ZHU, Ling

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EMPLOYMENT

2020 Assistant Professor of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (*since Aug 3, 2020*)

- 2024.01-now: Associate Director of the Center for Population Studies
- 2025.08-now: Co-Director, Computational Social Science Laboratory

2020 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Stanford Center for Poverty and Inequality (*Jan - Aug, 2020*)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, Stanford University, CA, USA
M.Sc., Statistics, Stanford University, CA, USA
M.Phil., Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
B.E., Law, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTERESTS

Organizations and Networks
Economic Sociology
Chinese Societies
Social Stratification and Intergenerational Mobility
Political Sociology
Causal Inference and Big-data Analytics

PUBLICATIONS

Published or Forthcoming Refereed Papers

2026 **Zhu, Ling***, Hai Liang, Ji Cao, Ruihui Tian, Yujie Li, Xiaoqian Yue, and Donghang Qi. "Comparing Modularity Scores across Different Social Networks: Cautions, Illustrations, and Suggestions". *Sociological Methodology*. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00811750261454676 (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology)

2025 Zhou, Xueguang and **Ling Zhu*** (equal-authorship). "Between Centralism and Localism: Dual Mobility Regimes in the Chinese Bureaucracy". *Journal of Contemporary China.* DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2025.2471063 (SSCI, Q1 in Area Studies).

2024 **Zhu, Ling*** and Runhui Tian. "Owning Housing Units versus Owning the Residence: The Divergence Between Two Types of Homeownership Rates in Urban China Since 2008." *Cities*. 153:105225. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105225. (student co-author, SSCI, Q1 in Urban Studies)

2024 **Zhu, Ling*.** "Spatial Mobility as a Governance Tool: Mechanisms, Patterns, and Applications in the Chinese Bureaucracy." *Chinese Sociological Review*. 56(1): 92-127. DOI: 10.1080/21620555.2023.2243377 (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology).

2024 **Zhu, Ling***, Di Xin, and Silu Chen. "Power persistence through an intergenerational perspective: Inequality in private housing assets in post-reform China." *Housing Studies*. 39(5): 1286-1316. DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2022.2119210. (student co-author, SSCI, Q2 in Urban Studies)

2023 **Zhu, Ling*.** "How Does the Chinese Bureaucracy Sustain Economic Growth without Stable Local Political Leaders? Stratified Spatial Mobility and the Role of Stable Political Elites in Local Governments." *Journal of Asian Public Policy*. 16(3): 288-311. DOI: 10.1080/17516234.2021.2013400 (SSCI, Q1 in Area Studies)

* ***Media Coverage***: in Chinese: 公共管理共同号; in English: *Faculti*

2022 **Zhu, Ling**, and David B. Grusky. "The intergenerational sources of the U-turn in gender

segregation." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119(32): e2121439119. (SCIE, Q1 in Multidisciplinary Sciences)

* ***Media Coverage***: *PNAS Podcast*

2022 **Zhu, Ling*** and Xueguang Zhou. "Bureaucrats, Local Elites, and Economic Developments: Evidence from Chinese Counties." In *Economies, Institutions, and Territories: Dissecting Nexuses in a Changing World*. Edited by Luca Storti, Giulia Urso, and Neil Reid. Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003191049-11.

2021 Zhou, Xueguang, Yu Ai, Jianhua Ge, Huijun Gu, Lan Li, Qinglian Lu, Wei Zhao, and **Ling Zhu**. "The Party-Government Relationship in the Chinese Bureaucracy: Evidence from Patterns of Personnel Flow". *Chinese Journal of Sociology*. 7(3): 315-46. (ESCI, Q2 in Sociology)

* An earlier Chinese version was published in *Society/Shehui (in Chinese)*. 40(2):137-67. (CSSCI)

2021 Liu, J., Y Sui, **L Zhu**, X Zhou. "Modelling and Evaluating Hierarchical Network: An Application to Personnel Flow Network. *Studies in Computational Intelligence*. 944: 474-484.

2020 **Zhu, Ling***. "Tradition-modern Duality: Cultural Characteristics of Urban Villages through the Lens of a Rural Protest". *Tsinghua Sociological Review (in Chinese).* Vol. 13. (CSSCI)

2020 **Zhu, Ling*** and Tony Tam. "Negative Ability Bias from Conditioning on a Confounded Mediator: A Directed Interaction Test and Case Study". *Social Science Research*. 87: 102401. (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology)

2019 **Zhu, Ling*** and Tony Tam. "Have Party Premiums Disappeared in Post-2000 China? The Influence of Negative Ability Bias from Position Conditioning." *Chinese Journal of Sociology*. 5(1): 57-79. (ESCI, Q2 in Sociology)

2018 **Zhu, Ling***. "Intergenerational Housing Asset Transfer and the Reproduction of Housing Inequality in Urban China." *Chinese Journal of Sociology*. 4(4):453-480. (ESCI, Q2 in Sociology)

