

IRIS HUIMENG ZHAO

She/her/hers

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of Wisconsin – Madison in progress
Sociology
Affiliations: Center for Demography and Ecology
Center for Demography of Health and Aging
Collaborative for Reproductive Equity
- 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

Huimeng Zhao. "Flexible Fertility Preferences Under Low Fertility Context - Evidence from China." Submitted.

Huimeng Zhao. "Politics of Population Control, Populationism, and Abortion Access in China." In preparation.

Huimeng Zhao and Acton Jiashi Feng (equal authorship). "Who is making the second (and third) baby? Educational pairings and fertility in China" In manuscript, presented at PAA 2023 and ASA 2023.

Monica Grant and **Huimeng Zhao.** "Changes in spousal differences in educational attainment and modern contraceptive use: Evidence from Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda." In manuscript, presented at ICFP 2022.

Monica Grant and **Huimeng Zhao.** "Spousal Differences in Educational Attainment and Fertility Preferences: Evidence from Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda." In manuscript, presented at PAA 2023

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"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).

"Are Great Researchers Terrible Teachers?" *National Conference on Undergraduate Research*, Oklahoma City, OK., U.S.A., April 2018.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Conference Travel Grant

2024

\$700, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison	
Departmental Small Research Grant \$330, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison	2024
Student Research Grants Competition \$600, UW-Madison	2023
Conference Travel Grant \$800, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison	2023
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

Demography Graduate Student Mentor Center for Demography and Ecology & Center for Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin – Madison	2024 – 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

SKILLS

Stata, R, GeoDa, MS Office Suite

LANGUAGES

Chinese (Mandarin): Native

English: Fluent