

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Wensong SHEN

Department of Sociology, Sino Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Telephone: (852) 3943 1210

Fax: (852) 2603 5213

Email: wensongshen@cuhk.edu.hk

Homepage: www.wensongshen.com

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=sQ994GAAAAAJ>

ORCID: 0000-0001-7267-4766

### EMPLOYMENT

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The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology 08/2020 – present

Associate Director of the Center for Population Research, Department of Sociology 01/2024 – present

### VISITING APPOINTMENT

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Nanjing University

Zheng Gang Visiting Scholar at the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences 12/2025 – 01/2026

### EDUCATION

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University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D., Sociology 2020

M.A., Statistics 2018

Peking University

Master of Translation and Interpreting 2012

Master Certificate in Human Rights (*jointly with Lund University, Sweden*) 2012

Shandong University

B.A., International Politics 2009

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Sociology of Education; Child Development; Social Stratification and Inequality; Youth Mental Health; Contemporary China

### PUBLICATIONS

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[\* = corresponding author in co-authored works]

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

1. **Shen, Wensong**. 2025. "[Catching up yet Still Falling behind: Sources, Heterogeneity, and Implications of the Modest Female Educational Disadvantage in Rural China](#)." *Rural Sociology* 90(3):e70011. [Flagship journal of the Rural Sociological Society]
2. **Shen, Wensong**. 2025. "[The Reciprocal Relations between Externalizing Problems and Educational Achievement and Their Long-Term Implications for Educational Attainment: Evidence from a 15-Year Study in China](#)." *Children and Youth Services Review* 176:108373.
3. **Shen, Wensong**, and Ruolin Su\* (equal authorship). 2025. "[Unequal Suffering of War: Combat Participation, Regime Type, and Leaders' Health](#)." *Armed Forces & Society*. Advance online publication. [Flagship journal of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society]
4. **Shen, Wensong\***, Emily Hannum, and Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng. 2025. "[Adaptive Educational Expectations: How Do Parental Educational Expectations Respond to Child Academic Performance in Various Family Contexts?](#)" *Social Science Research* 125:103097.
  - Lead article in Volume 125 of *Social Science Research*
  - Reported by [Quantitative Sociology](#) (WeChat Official Account; November 15, 2024)
5. **Shen, Wensong**, and Ruolin Su\*. 2024. "[Bullying Victimization and Its Life-course Shadows: Evidence from China](#)." *Chinese Sociological Review* 56(5): 586-615.
  - Reported by [Ms-Muses](#) (WeChat Official Account; March 23, 2024)
6. **Shen, Wensong**, and Emily Hannum\*. 2023. "[Context-Relevant Risk and Protective Factors for Children in Rural Communities: Long-term Implications for Adulthood Educational and Mental Health Outcomes](#)." *Journal of Community Psychology* 51(2):724-744.
7. **Shen, Wensong**. 2022. "[A Tale of Two Genders: Demystifying Girls' Concurrence of Higher Educational Achievement and Higher Depression Levels](#)." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 81:100725. [Flagship journal of RC28—the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility, International Sociological Association (ISA)]
  - Featured in the *Elsevier Research Selection* Newsletter (email circulation; August 31, 2022)
8. **Shen, Wensong\***, Li-Chung Hu, and Emily Hannum. 2021. "[Effect Pathways of Informal Family Separation on Children's Outcomes: Paternal Labor Migration and Long-Term Educational Attainment of Left-behind Children in Rural China](#)." *Social Science Research* 97:102576.
  - Nominee of the [2022 Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work–Family Research](#)
  - Reported as [Elsevier Editor's Pick](#) (in Chinese; July 09, 2021)
9. **Shen, Wensong**. 2021. "[Cumulative Childhood Adversity and Its Associations with Mental Health in Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood in Rural China](#)." *Frontiers in Psychology* 12:768315.
10. Su, Ruolin\*, and **Wensong Shen**. 2021. "[Is Nationalism Rising in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic? Individual-Level Evidence from the United States](#)." *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 26:169–187. [Flagship journal of the Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS)]
  - Selected in the 2021 *Research Highlights from China* collection by Springer Nature

11. Pilgrim, Haley\*, **Wensong Shen**, and Melissa Wilde. 2020. "[A Complex Religion Approach to the Differing Impact of Education on Black and White Religious Group Members' Political Views.](#)" *Religions* 11(9):477.
12. **Shen, Wensong**. 2020. "[A Tangled Web: The Reciprocal Relationship between Depression and Educational Outcomes in China.](#)" *Social Science Research* 85:102353.
13. Wilde, Melissa\*, Patricia Tevington, and **Wensong Shen**. 2018. "[Religious Inequality in America.](#)" *Social Inclusion* 6(2):107–26.
14. **Shen, Wensong\***, Li-Chung Hu, and Emily Hannum. 2017. "[Cumulative Adversity, Childhood Behavioral Problems, and Educational Mobility in China's Poorest Rural Communities.](#)" *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 3(4):491–517.