* ***Media Coverage***: in Chinese: Here

2018 Zhou, Xueguang, Yu Ai, Jianhua Ge, Huijun Gu, Lan Li, Qinglian Lu, Wei Zhao, and **Ling Zhu**. "The Spatial Mobility of Local Government Officials in China: A Model and Empirical Evidence." *Society (in Chinese)*. 38(3):1-45. (CSSCI)

Under Journal Review

Cao, Ji and **Ling Zhu*** (equal-authorship, student co-author). "Decomposing the Effects of Occupation-related Forces: Explaining the Gender Wage Gap Trend in the United States." Revised and resubmitted. *Sociological Methods and Research*. (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology)

Chen, Junru and **Ling Zhu*** (equal-authorship, student co-author). "Job Destruction or Job Creation? Impact of Digitalization on Unemployment in Urban China: 2003-2019." Invited to revise and re-submit. *World Development*. (SSCI, Q1 in Development Studies)

Chen, Junru and **Ling Zhu*** (equal-authorship, student co-author). "Digitalization and Urban-Rural Income Dynamics: The Joint Effects of Digital Dividend and Digital Divide — Evidence from Chinese Cities (2008–2020)." Shortlisted in the Special Issue on "Rural-urban Inequality in Post-reform China". *Chinese Sociological Review*. (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology)

Zhu, Ling* and Yuxuan Gu. "Migrate to Succeed versus Migrate to Survive: Divergent Housing Outcomes between Rural and Urban Migrants, 2003-2022." Shortlisted in the Special Issue on "Rural-urban Inequality in Post-reform China". *Chinese Sociological Review*. (SSCI, Q1 in Sociology)

Cao, Ji and **Ling Zhu***. "Measuring Long-term Changes in Gender Norms in Modern China: Evidence from the People's Daily Newspaper 1950-2019." Invited to revise and resubmit. *China Perspectives*. (SSCI, 5-yr IF^{2024} ranking 48/86 in Area Studies)

Zhu, Ling*, Eric Heikkila (Co-first author)**,** Ying Xu, Xuanlong Qin, Runhui Tian. "Using Natural Language Processing Models to Analyze the Five-year Plans of Chinese Cities." Under review.

Zhu, Ling*. "Market Reform and the Evolution of State's Rewards to Loyalty and Ability: Explaining the

Decline of Party Premiums in Post-reform China." Under review.

RESEARCH FUNDINGS

2025-27 **Co-Principal Investigator**. Young Collaborative Research Fund 2024/25 (C2005-24Y). "Towards Trustworthy Foundation Models under Imperfect Scenarios." Funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (PC: Prof. HAN Bo from HKBU). HK$ 4,006,800.

2024-26 **Principal Investigator**. General Research Fund 2023/2024 (GRF14618523). "Career Background and Career Advancement of Local Political Leaders in China: An Internal Labor Market Perspective". Funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. HK$967,500.

2024 **Co-investigator**. Faculty Research Data Management Incentivising Programme Fund. "CUHK Social Media Data Repository". Funded by the Faculty of Social Sciences at CUHK. HK$100,000.

2023-25 **Principal Investigator**. Strategic Seed Funding for Collaborative Research Scheme (SSFCRS) (#450837144). "Two Modes of Governance in China: Comparison between Jiangsu and Guangdong Provinces". Funded by the Chinese University of Hong Kong. HK$250,000.

2023-26 **Principal Investigator**. General Research Fund 2022/2023 (GRF14620122). "Is Political Elites' Housing Advantage Time-limited in Post-reform China? An Inter-generational and Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Housing Inequality in Urban China". Funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. HK$863,446.

2022-24 **Principal Investigator**. Early Career Scheme 2021/2022 (ECS24621821). "How Are Political Control and Local Development Reconciled in Post-reform China? A Model of Three Mobility Regimes in Local Governments and a Case Study". Funded by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. HK$906,200.

- This project also wins one RPg place under the Provost's Strategic Allocation of Centrally-funded RPg Places for 2022-23 Admission, CUHK. Full postgraduate studentship (PGS) offered under this scheme covers the entire normative study period of an eligible student who is involved in this project.

2021-23 **Principal Investigator**. CUHK Direct Grant for Research (#4052267). "Power Persistence and Housing Inequality in Post-reform China: An Intergenerational Perspective". Funded by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Faculty of Social Sciences. HK$89,300. (Completed)

2020-23 **Principal Investigator**. CUHK Research Startup Fund (#4930984). HK$817,400.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023-24 Young Researcher Award from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (HK$100,000)

2018-19 Stanford Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Dissertation Fellowship (US$42,411)

2018-19 Doctoral Fellowship of Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (US$18,000) (*Declined*)

2016-17 Stanford Graduate Research Opportunity (GRO) Award (US$4,000)

2016-17 Exploratory Awards for SCID (Stanford Center for International Development) Graduate Student Fellowship (US$7,000)

2016-17 FSI Global Policy Fellows small research grant (US$1,500)

2013-15 Asia-Pacific Scholars' Fund Fellowship at Stanford University (about US$80,000)

2012-14 Awardee of Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) Fellowship

SELECTED INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

2026 **Zhu, Ling**. "*Digitalization as a Double-Edged Sword: Integrated Evidence on Employment Dynamics and Income Stratification in Chinese Cities (2003–2020)*"

- Invited talk at READi Webinars at Princeton University. USA. Jan 2026.

