

Xiaochen Liang

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Sociology, Saint Louis, MO 63130

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EMPLOYMENT

Washington University in St. Louis

2026–Present

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Sociology

- *National Survey on Fear of Deportation (NSFD), a multi-wave study of deportation fear among first- and second-generation immigrants* (Faculty Sponsor: Ariela Schachter)

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Cruz

2022–2026

Ph.D. in Sociology

- Doctoral Dissertation: *Legal-Status-Making and Labor Market Inequality: The Employment Stratification of Student-Migrant-Workers in the United States*
- Won the UCSC Dissertation Year Fellowship

University of California, Santa Cruz

2019–2021

M.A. in Sociology

- QE with Distinction

The George Washington University

2016–2018

M.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

- Master's Thesis: *An Empirical Study of Cross-Border Marriage and Marriage Trafficking in China-Vietnam Border Areas*
- CCAS Dean's Award

Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

2012–2016

B.A. in Translation and Interpreting

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

International Migration; Employment, Labor, and Work; Gender; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Asia and Asian America; Human Rights; Qualitative Methods; Quantitative Methods

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Liang, X. (2025) While waiting: Legal-status-making, bureaucratic inscription, and migrants' labor (im)mobility, *Migration Studies*, 13(4), mnaf063, <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnaf063>

Liang, X. (2025). Legal Status Categorization, Transitions, Starting Points as Employment Stratifying Mechanisms: Evidence from US Student-Migrant-Workers. *International Migration Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183251381263>

Liang, X. (2025). Immigration regulations as frame of reference: trade-off between precarious employment and precarious legal status among US student-migrant-workers. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 51(5), 1207-1227. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2382373>

Liang, X. (2024). Cascading employment as paradigmatic form of precarious work: The case of IT agency workers in the United States. *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*, 35(4), 959–979. [doi:10.1017/elr.2024.57](https://doi.org/10.1017/elr.2024.57)

Liang, X. (2023). Marriage Trafficking: Demand, Exploitation, and Conducive Contexts—A Study in China–Vietnam Border Areas. *Violence Against Women*, 29(3-4), 548-579. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012221094064> (Also available via the National Institutes of Health (NIH) repository: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9896531/>)

Fukurai, H., Gabriel, R., & **Liang, X.** (2023). The COVID-19 crisis, Herd Immunity, and “Vaccine Apartheid” in the Age of Anthropocene. *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 10(1), 1–10. [doi:10.1017/als.2022.16](https://doi.org/10.1017/als.2022.16)

BOOK REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

Liang, X. (2022). Review of “What’s wrong with work? by Lynne Pettinger.” *New Technology, Work and Employment*, 37(1), 156-158.

Liang, X. (2021). Review of “China’s criminal justice institutions-Construction of Guilt: An Empirical Account of Routine Chinese Injustice by Yu Mou.” *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 8(3), 582-584

Liang, X. (2020). Review of “Non-Governmental Orphan Relief in China: Law, Policy, and Practice by Anna High.” *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 7(3), 583-585.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

Liang, M., Chen, W., **Liang, X.** (2024). *Transnational migration, mobility, and identity on the Sino-Vietnamese border*, Shanghai People’s Press. [ISBN-10: 7208167532](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-7-309-07532-1). (In Chinese)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Liang, X. Intra-Asian Heterogeneity among Highly Skilled Asian Immigrants in the United States, Evidence From NSCG. Target Journal. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*

Liang, X. Legal-Status and Generational-Educational Cohorts: Stratified Employment Conditions among Asian Immigrants in the US

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Co-Instructor, Sociology Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

World Society (offering guest lecture) 2025

Teaching Assistant, Sociology Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

Taught statistical software in labs, conducted mini-lectures in sections, led section discussions, held office hours, and graded assignments, quizzes, and final papers; supported students in developing research projects; assisted in designing course materials and contributing to lecture content.

