

IRIS HUIMENG ZHAO

She/her/hers

Department of Sociology
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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.

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

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

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Annual Berkeley Workshop on Formal Demography 2023

SKILLS

Stata, R, NVivo, GeoDa

LANGUAGES

Chinese (Mandarin): Native
English: Fluent