

# Serena Yunran Zhang

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## Education

- 08/2015-12/2020 **Ph.D.** in Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Supervisor: Prof. Hua Zhong
- 01/2019-07/2019 **Visiting Ph.D. Student** in Sociology, University of Copenhagen  
Supervisor: Prof. Jakob Demant
- 09/2011-07/2015 **Bachelor's Degree** in Criminology, People's Public Security University of China
- 08/2013-12/2013 **Exchange Student**, Korean National Police University

## Academic Positions

- 02/2021-present Research Associate, Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Research Interests

- |                       |                    |               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Substance Use         | Crime and Deviance | Drug Policy   |
| Health and Well-being | Gender Studies     | China Studies |

## Publications

1. **Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Jakob Demant. 2021. Effects of self-control, drug-use peers, and family attachment on drug use among Chinese users: A gender-specific analysis. *Drug and Alcohol Review* (IF: 3.343, Q2 in Substance Abuse). [PDF](#)
2. Zhong, Hua and **Serena Yunran Zhang**. 2021. Social control of crime in Asia. In E. Erez & P. Ibarra (Eds.), *Oxford Encyclopaedia of International Criminology*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. [PDF](#)
3. Zhong, Hua and **Serena Yunran Zhang**. 2018. Establish anti sexual harassment mechanism in Chinese universities: Learning from Hong Kong experience (in Chinese). *People & Rule of Law* 2018(4):92-93. [PDF](#)
4. Zhong, Hua and **Serena Yunran Zhang**. 2018. Preventing cybercrime and cyberbullying among youth in China (in Chinese). In *Protecting Chinese Youth in Cyberspace*, edited by National Survey and Big Data Research Center for Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Beijing: Social Science Academic Press. [PDF](#)
5. **Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Hua Zhong. 2017. Drug use patterns in China: From past to present. *Forensic Science and Addiction Research* 1(5). FSAR.000524. [PDF](#)

### Under review

1. **Zhang, Serena Yunran.** Control, peer association, and permissive attitudes to drug use: An integrated model explaining illicit drug use in China. *Substance Use & Misuse*. (Revise & Resubmit)
2. **Zhang, Serena Yunran.** Permissive Attitudes to Drugs, Control, or Peers: Which One Influences Drug Use Frequency in a Gendered Way? *Crime & Delinquency*

### Manuscript in progress

1. **Zhang, Serena Yunran,** Fiona Measham, and Hua Zhong. Doing gender in the normalization of doing drugs: Evidence from China.
2. Stallwitz, Anke and **Serena Yunran Zhang\***. Trust and betrayal: A comparison of drug subcultures in Canada and China.
3. **Zhang, Serena Yunran,** Hua Zhong, and Jianhong Liu. ‘That’s my own business’: The Recreational Era of Female Drug Use in Contemporary China.

### **Grants, Awards, and Fellowships**

- 04/2020 Co-Investigator. “Nature as the antidote: Using onsite experiments to investigate impacts of contact with nature on rehabilitation of drug users (PI: Bin Jiang, University of Hong Kong).” Faculty of Architecture, University of Hong Kong. HKD566,000/USD73,030.
- 11/2020 Jiang-Land-Wang Outstanding Student Paper Award 2020, awarded by The Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice in the United States (ACCCJUS). USD300.
- 10/2019 Scholarship for 1st Asia Regional Meeting of ISSDP 2019, awarded by International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP). GBP980/USD1,224.
- 06/2019 Travel Grant for 2019 The Stockholm Criminology Symposium, awarded by The Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK). SEK4,000/USD406.
- 05/2019 Reaching Out Award. awarded by HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund. HKD10,000/USD1,290.
- 07/2018 Award of Global Scholarship Program for Research Excellence, awarded by The Chinese University of Hong Kong. HKD30,000/USD3,870.
- 09/2017 Seed Funding Support for Thesis Research, Faculty of Social Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. HKD5,000/USD645.
- 09/2015 CUHK Research Postgraduate Student Grant for Overseas Academic Activities, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. HKD20,000/USD2,580.