#### ***Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters***

15. Laghi, Marco M., **Wensong Shen\***, and Emily Hannum. 2025. "[Educational Access, Quality, and Inequality in China: Recent Policies, Priorities, and Progress.](#)" Pp. 107–143 in *Handbook on Inequality in China*, edited by B. Gustafsson and X. Yang. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
16. **Shen, Wensong\***, and Emily Hannum. 2024. "[Education and Social Inequality in China.](#)" Pp. 100–126 in *The Sage Handbook of Sociology of Education*, edited by M. Berends, B. Schneider, and S. Lamb. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
17. **Shen, Wensong**, and Emily Hannum\*. 2020. "[Credit Limits as an Element of Family Socioeconomic Status: An Application to the Case of Children's Educational Outcomes in Rural Gansu Province.](#)" Pp. 3-19 in *Rural Education in China's Social Transition*, edited by P. A. Kong, E. Hannum, and G. A. Postiglione. London, UK: Routledge.

#### ***Commissioned Policy Paper***

18. Emily Hannum\*, Li-Chung Hu, and **Wensong Shen**. 2018. "[Short- and Long-term Outcomes of The Left Behind in China: Education, Well-being and Life Opportunities.](#)" *Background Paper Prepared for Global Education Monitoring Report 2019*. Paris, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

#### **GUEST-EDITED JOURNAL ISSUE**

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- Shen, Wensong**. 2023. "[Family and Education across Social Contexts in China.](#)" *Chinese Education & Society* 56(2):99–101.

#### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

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##### **Principal Investigator**

- 09/2025 – 08/2027. Gain, Vain, or Pain: Home-based Parental Involvement and Students' Educational and Health Outcomes in China. General Research Fund (GRF), Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC #14620425). HKD 301,000.

- 01/2022 – 06/2024. Unequal Adolescence: How Do Educational Achievement, Depression, and Their Relationship Differ between Disadvantaged and Advantaged Chinese Middle School Students? Early Career Scheme (ECS), Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC #24622421). HKD 351,000.
- 06/2022 – 09/2023. Adolescents' School Bullying Victimization and Its Short- and Long-term Educational and Psychological Outcomes in China: A Life-course Perspective. Direct Grant for Research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Project #4052290). HKD 43,433.
- 06/2021 – 12/2022. Einstein's Violin – The Psychological Adjustment Effects of Cultural Capital on Educational Achievement in the Exam-oriented Education System: Evidence from China. Direct Grant for Research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Project #4052265). HKD 47,310.
- 08/2020-12/2025. COVID-19, Online Teaching, and the Inequality in Educational Achievement and Mental Health among Middle and High School Students: Evidence from China. Improvement on Competitiveness in Hiring New Faculties Funding Scheme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Project #4930985). HKD 473,467.

## INVITED TALKS

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2025 “Equally Educated, Unequally Rewarded: Gendered Health Outcomes Among First-Generation College Graduates in Rural China.”

- Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) Seminar Series, National University of Singapore (Online). September.

“The Wound of the ‘Golden Phoenix’? Gender and Health Among Rural First-Generation College Graduates in China.”

- Symposium on Social Transformation and Social Governance, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China. May.

“Upward, but not Necessarily Happier? Educational Mobility, Gender, and Subjective Well-Being in Rural China.”

- Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI) Forum, Princeton University (Online). March.

2024 “Gain or Vain: The Heterogeneous Relationship between Parent-Teacher Contact and Student Academic Performance.”

- CASER Baldwin S. Sociology Workshop, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China. December.

“Institutionalized Negative Selection and Structural Teacher Favoritism: Signs, Mechanisms, and Heterogeneity of the Effects of Cultural Capital on Educational Achievement in China.”

- Centre for Chinese Family Studies (CCFS) Webinar, CUHK, Hong Kong SAR, China. June.
- International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development: Policy, Governance, and Practice. Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China. May.

