

TIANYAO QU

Irsay Institute, Indiana University Bloomington

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2024- Postdoctoral Researcher, Irsay Institute, Indiana University Bloomington (PI: Brea Perry)

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D. in Sociology, Cornell University

Areas Concentration: Economic Sociology, Social Networks, and Health

Committee: Benjamin Cornwell (Chair), Vida Maralani, Filiz Garip, Will Hobbs

Dissertation: A Structural Perspective on Social Relationships and Well-Being

2021 M.A. in Sociology, Cornell University

2018 B.A. in Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Graduate with distinction

Thesis: Social Class in Motivational Relevance for Visual Attention: Evidence from Eye Tracking in an Experimental Design

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Networks, Health and Aging, Intimacy and Economy, Gender, Time Use, Communication Technology

PUBLICATIONS

Cornwell, Benjamin, **Tianyao Qu**, and Erin York Cornwell. 2024. "The Social Connectedness of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence by Survey Mode and Respondent Dementia." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* gbae044.

Tianyao Qu. 2024. "A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as a Determinant of Depression in Later Life." *Social Science & Medicine* 345:116684.

Wright, Lucas, Roxana Mika Muenster, Briana Vecchione, **Tianyao Qu**, Pika (Senhuang) Cai, Alan Smith, Comm 2450 Student Investigators, Jacob Metcalf, and J. Nathan Matias. 2024. "Null Compliance: NYC Local Law 144 and the Challenges of Algorithm Accountability." Pp. 1701–13 in *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, FAccT '24*. New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery.

[Media Coverage: [Wall Street Journal](#)]

Cornwell, Benjamin, and Tianyao Qu. 2023. "‘I Love You to Death’: Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 00221465231175685

[Media Coverage: [Cornell Chronicle](#)]

Tianyao Qu. 2023. "Chronic Illness and Social Network Bridging in Later Life." *Social Networks* 74:1-12.

Xuewen Yan & **Tianyao Qu**. 2022. "Linked through the Life Course: Core Family Members' Infection, COVID-19 Illness Severity, and the Moderating Role of Age." *Chinese Sociological Review* 54:482-515.

Xuewen Yan, **Tianyao Qu**, Nathan Sperber, Jinyuan Lu, Mengzhen Fan, Benjamin Cornwell. 2021. "Social Connectedness to Other COVID-19 Patients as a Risk Factor for Illness Severity: A Network Analysis of 417 Cases in Shenzhen, China." *American Behavioral Scientist* 65:1901-1928.

Si Min Dai, **Tianyao Qu**, Zicheng Du. 2017. "The Implications of China's Nationwide Online Live Show: Young Adults' Attempts to Reconstruct Community in the Postmodern Society." *Youth Exploration* 3:5-15. (in Chinese)

- Reprinted in *Proceedings of China Social Science Excellence*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Tianyao Qu. "Affection, Intimacy, Status, or All? Purchasing Emotional Value Through Virtual Gifting in the Chinese Live-Streaming Industry." In Progress.

Tianyao Qu. "Stay Connected and Regulated? Social Sequences of Everyday Activities and Health During the Global Pandemic", In progress.

Tianyao Qu. "Beauty Premium in Social Connectedness in Older Adults: the Role of Embodied Health." In progress.

Tianyao Qu. “Digital Use and Social Structure of Everyday Social Interactions.” In progress.

INVITED TALKS

Cornwell, Benjamin, and Tianyao Qu. “‘I Love You to Death.’ Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality.” Duke Network Analysis Center, May 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

Tianyao Qu. “Earmarking Emotions: Relational Gifts, Status, and Virtual Intimacy in Chinese Live-streaming Economy.”

- Presented 2024 Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada, August 2024
- Presented at Global Digital Intimacies Conference, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 2024
- Meeting of the Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics (Digital Economy Network), Limerick, Ireland, July 2024

Tianyao Qu. “A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as Factor in Depression in Later Life,”

- Presented at the Collaborative for Innovation in Data & Measurement in Aging (CIDMA) Workshop at UChicago, Sep 2023
- Sunbelt Conference (Social Networks, Health, and Well-being, Session), Portland, Oregon, June 2023
- Paper Session at Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (Social Isolation and Health Risks Session), New Orleans, April 2023
- 2023 Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University

Tianyao Qu. “Earmarking Emotions: Relational work in Chinese Live-Streaming Industry.”

- Annual Meeting of the Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics (Grey Market, Session), Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 2022.
- 4th Annual Meeting of International Chinese Sociological Association (Paper Session), November 2021.
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (Economic Sociology, Round Table), August 2021

Tianyao Qu. “How Chronic Illness Reduces Social Network Bridging in Later Life.”

- Paper Session at Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (Social Relationships & Physical Health Session), Atlanta, April 2022.
- Paper Session at the 3rd North American Social Networks Conference (Ego-centric Networks), January 2021.
- Paper Session at Sunbelt Conference 2020

Xuewen Yan, **Tianyao Qu**. “Linked through the Life Course: The Influence of Core Family Members’ Infection on COVID-19 Illness Severity.” Paper Session at the 3rd North American Social Networks Conference (Beyond Contacts: Tracking COVID-19 Social Networks III), January 2021.