### **Media Coverage**

- Zhang, Serena Yunran.** 2020. Cross-border Criminal Justice: Learning from Taiwan’s Experience (in Chinese). *Ming Pao*, September 25. [Link](#)
- Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Sara Zhong. 2020. “More efforts needed to fight drug abuse in the city.” *China Daily*, May 19. [Link](#)
- Zhang, Serena Yunran.** 2020. The status quo of HK-Mainland cross-border criminal justice cooperation (in Chinese). *Sing Tao Daily*, April 14. [Link](#)

**Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Hua Zhong. 2020. Time to fix Hong Kong's broken windows (in Chinese). *Sing Tao Daily*, January 14. [Link](#)

Zhong, Hua and **Serena Yunran Zhang**. 2017. Female Drug Use Patterns in Contemporary China: The Case of Jiangxi Province (in Chinese). [Link](#)

### Conference Papers

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**. "Normalization in attitudes towards recreational drug use in China: A gender-specific perspective." Paper accepted for 14th International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) Conference, Aguascalientes, Mexico, 17-19 November 2021.

Stallwitz, Anke and **Serena Yunran Zhang**. "Trust and betrayal: A comparison of drug subcultures in Canada and China." Paper presented for European Society of Criminology (ESC) 2020 Online Conference, 10-11 September 2020.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**. "Gender matters in drug treatment and rehabilitation: Implications from a gender-specific analysis on illicit drug use in China." Paper presented at The 1st Asia Regional Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP), University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 14 October 2019.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Jakob Demant. "Self-control, social bonds, and differential association on substance use among Chinese drug users: A gender-specific analysis." Paper presented at The Stockholm Criminology Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden, 10 June 2019.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran** and Jakob Demant. "How do early alcohol use, self-control, and drug-using friends relate to later illicit drug use? Results from a survey of Chinese drug users in rehabilitation centres." Paper accepted at 45th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 3-7 June 2019.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Jin Wang. "'I have chosen the best drug.' Chinese drug users' decision-making process in initiation and maintenance." Paper presented at Annual Conference of Hong Kong Sociological Association, Hong Kong, China, 1 December 2019.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Jianhong Liu. "That's my own business: The Recreational Era of Female Drug Use in Contemporary China." Paper presented at Annual Meeting of American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, USA, 14-17 November 2018.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Nicole Wai-ting Cheung. "Substance Use and School Bullying among Left-behind Children in China: Low Self-control or Influenced by Delinquent Peers?" Paper presented at Annual Meeting of Hong Kong Sociological Association, Hong Kong, China, 9 December 2017.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Jianhong Liu. "Drug Use Patterns in Contemporary China and Enlightenments for Treatment." Paper presented at Annual Meeting of Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research, Kunming, China, 27 November-2 December 2017.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Junxiu Wang. "Collective Efficacy, Formal Social Control, Relative Deprivation, and Perceived Safety in Urban China: The Case of Guangzhou." Paper presented at Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association, Montréal, Canada, 12-15 August 2017.

**Zhang, Serena Yunran**, Hua Zhong, and Junxiu Wang. "Perceived Social Justice, Trust in Government, and Perceived Safety in China: The case of Guangzhou." Paper presented at Annual Meeting of Asian Criminological Society, Beijing, China, 18-19 June 2016.

