting 2027* "Socioeconomic Inequality in Health and Aging"
 - Session Co-Organizer, *PAA Annual Meeting 2026* "Union Formation, Dissolution, and Singlehood"
 - Session Chair, *PAA Annual Meeting 2026* "Experimental Methods in Studying Union Formation and Dissolution"
 - Session Chair, *PAA Annual Meeting 2026* "Life Course Dynamics of Union Formation and Dissolution"
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
 - Table Presider, *ASA Annual Meeting 2026* "Section on Medical Sociology: The Life Course and Health II"
 - Table Presider, *ASA Annual Meeting 2026* "Section on Family: Families and Health"

University of Chicago

- Student Member, Committee on Quantitative Methods in Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences, 2026-27
- Member, Fall Institute Committee, Department of Sociology, 2025-26

University College London

- Undergraduate Mentor, Social Research Institute, 2020-2022

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 12th Annual Workshop on Formal Demography, University of California Berkeley, June 2026, Berkeley, CA
- IPUMS Full-Count Census Workshop, University of Minnesota, July 2025, Minneapolis, MN

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

- University of Chicago, Center for Health and Social Sciences, *NIA T32 Demography and Economics of Aging Predoctoral Trainee* (2024-present)
- University of Chicago, Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, *Graduate Affiliate* (2024-present)

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

- American Sociological Association (2022-present)
- Population Association of America (2022-present)
- International Sociological Association RC28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (2025-present)
- Gerontological Society of America (2022-present)

DATA ANALYSIS SKILLS

Programming Languages	R, Python, Stata, SQL, HTML, bash
Software & Tools	TeX, MySQL, AWS (Boto3, Spark)