2025 Heikkila, Eric, **Ling Zhu***, et al. "Using Natural Language Processing Models to Analyze the Five-year Plans of Chinese Cities." Presented at the 2025 International Conference on China Urban Development. UCL, London. July 2025.

2024/5 **Zhu, Ling** et al.. "*Comparing Modularity Scores across Different Social Networks: Cautions, Illustrations, and Suggestions*".

- Presented at the Annual Meeting of European Sociological Association. Porto, Portugal. August 2024.
- Presented at the Annual Meeting of Hong Kong Sociological Association. Dec 2024
- Presented at the Annual Meetings of the International Chinese Sociological Association. Chengdu, China, June 2025
- Presented at the Annual Meetings of the International Sociological Association. Rabat, Morocco, July 2025
- Invited talk at CUHK CSSL Webinar Series. Hong Kong, August 2025.
- Invited talk at University of Macau. Macau, November 2025.

2024 **Zhu, Ling.** "*Owning Housing Units versus Owning the Residence: The Divergence Between Two Types of Homeownership Rates in Urban China Since 2008*"

- Invited talk at Baptist University of Hong Kong. November 2024.

2024 **Zhu, Ling.** "*Between Centralism and Localism: Dual Mobility Regimes in the Chinese Bureaucracy*". Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the International Chinese Sociological Association. Macao, China, June 2024.

2023/4 **Zhu, Ling.** "*Has It Become Easier or Harder to be Homeowners in Contemporary Urban China? Evidence from an Age-Period-Cohort Analysis*".

- Invited talk at the International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development: Policy, Governance, and Practice. Xi'an, China. May 2024.
- Presented at the Annual Meeting of Population Association of Singapore. Singapore. May 2024.
- Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Hong Kong Sociological Association. HK. Dec 2023.
- Presented at the 2023 ISA World Congress of Sociology. Melbourne, Australia. May 2023.

2023 **Zhu, Ling.** "*Spatial Mobility as a Governance Tool: Mechanisms, Patterns, and Applications in the Chinese Bureaucracy*". Paper presented at the 2023 Annual Meetings of the International Chinese Sociological Association. Philadelphia, USA, August 2023.

2023 Cao, Ji and **Ling Zhu *.** "*Occupational Gender Segregation, Intra-Occupation Inequality, and Gender Wage Gap Dynamics in the United States: A Causal Mediation Approach*". [* equal authorship]

- Presented at the 2023 ISA World Congress of Sociology. Melbourne, Australia. May 2023.
- Presented at the 2023 Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, USA, August 2023.

2022 **Zhu, Ling**. "The intergenerational sources of the U-turn in gender segregation."

- Invited talk at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. N.T., HK, September 2022.
- Invited talk at Lingnan University. Tuen Mun, HK, September 2022.

2021 **Zhu, Ling.** "Market Reform and the Preservation of Communist Political Order: The Evolution of State Rewards to Loyalty and Ability in Post-reform China." Invited talk in the Political Science Speaker Series. USA, April 2021.

2021 **Zhu, Ling** and Xueguang Zhou. "Stratified Spatial Mobility, Local Elites and Economic Growth in China", paper presented at the 2021 ASSA Annual Meeting of American Economic Association. USA.

2020 **Zhu, Ling** and Xueguang Zhou. "*Career Advancement in the Chinese Bureaucracy: An*

Organizational Perspective", Paper presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management.

2019 **Zhu, Ling** and Xueguang Zhou. "*Spatial Mobility as A Governance Tool: Mechanisms, Patterns, and Applications in the Chinese Bureaucracy*".

- Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. Denver, USA.
- Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Washington DC., Virginia, USA.

2018 Tam, Tony and **Ling Zhu.** "*Paradoxes of Heterogeneous Returns: The Negative Selection Syndrome in Stratification Research*". Paper presented at the 2018 ISA World Congress of Sociology. Toronto, Canada.

2017 **Zhu, Ling** and Jianhua Ge. "*Putting Leadership under the Spotlight: Assessing Local Political Leaders' Influence on Regional Development in China*". Refereed Roundtable Session at 2017 Annual Meetings of American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada.

2017 **Zhu, Ling**. "*Gender Inequality in Occupational Status and Income Levels in the Contemporary United States*". Paper presented at the 2017 Tohuko-Stanford Annual Conference. Stanford University, Palo Alto, US.

2016 **Zhu, Ling.** "*Sustaining Economic Growth: Do Local Political Leaders Really Influence Regional Development in China?*". Paper presented at the 2016 Tohuko-Stanford Annual Conference. Tohuko University, Sendai, Japan.