

Zepeng Zhou

Department of Sociology | Emory University
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EDUCATION

- 2023 –
PhD Student **Emory University, GA, USA**
Sociology
Advisor: Timothy J. Dowd
- 2020 – 2023
M.A. with Distinction **Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China**
Sociology
Thesis: *The Influencer Factory: A Relational Pattern of Cultural Production on Short Video Platforms in China*
Advisor: Suowei Xiao
- July, 2018 **Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K.**
Visiting Student to the School of Social Sciences
- 2016 – 2020
B.A. with Distinction **Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China**
Sociology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cultural Sociology; Digital Sociology; Work and Organization; Media Studies; Economic Sociology; Youth Studies; Mixed Methods

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Zhou, Zepeng & Suowei Xiao. 2023. “Experiencing Authenticity: Sociability and the Double Lives of Middle-Class Migrant Youth in Beijing.” *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, 9(3), 429-452.

- Translated from the Chinese Version of the Journal

Zhou, Zepeng & Suowei Xiao. 2022. “Experiencing Authenticity: Sociability and the Double Lives of Migrant Youth in Beijing 体验本真性：北漂青年的社会交往与双重生活” (in Chinese). *Chinese Version of Chinese Journal of Sociology (《社会》)* 42(4): 104-133.

- Collected by *Chinese Social Science Digest*, Vol 12, 2022
- Media Coverage by *Chinese Social Science Today*, February 2, 2023:
<http://www.csstoday.com/Item/10894.aspx>

Liu, Bing, **Zepeng Zhou**, & Chendi Zhao. 2019. “The Change of Social Contradictions in China under the Background of Internet and its Countermeasures 互联网背景下我国社会矛盾变迁及其应对” (in Chinese). *Social Governance Review (《社会治理》)* (7): 70-76.

WORKING PAPAERS

Zhou, Zepeng. “Mass-producing Personas: Power, Emotion, and the Collective Cultural Production of Influencers in China.”

Xiao, Suowei & Zepeng Zhou. "Productivity of Personal Life: Evidence from the Domestic Service Industry and the Influencer Industry in China."(in Chinese)

PRESENTATIONS

Beijing, China **"Strong Agents, Weak Influencers": A Relational Pattern of Cultural Production on Short Video Platforms in China**
May 2023 Digital Sociology Panel of the 19th Beijing-Tianjin Universities Sociology Student Forum, Peking University

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Beijing, China **Becoming an Online Celebrity: Aesthetic Labor of Chinese Beauty Influencers on Douyin.**
May 2018 – *Principal Investigator*; Supervised by Dr. Suowei Xiao
May 2019 School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University
 ■ Funded by the National Undergraduate Training Program for Innovation
 ■ Awarded Distinguished Project

Guangdong, China **The Life Courses of Private Entrepreneurs in Guangdong, China**
Dec 2018 – *Worked on a Fieldwork Team of Three Researchers*
March 2019 School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University
 ■ Funded by the Graduate Funding Program for Fieldwork of Beijing Normal University

Ningxia, China **Poverty Alleviation of Poverty-stricken Villages in Northwestern China**
July 2018 – *Worked on a Fieldwork Team of 12 Researchers*
Dec 2018 China Institute for Rural Studies, Tsinghua University,
 ■ Funded by the Summer Field Investigation Program of China Institute for Rural Studies

Beijing, China **Social Risk Assessment of Major Procedural Policies of Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Synergistic Development**
2017 – 2019 *Research Assistant* for Dr. Bing Liu
School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University
 ■ Funded by the National Social Science Fund of China

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

Fellowships & Grants

2023 **Distinguished Graduate Fellowship for Graduate Students (¥1,000)**
Beijing Normal University

2022 **National Scholarship for Graduate Student (¥20,000; 1 out of the program per year)**
Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

2021 **First Level Scholarship for Graduate Student (¥12,000)**
Beijing Normal University

- 2020 **Distinguished Graduate Fellowship for Undergraduate Students (¥1,000)**
Beijing Normal University
- 2019 **Fellowship for Outstanding Student of the Year (¥1,000)**
Beijing Normal University
- 2018 **First Level Scholarship for Undergraduate Student (¥5,000)**
Beijing Normal University
- 2018 – 2019 **National Undergraduate Training Program for Innovation (¥20,000)**
Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China
- 2018 **Fellowship for Outstanding Student of the Year (¥5000)**
Beijing Normal University

Awards

- 2023 **Best Thesis Award for Graduate Student**
School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University
- 2020 **Best Thesis Award for Undergraduate Student**
School of Sociology, Beijing Normal University
- 2019 **Distinguished Project of Undergraduate Training Program for Innovation**
Beijing Normal University
- 2018 **Second Prize for Field Research Report of Undergraduate Fieldwork Program**
Beijing Normal University
- 2018 **Community Contribution Award**
Beijing Normal University
- 2017 **Third Prize of the 27th "Jingshi Cup" Academic Works Competition**
Beijing Normal University
- 2017 **Outstanding Student of the Year**
Beijing Normal University

TEACHING

- Georgia, USA
Fall 2023 **Soc 331-1 The Meaning of Work: Money, Power, Purpose – Department of Sociology, Emory University**
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Tracy L. Scott

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Georgia, USA
2023 – **Coalition for Graduate Sociologists, Emory University**
Social Justice Chair; Graduate Program Committee Member; First-year Representative
- Beijing, China
2017 – 2018 **Association of Social Workers, Beijing Normal University**
President; Volunteer

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Languages

Chinese Mandarin (Native)
Dialect of Teochew (Native)
English (Advanced)

Computer Skills

Software: Office, SPSS, Stata
Photography: Photoshop

(Latest Update: October, 2023)