## Research Experience

- 01/2021-12/2024 Research Fellow. “A spatio-temporal analysis of drug dealing patterns in China: Mechanisms and policies of control (PI: Jianguo Chen, Guangzhou University).” National Natural Science Fund (42071184), Funded by National Natural Science Foundation of China. RMB550,000/USD84,060.
- 09/2019-09/2020 Senior Research Assistant. “Gender and life course patterns in livelihood choice and consequences for rural households and individuals over the transition period in China (PI: Yuying Tong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong),” GRF 14619418. Funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. HKD386,500/USD49,857.
- 10/2019-11/2020 Senior Research Assistant. “Cross-border criminal justice under the framework of the Basic Law: A synthetic analysis of current policies, media-reported cases and interviews with law enforcers (PI: Hua Zhong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong).” Chinese Law Program, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies. HKD114,000/USD14,706.
- 07/2017-11/2019 Senior Research Assistant. “Genes, social environment and psychoactive drug addiction: A study on drug users in China (PI: Hua Zhong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong).” Direct Grant, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. HKD99,400/USD12,823.
- 06/2018 Principal investigator (PI). “Drug use monitoring system.” Maoming Narcotics Control Commission, Maoming, China.
- 11/2016-06/2017 Research Assistant. “Risk factors of relapse among drug users in Guiyang: An interdisciplinary perspective (PI: Jin Wang, Sun Yat-Sen University).” Guiyang Narcotics Control Commission, Guiyang, China. HKD708,562/USD91,403.
- 12/2015-06/2017 Senior Research Assistant. “Genes, environment, and addictive Behaviors: A pilot study in Hong Kong and Guangzhou (PI: Nicole Waiting Cheung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong).” Social Science Faculty Collaborative Research Fund, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. HKD400,000/USD51,613.
- 01/2016-06/2017 Research Assistant. “Monitoring recent changes of cross-border drug use and their implications for prevention/control Strategies (PI: Hua Zhong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong).” Beat Drugs Fund of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China. HKD630,890/USD81,383.
- 01/2016 Principal investigator (PI). “A qualitative exploration of female drug use in urban China: The case of Shenzhen.” Nanshan Compulsory Drug Rehabilitation Center, Shenzhen, China.
- 12/2012-02/2013 Principal investigator (PI). “Exploration of the relationship between ‘significant others’ and crime.” Detention Center of Changle, Weifang, China.

## Workshop Participation

- 08/2019 “International Conference and Workshops on Survey Research Methodology”, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 7-9 August.

- 05/2019 “Introduction to Bayesian Inference: Core Principles and Application in Stan”, Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, 8-9 May.
- 05/2019 “Intimacy and Abuse in the Digital Age”, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, 15-16 May.
- 02/2018 “Mental Health First-Aid Standard Course”, Office of Student Affairs, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 23 January - 2 February.
- 08/2016 “Causal Inference in Social Science”, University of Michigan-Peking University Joint Institute, Beijing, China, 1-12 August.

### **Teaching Experience (Tutor)**

- 2018 SOCI 4010C: Undergraduate Graduation Thesis
- 2018 SOCI 3234: Policing and Society: Critical Debates & Practices
- 2017 SOCI 2203: Social Problems and Social Policy
- 2016-2017 SOCI 2116 / UGEC 2983: Criminals and the Law
- 2016 SOCI 2203: Social Problems

### **Academic Affiliations and Service**

- 10/2019-10/2024 **Board Member**, Chinese Anti-Drug Social Workers Association, China
- 06/2018-present **Research Fellow**, Institute of State Governance, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China.
- 01/2016-present **Research Fellow**, Research Center of Crime in Contemporary China, People’s Public Security University of China, Beijing, China.
- 01/2016-present **Researcher**, Sober Life Addiction Counselling Organization, China.

### **Professional Memberships**

- 2020-present International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP)
- 2020-present The Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice in the United States (ACCCJ)
- 2016-2017 American Sociological Association (ASA)
- 2017-present Hong Kong Sociological Association (HKSA)
- 2017-present Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR)
- 2015-2016 Asian Criminological Society (ACS)

### **Skills and Software**

**Skill:** Quantitative and Qualitative Research, Policy Design and Evaluation

**Software:** STATA, MAXQDA, R, Microsoft Office

### **Journal Reviewer**

Substance Abuse