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Tianhao Zhang

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EDUCATION

2025 Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
expected 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 119th 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 118th 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 18th 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 117th 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 116th 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

RROFESSIONAL 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 Entwistle

Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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Jacqueline Hagan

Kenan Distinguished Professor Emerita of Sociology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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Kevin Whitehead

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