



Sharing from Our Graduate Awardees



I thank the NL team for inviting me to share my experiences of obtaining the Outstanding Student Paper Award from the Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice (ACCCJ) in the United States. Being awarded this prize was a surprise for me. More surprisingly, all the committee members offered really good comments on my paper, which uses an interaction model analyzing the gendered drug use patterns of 716 Chinese users incarcerated in compulsory drug rehabilitation institutions.

I conducted my PhD thesis research with many challenges in survey design, contacting rehabilitation institutions, inputting the data from more than 1,000 questionnaires, and finding an appropriate analytical model for this data. I did not expect to obtain this award because I thought that this self-conducted survey had some limitations. In other words, I could not see the selling point of my research. This award-winning process somehow changed my mindset because it made me realize my research's selling point from committee members' eyes. These positive comments really helped an early career scholar figure out what role

she could play in this research field. Although my research is not perfect, it is still important because it may be the starting point to focus on the incarcerated drug users who were mostly ignored before.

Jakob, my host supervisor in Denmark, once told me, "It is essential for you to acquire the ability to sell your research to peers in the academia and all potential funders who could support your research. It is the craft of a researcher." All these award competitions, conferences, funding applications, and journal submissions are opportunities to spread our research ideas and sell our research products. This process is like a lucky draw, so give it a try, and possibly we will be that lucky dog. Even if we fail, we still get some training for acquiring the essential craft of a researcher.

Serena Yunran Zhang

I am Jacqueline, Chen Chen, a former doctoral student at CUHK sociology (2013-2017). I was, fortunately, awarded the Hong Kong Sociological Association Best thesis award in 2018. My thesis adopted social survey and experimental paradigms to discuss the changes in moral values and social preferences under rapid and profound marketization in China since the "Reform and Opening-up."

I would say that publishing the thesis in time might be helpful to get the award. I have been working on splitting the dissertation into several publishable essays since 2017. At the time of nomination, a revised version of Chapter 2 was published in *Sociological Studies* (Shehuixue yanjiu), a leading sociological journal in Chinese and a revised version of Chapter 3 was accepted by the SSCI journal, *Social Indicators Research*. To transform a dissertation into a number of publishable articles is effective for fresh PhD graduates to accumulate academic works in a new affiliation, but it can also be very challenging and time-demanding (The revision work is still in progress today). Closely connected to each other, chapters of a dissertation are supposed to contribute to the key arguments of a thesis from different dimensions. Yet publishable articles may require a sharp question and should be directly appealing to the audiences of a target journal. Wish all of you a fruitful journey on your dissertation.



Jacqueline Chen Chen

PUBLICATIONS

Zhao, Xiaohang, Lei Jin, and **Skylar Biyang Sun**. 2020. "The bidirectional association between physical and cognitive function among Chinese older adults: a mediation analysis." *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*. [\[Read the article\]](#)

From Anthropology to Sociology

Shengbo Wang

As a study which has located its interest in those so-called primitive societies or pre-modernity culture since its very beginning, anthropologists always keep alert to the established rules and institutions which are taken for granted in “civilized societies” and keen on exploring the perspectives, practices, and values of other groups whose lifestyles and cultures may be different from their own. What’s more, the critical thinking from the standpoints of the relatively disadvantaged groups in society really defines my identity as a social science researcher: to observe ordinary individuals’ life-courses in a participant manner to understand the transformation of our society. This kind of “anthropological imagination” and humanistic care pushed me into the door of sociology when I pursued my postgraduate study in Hong Kong.



Compared with traditional anthropology, sociology pays more attention to current social issues we face and try to figure out their rationales behind and implications to our society through well-designed empirical studies, quantitatively or qualitatively. Four years of academic training in anthropology helps to equip me with a solid theoretical foundation through reading classics, and the ability to conduct research based on my field work experiences in China. During my PhD study, I propose to conduct a series of research about Chinese civil society and local governance under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in a way that put a few cities together for comparison to find how the diverse social contexts and governments’ industrial policies affect the living conditions of local civil society. This project may also contribute to the real needs of innovative social governance in contemporary China. Here, I am truly looking forward to collaborating with the researchers interested in this topic and receiving your valuable suggestions.

Photo by zhang kaiyu on Unsplash

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Students’ outreach:

- **Lam, Ka Wang Kelvin** and Chi Sum Wong. “To visit home or not: Decision-making among foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong.” *Routed: Migration and (Im)mobility Magazine* 13. [[Read the article](#)]

✓ Job ads:

- Research Assistant Professor/Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. **Deadline: January 28, 2021.** [[See the ad](#)]

✓ Call for papers:

- 116th ASA Virtual Annual Meeting. **Deadline: February 3, 2021.** [[See the ad](#)]
- 15th European Sociological Association Conference. **Deadline: February 15, 2021.** [[See the ad](#)]