
NEWSLETTER



My Path to Sociology Jing Wang

I started my sociology study journey from NGO experiences. When in contact with migrant workers and being confused on why they work hard but received meager income, I found sociology helps. Instead of blaming individuals, sociology provides insights on how structural elements form social problems. The real-world experience of “how complicated social problems can be” drives me to pursue deeper understanding of the structures, the mechanisms, and actors related to the “problems”. These experiences also stick me to the belief that scholars need to contribute something to the groups/issues we are studying. In many cases, researchers publish papers and build their careers based on investigating or interviewing certain groups of people but may offer little back to the community. Though sociology does not offer simple solutions, I hope I can be a sociology learner and contributor, following the fruitful sociology traditions, concerning real-world problems, and contributing something useful to academia and practitioners.

CONFERENCES

Biyang Sun - The International Conference on Migration Diaspora and Development, Nanjing University, China, October 13-15, 2019.

Yumei Gan - The 105th Conference of National Communication Association (NCA), Baltimore, USA, November 14-17, 2019.

Siyuan Zhou - The 5th Congress of the Asian Association of Women's Studies, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea, December 06-08, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Marzouaka, Marcelo and Francisco Olivos. 2019. (In Spanish) “Respect for human rights: the situation of commutant workers in northern Chile.” *Revista Trabajo y Sociedad*. Accepted. ([read the abstract](#))

Are we alone? Senior Respond!

GUOLIN: ANY TIPS FOR GRADUATING ON TIME?

Yumei: I really would like to share the things that I have learnt during my PhD life; that is, we should "question" the question itself. In doing so, the first thing we should ask ourselves is "why we need to graduate on time and what are the benefits/disadvantages". Graduating on time may not be the best choice for everyone. If we want to stay in academia, we are expected to build up a publication record and obtain research experience. If we only have three-year funding and we push ourselves to graduate "on time", it may not be wise, because we may miss the important steps of building up our CV for the job market. Then the second thing becomes clearer. If you find your answer for the first question, it is easier to make a plan for when to graduate. But of course, if you find graduating on time is really important for yourself, you may start your fieldwork from very early on, and start to think about career plan from an early stage, and try to talk with your supervisor about your plans.

JIN GE: WHAT'S THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR PHD LIFE?

Chen Chen: Crying in the elevator after discussing with my supervisor, feeling shameful about my stupid and naive research ideas.

LI YU: ARE THERE CONFERENCES OR SEMINARS YOU RECOMMEND US TO ATTEND?

Francisco: All the conferences are relevant as deadlines. For making up your CV, all the conference will help. If you wanna find a job in Mainland China, any conference where you presented in English will show your proficiency (in Hong Kong at zero cost). Conferences outside Hong Kong are also useful to show an international profile. Besides that, you may identify an academic community of interest (e.g. an RC of ISA). You could attend the conference of those communities and make friends, exchange contacts, drink coffees with experts and try to get feedbacks. Usually, conferences that require extended abstracts or full papers are of better quality. For instance, PAA in the United States. RC28 and ASA are also highly selective and will provide academic merit.

(See the rest of the answers)

CHUNXUE: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF TOO MUCH PRESSURE?

Anita: My personal ingredients in alphabetic order: avoiding comparing with others, beach time, cycling, dancing, daydreaming about the future, don't hold on unrealistic expectations (from supervisors, family, partners or yourself), friends & friendly family members, journaling, keeping an eye on the rest of the world, music (I have a bunch of playlists to share), not taking yourself too seriously, running, smart planning, sleeping enough, staying single, spending time in nature, tea drunkness, vegan unprocessed food, yoga ... is a swear word allowed? Taking NO shit (censor me).

YANI: ANY TIPS FOR PAPER SEARCHING AND INFORMATION ORGANIZING IN A TOTALLY NEW FIELD OF INTERESTS?

Francisco: I have a more pragmatic standpoint about it. Annual reviews are always a good starting point if there is any available. In google scholar, you can always search "New field + sociology" to find the most-cited authors in the field. In Web of Science, you can also find SSCI articles using keywords in specific areas. If it is in sociology, start searching specifically in ASR, AJS, and BJS. That will help you to find streams of discussion, the most relevant authors and theories of the new field of interests. With that, you will have a map to navigate. Additionally, be selective with authors and/or quality of outlets.

JIN GE: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU REGRET THAT YOU DIDN'T DO IN YOUR FIRST YEAR?

Chen Dan: Start my own research earlier.

YAXIN: WHAT ARE THE DRAWING RULES FOR POSTGRADUATE HALLS AND HOW TO INCREASE THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS DURING THE APPLICATION?

Rongyu: It is quite random in the first draw. However, if you choose double room and PGH4-6, or i-house, it will increase your chances. You do have the chance to change to other types of room once you are in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Job ads:

- Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor - The Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences - City University of Hong Kong - Application deadline: October 12, 2019. [\(see the ad\)](#)

✓ The projects of Loa See Pok and Chen Dan were awarded with the Interdisciplinary Research Seed Funding 2019-20.