REVISED: 10-30-2026

Tianhao Zhang

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EDUCATION

08/2025 Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

05/2020 M.A., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

05/2016 M.A., Sociology, Columbia University

06/2013 B.A., Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Interaction; Culture; Race; Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis; Qualitative Research Methods; Social Media

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Zhang, Tianhao. 2026**.** "From Complainees to Co-complainants: Practices of Institutional Actors Facing Complaints." *Journal of Pragmatics* 252(1): 74-92.

Zhang, Tianhao. 2025. ""Is That an Asian Thing?": Co-constructing Category-bound Attributes in Interaction." *British Journal of Social Psychology* 64(4): e70013.

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 **Winner of Gail Jefferson EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award 2026, Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis, American Sociological Association.*

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.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Zhang, Tianhao. 2025. "Ethnic and Immigration Categories in "Asian" Focus Groups." Roundtable at the 120th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Chicago, IL.

Zhang, Tianhao. 2025. "Local Interracial Interactions Under Global Scrutiny on Social Media." Paper presented at the 2025 Annual Conference of the Southern Sociological Society (SSS). Charlotte, NC.

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 ACTVITIVIES

Courses Taught at UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Sociology
Sociological Perspectives (Introduction to Sociology) (Summer & Fall 2020, Spring 2021)
Social Interaction (Fall 2021, Spring & Fall 2022, Spring & Fall 2023, Spring & Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
Sex and Gender in Society (Summer 2025)
Sociology of Education (Fall 2025)

Courses Taught at UNC Chapel Hill, Correctional Educational Program
Sociological Perspectives (Introduction to Sociology) (2024.7~2025.6)

HONORS

2026 Gail Jefferson EMCA Graduate Student Paper Award 2026,
Section on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis
American Sociological Association.

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

2013 Phi Beta Kappa
University of California, Los Angeles

SERVICE

Reviewer *Discourse Studies*
Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology
Journal of Pragmatics
Social Forces
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
Social Psychology Quarterly
Sociological Inquiry

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