

# Tianhao Zhang

Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
205 Hamilton Hall, CB3210, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Phone: 919-962-1007 | Email: [tiz410@live.unc.edu](mailto:tiz410@live.unc.edu) | [www.tianhao-zhang.com](http://www.tianhao-zhang.com)

## EDUCATION

---

- 2025 expected      Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Dissertation: *Reproducing Racial Commonsense regarding Asians in Social Interactions*.  
Comprehensive Exams: Sociology of Culture; International Migration (with distinction)
- 2019              M.A., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2016              M.A., Sociology, Columbia University
- 2013              B.A., Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Social Interaction; Culture; Race; Norms; Knowledge; Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis; Social Psychology

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

---

Okazawa, Ryo, and **Tianhao Zhang**. 2025. "Humor Production through Breaches of a Pre-Allocated Turn-Taking Organization in Television Talk Shows Involving Interpreters." *Journal of Pragmatics* 237:82-96.

**Zhang, Tianhao**. 2024. "Identifying the Unidentified Race: A Study of Normative Features of Commonsense Knowledge of Racism in Asian Members' Online Interaction." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492241298254>

**Zhang, Tianhao**. 2023. "Contesting Reports of Racism, Contesting the Rights to Assess." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 86(2):130–150. \*Featured in *Sage Sociology Podcasts*.

**Zhang, Tianhao**, and Ryo Okazawa. 2023. "Managing Neutrality, Rapport, and Antiracism in Qualitative Interviews." *Qualitative Research* 23(6): 1689-1713.

**Zhang, Tianhao**. 2022. "Accounting for Discrimination through Categorization Work: An Examination of the Target-of-discrimination Group Members' Practices." *Discourse & Society* 33(2): 264-286.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW:

---

**Zhang, Tianhao.** “‘Is That an Asian Thing?’: Co-Constructing Within-Category Similarity and Heterogeneity in Interaction.”

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION:

---

**Zhang, Tianhao,** and Adam Lilly. “Eat Meat or Not? Negotiating the Intersection of Practices and Identities: Comparing Punks and Buddhist Followers.”

**Zhang, Tianhao.** “Displaying Identities in Talking about Race-Conscious College Admissions.”

**Zhang, Tianhao.** “The Decline of Family? Comparing Family and Friendship as Normative Institutions in Courtroom Interactions.”

Kowalski, Ken Cai\*, Adam Lilly\*, and **Tianhao Zhang.** “Political Framing of Stratification Research and the Molecularization of Merit: A Survey Experiment about Redistribution Preferences.”

## HONORS

---

2023      Odum Award for Excellence, Department of Sociology  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

2013      Phi Beta Kappa  
*University of California, Los Angeles*

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

2024      Research and Skill Development Funding, Department of Sociology, \$1000  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

2024      Graduate Student Transportation Grant Award, the Grad School, \$3,000  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**Zhang, Tianhao.** 2024. “Constructing Shared Meanings and Experiences about being “Asian”.” Roundtable at the 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Montreal, Canada.

**Zhang, Tianhao.** 2024. “Dealing with issues of generalizing: A case study of on generalizing about being “Asian”.” Paper presented at the 2024 Conference of the International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (IIEMCA). Seoul, South Korea.

**Zhang, Tianhao.** 2023. "Identifying the Unidentified Race: Normative Features of Racial Common Sense in Online Asian Communities' Members' Practices." Paper presented at 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Philadelphia, PA.

**Zhang, Tianhao.** 2023. "Morality and Credibility of Friends and Family under Cross-Examination." Paper presented at 18<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA). Brussels, Belgium.

Okazawa, Ryo, and **Tianhao Zhang.** 2023. "Threat to Intersubjectivity as a Resource for Entertainment: Television Talk Shows with Foreign Language Speaking Guests." Paper presented at International Conference on Conversation Analysis (ICCA). Brisbane, Australia.

Kowalski, Ken C; Lilly, Adam G; **Zhang, Tianhao.** 2022. "Meritocracy, Genetics, and the Political Framing of Stratification Research: A Survey Experiment about Redistribution Preferences." Roundtable at the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Los Angeles, CA.

**Zhang, Tianhao.** 2021. "Accounting for Discrimination through Categorization Work: An Examination of Minority Group Members' Practices." Paper presented at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Virtual.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### Instructor of Record

Sociological Perspectives (Summer 2020; Fall 2020; Spring 2021; Fall 2024 (for Correctional Educational Program))  
Social Interaction (Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2024)

### Teaching Assistant (Fall 2017 – Spring 2020)

Population Problems  
Sociological Perspectives  
Human Societies  
Methods of Sociological Research  
Societies and Genomics  
Linear Regression (graduate-level)

## **SERVICE**

---

Reviewer *Social Psychology Quarterly*  
*Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*  
*Social Forces*

Societies Melvin Pollner Prize committee, ASA section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis, 2024

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

American Sociological Association

Animals and Society

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Sociology of Culture

International Pragmatics Association

## **REFERENCES**

---

### **Barbara Entwisle**

Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

entwisle@unc.edu

### **Jacqueline Hagan**

Kenan Distinguished Professor Emerita of Sociology

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

jhagan@unc.edu

### **Kevin Whitehead**

Associate Professor of Sociology

University of California, Santa Barbara

kwhitehead@soc.ucsb.edu