- 2023 “Adolescents’ School Bullying Victimization and Its Short- and Long-term Educational and Psychological Outcomes in China: A Life-course Perspective.”
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Young Scholars Forum of Beijing Zheng Hangsheng Social Development Foundation, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China. June.
- 2022 “Introduction to Social Science Research.”
- Guest Lecture at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China. June.
- 2021 “A Tale of Two Genders: Demystifying Girls’ Concurrence of Higher Educational Achievement and Higher Depression Levels.”
- Centre for Chinese Family Studies (CCFS) Webinar, CUHK, Hong Kong SAR, China. November.
  - *Jixia Feng* Academic Forum, Shandong University, Jinan, China. July.
  - Shanghai Academy of Global Governance & Area Studies, Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, China. June.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2025 “A Gendered Mobility Paradox: Educational Mobility Brings Well-Being Benefits for Rural First-Generation College Men – but Not Women.”
- Summer Meeting of RC28 (Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility), International Sociological Association (ISA). Los Angeles, USA. August.
- “Gain or Vain? A New Framework for The Heterogenous Relationship between Parent-Teacher Contact and Student Academic Performance.”
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, USA. August.
  - Sociology of Youth Forum, the Section on Sociology of Youth of the Chinese Sociological Association (CSA), Tianjin, China. June.
  - Annual Conference of the Singapore Population Association (PAS), Singapore. May.
- “Adaptive Educational Expectations: How Do Parental Educational Expectations Respond to Child Academic Performance in Various Family Contexts?”
- Annual Conference of the International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA), Chengdu, China. June.
- 2024 “Institutionalized Negative Selection, Structural Teacher Favoritism: Effects of Cultural Capital in a Standardized Educational System.”
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Montreal, Canada. August.
  - Annual Conference of the Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI), Beijing, China. July.
- “Catching Up Yet Still Falling Behind: Sources, Heterogeneity, and Implications of The Modest Female Educational Disadvantage in Poor Regions.”

- Annual Conference of the International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA), Macau SAR, China. June.

“Melody of the Mind: The Psychological Adjustment Effects of Cultural Capital on Educational Achievement.”

- Spring Meeting of RC28 (Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility), International Sociological Association (ISA). Shanghai, China. May.

“Unequal Adolescence: How Do Achievement, Depression, and Their Relationship Differ between Disadvantaged and Advantaged Students?”

- Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Virtual. March.

2023 “Unequal Adolescence: How Do Achievement, Depression, and Their Relationship Differ between Disadvantaged and Advantaged Students.”

- Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association (HKSA), Hong Kong SAR, China. December.
- Winter Forum of the Section on Social Stratification and Mobility of the Chinese Sociological Association (CSA), Jinan, China. November.
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, USA. August.
- Annual Conference of the International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA), Philadelphia, USA. August.

“Adaptive Educational Expectation: How Does Parental Educational Expectation Respond to Child Academic Performance in Various Family Contexts?”

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI), Tokyo, Japan. July.

2022 “Context-Relevant Childhood Risk and Protective Factors and Long-term Implications for Adulthood Education and Mental Health.”

- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, USA. August.

2021 “A Tale of Two Genders: Demystifying Girls’ Concurrence of Higher Educational Achievement and Higher Depression Levels.”

- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Virtual. August.

“Credit Limits as an Element of Family Socioeconomic Status: An Application to the Case of Children’s Educational Outcomes in Rural Gansu Province.”

- Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Virtual. April.

## EDITORIAL BOARD SERVICE

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### Editorial Board Member

*Chinese Education & Society*

01/2021 – present

### Early-Career Reviewer Board (Inaugural Board) Member

*Social Science Research*

01/2025 – 12/2026

## TEACHING

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### The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Fall 2020 – present)

#### Postgraduate-level

SOCI-5503 Methods of Social Inquiry

SOCI-5631 Contemporary Chinese Society

#### Undergraduate-level

UGEA-2190 Chinese Society

SOCI-4010 Graduation Thesis I

SOCI-4020 Graduation Thesis II

SOCI-4204 Sociology of Education

### University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2019)

#### Undergraduate -level

SOCI-120 Social Statistics

## INTERNAL UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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### Department

Member, Research Committee

08/2020 – present

Member, Scholarship & Award Committee

08/2021 – 07/2025

Member, Admissions Committee

08/2021 – 07/2022

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee

08/2022 – 07/2023

Member, Graduate Studies Committee

08/2023 – 07/2024

### Faculty

Member, Survey and Behavioural Research Ethics (SBRE) Faculty Sub-committee of Social Science

08/2022 – 07/2024

### College

College Coordinator, New Asia College

08/2022 – 07/2023; 08/2024 – 07/2025

Reviewer, Yu-Luan Shih Award & Academic Creativity Award, Chung Chi College

05/2024

## EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Council Member

Hong Kong Sociological Association (HKSA) 01/2025 – 12/2026

### Grant and Award Reviewer

Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research 03/2023 – present

Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) Faculty Development Scheme 05/2022

### Course Reviewer

School of Humanities and Social Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen  
02/2021 – present

### Journal Reviewer

*American Educational Research Journal, American Sociological Review, Chinese Sociological Review, European Journal of Education, European Journal of Public Health, European Sociological Review, International Journal of Educational Development, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Mathematical Sociology, Population Research and Policy Review, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Rural Sociology, Social Science Research, Social Psychology of Education, Society and Mental Health, Sociology of Education, Sociology of Religion, Youth & Society*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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### Member

American Sociological Association (ASA)  
Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)  
Hong Kong Sociological Association (HKSA)  
International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA)  
International Sociological Association (ISA)  
Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28)