

IRIS HUIMENG ZHAO

She/her/hers

Department of Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1180 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53703

iris.zhao@wisc.edu
huimengirishzhao.wixsite.com/home

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Wisconsin – Madison in progress
Sociology
Affiliations: Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE)
Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA)
Collaborative for Reproductive Equity (CORE)
- M.A.** University of Chicago 2020
Social Sciences
Thesis: “Exploring Fertility Desire and Flexibility in China”
Thesis Advisor: Professor Jenny Trinitapoli, Department of Sociology
- B.A.** Indiana University – Bloomington 2019
Sociology, Gender Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social demography; family sociology; fertility; gender and sexuality; reproductive justice

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Swan, Laura E. T., Lindsay M. Cannon, Madison Lands, and **Iris Huimeng Zhao**. 2025. “Patient Preferences or Provider Pressure? The Relationship Between Coercive Contraceptive Care and Preferred Contraceptive Use.” *Healthcare* 13(2):145. doi: [10.3390/healthcare13020145](https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13020145).
- Trinitapoli, Jenny, Abdallah Chilungo, **Huimeng Zhao**, jimi adams, and Sara Yeatman. 2022. Visualizing Young Men’s Fertility Desires: A View from Balaka, Malawi.” *Socius* 8:23780231221094750. doi: [10.1177/23780231221094752](https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231221094752).
- Murray, Dakota, Clara Boothby, **Huimeng Zhao**, Vanessa Minik, Nicolas Bérubé, Vincent Larivière, and Cassidy R. Sugimoto. 2020. “Exploring the Personal and Professional Factors Associated with Student Evaluations of Tenure-Track Faculty.” *PLOS ONE* 15(6):e0233515. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0233515](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0233515).
(Altmetric’s 2020 Top 100 Articles)

ONGOING PROJECTS

Iris Huimeng Zhao. “Between Policy and Practice: Abortion-Providing Physicians and the Translation of Population Politics in Contemporary China.” Dissertation.

Iris Huimeng Zhao. "Flexible Fertility Preferences Under Low Fertility Context - Evidence from China." Revise & resubmit at Population Research and Policy Review.

Acton Jiashi Feng and **Iris Huimeng Zhao** (alphabetical order, equal authorship). “Who is having the second baby? Educational pairings and fertility in China.” Revise & resubmit at Population Research and Policy Review.

Iris Huimeng Zhao. “Higher Order Birth Intervals and Educational Assortative Mating in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In manuscript.

Iris Huimeng Zhao and Jane Seymour. “Relationships Between Intimate Partner Violence, Reproductive Coercion, and Gestational Duration at Abortion in Wisconsin, 2016 – 2021.” In manuscript.

Dhriti Tapan Desai, Dana Johnson, Laura Lindberg, Susan Vandagriff, and **Iris Huimeng Zhao** (alphabetical order). “Hospital Provided Abortion Care in the United States: A Scoping Review.” Ongoing.

Monica Grant and **Huimeng Zhao.** "Changes in spousal differences in educational attainment and modern contraceptive use: Evidence from Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda." In manuscript.

Monica Grant and **Huimeng Zhao.** "Spousal Differences in Educational Attainment and Fertility Preferences: Evidence from Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda." In manuscript.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Higher Order Birth Intervals and Educational Assortative Mating in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL., U.S.A., August 2025.

“Who is having the second baby? Educational pairings and fertility in China.” *Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality (READI) Annual Meeting*, Beijing, China, August 2024.

“Who is having the second baby? Educational pairings and fertility in China.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA., U.S.A., August 2023.

“Flexible Fertility Preferences Under Low Fertility Context - Evidence from China.” *Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA., U.S.A., April 2022.

“Exploring Fertility Desire and Flexibility in China.” *University of Chicago Master of Arts Program for Social Sciences Virtual Academic Conference*, Chicago, IL., U.S.A., June 2020.

“Fertility Desire in China.” *The New School for Social Research Sociology Graduate Conference*, New York City, NY, U.S.A., April 2020 (abstract accepted, conference cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Departmental Small Research Grant \$330 USD, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison	2024
Student Research Grants Competition \$600 USD, UW-Madison	2023
Conference Travel Grant \$700 – 800 USD annually, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison	2023 – present
Conference Travel Grant \$1500 USD annually, Collaborative for Reproductive Equity, UW-Madison	2022 – present
Conference Travel Grant \$700-1000 USD annually, Center for Demography and Ecology, UW-Madison	2022 – present
University Scholarship \$20,000 USD, Merit-based, University of Chicago	2019
Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society Membership	2018
Conference Travel Grant \$1,000 USD, Competitive Awards and Research School, Indiana University	2018
Emerging Scholars Research Scholarship \$1,000 USD, Center of Excellence for Women in Technology, Indiana University	2016

SERVICE

Peer Reviewer Population and Development Review, Social Forces, Asian Population Studies	2024 – present
The Feminist Demography Collective (FemDem) Funding member, steering committee member	2025 – present

Graduate Student Peer Mentor Department of Sociology, Center for Demography and Ecology & Center for Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2023 – 2025
The Sociology of Gender Brownbag (FemSem) Student coordinator, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2023 – 2024
China Marriage and Family Reading Group (ReadCMF) Founder, committee, coordinator (with Acton Jiashi Feng and Man Zhang)	2022 – 2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Annual Berkeley Workshop on Formal Demography	2023
---	------

SKILLS

Stata, R, NVivo, GeoDa

LANGUAGES

Chinese (Mandarin): Native
English: Fluent