Xuewen Yan, **Tianyao Qu**. “Networked Infections: How Does Contracting COVID-19 Together with Loved Ones Affect Illness Severity?” Presentation at Cornell Population Center’s DemSemX Conference, July 2020.

Tianyao Qu, Hong Zhang, Yucheng Liang. “Social Class and Motivational Relevance of Other Human Beings: Evidence from Visual Attention in An Experimental Design.” Paper Session at Annual Meeting of Chinese Sociological Association (Social Mobility and Social Stratification), Kunming, China, August 2019

Tianyao Qu. “The Influence of Internet Use on Social Capital: Analysis Based on CGSS2012 Data.” Paper Session at Annual Meeting of Chinese Sociological Association (Social Impact of Science and Technology), Shanghai, China, August 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

- COMM 2820 Research Methods in Communication Studies, Cornell University, Fall 2022
- SOC 6020 Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research (Graduate level), Cornell University, Spring 2022
- COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology, Cornell University, Fall 202
- COMM/INFO 3400 Technology and Interpersonal Relationship, Cornell University, Spring 2021
- SOC 2220 Controversies About Inequality, Cornell University, Fall 2020
- SOC 1101 Introduction to Sociology, Cornell University, Spring 2020
- SOC 3010/6010 Statistics for Sociological Research (Undergrad + Grad), Cornell University, Fall 2019

Head Teaching Assistant

- COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology, Cornell University, Summer, Fall, 2023
Helped instructor with course design and personnel coordination

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 Cornell Center for Social Sciences Qualitative & Interpretive Research Institute Small Grant (\$800)
- 2023 Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University (\$250)
- 2023 Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University (\$2000)
- 2022 Sociology Graduate Student Outstanding TA Award (SOC 6020 Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research)
- 2021-23 Cornell Population Center Conference Grant for Population Association

- 2021-22 Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality Seed Grant (\$1000)
- 2020 Sociology Graduate Research Funding by Cornell Center for the Study of Economy & Society (\$1500)
- 2020 Clogg Scholarship of ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research
- 2019-24 Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University
- 2018, 23 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2018 Outstanding Undergraduate Award, Sun Yat-sen University, China
- 2018 Bachelor Thesis Funding, Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, China
- 2017 Outstanding Student Scholarship, Sponsored by the Chinese Baosteel National Education Fund
- 2014-17 Excellent Student Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University, China
- 2017 Department Scholarship for Empirical Social Science Research Summer Class, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

At Cornell University

Co-investigator of NYC Hiring Algorithm Research Project, PI: Nathan Matias, Department of Communication, Fall 2023-

- Conducted searches for transparency notice and bias audit notice regarding using Automated Employment Decision Tool (AEDTs) in job listings of NY companies.
- Collected and organized data at the company level for analysis

Research Assistant for Benjamin Cornwell, Department of Sociology, Fall 2021 to Fall 2022,

- Project on Widowhood Effect and Social Network Structure Among Older Couples
- Analyzed data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) from 2005-2015 using survival modeling techniques

Research Assistant for Project: Multiverse Analysis: Social Capital and Income Inequality, PIs: Cristobal Young, Benjamin Cornwell, and Barum Park, Department of Sociology, Summer 2021 to Summer 2022

- Engaged with multiple literature regarding social capital and income inequality
- Curated a variety of social capital measures from multiple datasets (General Social Survey 1972-2020, CPS, ANES, CNES, American Changing Lives 1986-2011, American Trends Panel Survey) and visualized their relationships with harmonized household income

At Sun Yat-sen University

Research Assistant for Department of Sociology, Spring 2018

- Project on Drug Relapse Behavior in Guizhou, China
- Worked on constructing a quantitative dataset assembling administrative records for further research

Research Assistant for Center for Social Survey, Department of Sociology, Summer 2016

- Worked as a household interview supervisor for the 2016 China Labor Force Dynamics Survey, did on-site sample selection, drew maps for the community, trained student interviewers, monitor data quality during household visits
- Led a team of 8 interviewers to complete 120 household interview questionnaires in three randomly selected neighborhoods in Shenzhen, Guangdong; increased longitudinal sample follow-up rate by 10%
- Data cleaning for “wrong fill” and “missing” items in the collected data of 2016 CLDS and analyzed general patterns of hukou changes, work history, social participation, and health status of the domestic migrants in the Pearl River Delta region

SERVICES

2023 Judge for Cornell Undergraduate Research 2023 Fall Symposium

2020 Co-organizer of 12th Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Research Symposium, 2020

2020-21 Treasurer for Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2020-21

2019-20 Graduate Student Mentor

Occasional reviewer: *Sociological Focus*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*; *Social Science and Medicine-Population Health*, 2023 PAA poster discussant, *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association, 2019-2024

Population Association of America, 2021-2024

International Network for Social Network Analysis, 2019-2024

Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2021-2024

International Chinese Sociological Association, 2021-2024

Cornell Population Center, Cornell University

Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University

COMPUTER LANGUAGES

Stata, R, UCINET, Network Canvas, MAXQDA

REFERENCES

Benjamin Cornwell

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