Statistical Methods (teaching STATA in lab) 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020

Sex and Sexuality as Social Practice and Representation 2025, 2024, 2023

Introduction to Population Health 2025, 2024

Introduction to Sociology 2024, 2021, 2020, 2019

Evaluation of Evidence 2023

Foundations for Global and Community Health 2022

World Society 2022

Sociology of Law 2022

Social Inequality 2021

Sociology of Death and Dying 2021

Sociology of Emotions 2020

Race and Law 2020

Social History, Democracy, Anarchism, and Individualism 2020

World Jury on Trial 2019

International Law and Global Justice 2019

Tutor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, The George Washington University 2017

Provided one-on-one and group tutoring sessions to students studying Chinese, focusing on improving language proficiency, grammar, and cultural understanding

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Year Fellowship (\$11,000), Division of Graduate Studies, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2025-2026
Graduate Dean's Conference Travel Grant (\$500), Division of Graduate Studies, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2025
Summer Writing Fellowship (\$5000), Sociology Department, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2024
First Prize, Outstanding Achievement Award in Social Sciences, Awarded for the monograph "Transnational migration, mobility, and identity on the Sino-Vietnamese border" <i>Guangdong Provincial Government, China</i>	2024
IntGrad Housing Supplement EVC, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2023, 2024
TA Fee Remission Fellowship, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2019-2024
Regents Fellowship, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2019-2024
Grad Intl Regents Fellowship, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2019-2024
Grad Intl Housing Grant, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2023, 2024
QE Distinction Award, Sociology Department, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2022
Grad Non-Res Tuition Fellowship, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2019-2022
Intl NR Tuition Fellowship, <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	2019-2022
Certificate of Honor for Medical Interpreter, Liberty Language Service	2018
CCAS Dean's Award (\$20,000), The George Washington University, <i>George Washington University Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (CCAS)</i>	2016-2018
Major Project of the Key Research Base of Humanities and Social Sciences (Research on Overseas Chinese Conditions in Border Areas from the Perspective of National Security) (\$48,000), <i>China's Ministry of Education</i>	2016
Certificate of Honor, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, <i>Jinan University</i>	2014

CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, "Legal Status Categorization, Transitions, Starting Points as Stratifying Mechanisms of Employment: Evidence from U.S. Student-Migrant-Workers." Session 1201, Consequences of Immigration Policy, Oral Session	May 2026
American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, "Legal Status-Making and Bureaucratic Inscription: Navigating Precarious Employment and Job Mobility among U.S. Student-Migrant-Workers." Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work, Roundtable	August 2025

Law and Society Association (LSA) Annual Meeting, CRN33 East Asian Law and Society, Book Introduction Session “China's criminal justice institutions-Construction of Guilt”	May 2021
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Law and Society Association (LSA) Annual Meeting, CRN33 East Asian Law and Society, Book Introduction Session “Non- Governmental Orphan Relief in China: Law, Policy, and Practice”	May 2020
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Ad-hoc Reviewer

International Migration Review
Sociology Compass
Asian Journal of Social Sciences
Violence Against Women
Research In Globalization
Journal of Human Trafficking

Editorial Work

Co-Editor, Special Issue on “COVID-19 and Herd Immunity in Asia,” *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 2023

NON-ACADEMIC WORK AND SERVICES

Research Assistant, Polaris Project, Washington D.C.	2018-2019
Research Assistant, Praesidium, Washington D.C.	2019
Medical Interpreter/Translator, Liberty Language Service, Washington D.C.	2018–2020

SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative

R, STATA, SPSS, JMP, Python, MATLAB

Qualitative

NVivo, ATLAS.ti, MAXQDA

Other

LaTeX, Overleaf, Zotero, EndNote, Excel

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (Native), Cantonese (Native), French (Basic), Japanese (Basic)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Sections: International Migration; Labor and Labor Movements; Occupations, and Work;
Sociology of Law; Asia and Asian America

Law and Society Association**Population Association of America**