

YEZHEN (DAVID) LI

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D., Sociology 2024
Dissertation: "Social Relationships and Immigrant Health: Structural and Temporal Perspectives."
Dissertation Committee: Jason Schnittker (Chair), Michel Guillot, Wendy Roth, Alyssa Goldman
(Boston College)

M.A., Statistics and Data Science 2024

University of Chicago

M.A., Social Sciences 2018

University of Virginia

B.A., Sociology and Economics (*High Distinction*) 2017

EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, **University of Texas, San Antonio** 2025-
Co-PIs: Fernando Riosmena, Rebeca Wong

Postdoctoral Researcher, **University of Southern California** 2024-2025
PI: Jinkook Lee

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (*Graduate student co-author)

Li, Yezhen, Clarice Myers, *Wuyang Zhang, Jinkook Lee, Nicholas Reed, and Emma Nichols. 2025. "Noise During Cognitive Tests and Older Adults' Cognitive Performance: Evidence from India." *Innovation in Aging*. [\[Link\]](#)

Li, Yezhen, Marco Angrisani, and Jinkook Lee. 2025. "The Mental Health Implications of Informal Care Receipt Stability among Older Adults with Persistent Care Needs." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 80(11). [\[Link\]](#)

- Editor's Choice.
- 2025 Douglas Holmes Emerging Scholar Paper Award, Gerontological Society of America.

Li, Yezhen and Alyssa W. Goldman. 2025. "Acculturation, Depressive Symptoms, and Friendship Instability among Immigrant Adolescents." *Society and Mental Health* 15(2):166-180. [\[Link\]](#)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Li, Yezhen, David Richter, Giacomo Pasini, Denis Gerstorf, Alden Gross, Jinkook Lee, and Emma Nichols. 2025. "Harmonization of Cognitive Performance Measures across Five

European Countries: Results from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe - Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol.” *SSRN Working Paper*. [\[Link\]](#)

WORKS UNDER REVIEW

Li, Yezhen and Jason Schnittker. “Does Political Polarization Contribute to Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health?”

Li, Yezhen, Alyssa W. Goldman, Liang Cai, and Yuanhao Liu. “Tenuous Assimilation? Friendship Network Instability among Immigrant Adolescents.”

Li, Yezhen. “Moving/Staying with the Tide: Gender Inequalities in the Sending Context, Documentation Status, and Heterogeneity in Immigrant Health Selectivity.”

Jin, Jing and **Yezhen Li**. “Unpacking Urban-Rural Differences in Public Support for State Healthcare Services in China: The Roles of Self-Interests and Ideology.”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Li, Yezhen and Jason Schnittker. “Hope in a Hopeless Place: Measuring Psychological Distress among the Currently Incarcerated Population.”

Li, Yezhen, Ricarda Milstein, Soohyun Kim, David Knapps, Ana Llena-Nozal, and Jinkook Lee. “National Long-Term Care Infrastructure and Stability in Care Receipt among Older Adults in 12 European Countries, 2014-2020.”

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Mental Health Implications of Informal Care Receipt Stability among Older Adults with Persistent Care Needs.”

- *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. 2025.*
- *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. 2025.*

“Noise During Cognitive Tests and Older Adults’ Cognitive Performance: Evidence from India.” *Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. 2025. Accepted.*

“Hope in a Hopeless Place: Validating the K-6 Psychological Distress Scales among the Currently Incarcerated Population.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 2025. Accepted.*

“Moving/Staying with the Tide: Gender Inequalities in the Sending Context, Documentation Status, and Heterogeneity in Immigrant Health Selectivity.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, 2024.*

“Does Political Polarization Contribute to Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health?” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2023.*

“Acculturation, Depressive Symptoms, and Friendship Network Turnover among Immigrant

Adolescents.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2023.*

“Tenuous Assimilation? Friendship Network Instability among Immigrant Adolescents.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2023.*

“Divergent Mechanisms in Mental Health Disparities: Comparing the Stress Process Between Asian American Young Adults and Their Non-Asian Peers.” *Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2020. Accepted (conference canceled).*

“Adjustment vs. Integration: A Typology of Different Modes of Assimilation into the College Community Among International Students in the United States.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2018.*

INVITED TALKS

“Harmonization of Cognitive Performance Measures across Older Adults in Five European Countries: Results from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe – Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol.” *Center for Economic and Social Research Brown Bag Series, University of Southern California. 2025.*

“Longitudinal Dynamics of Informal Care Arrangements: Policy Determinants and Health Implications” *Health, Society, and Behavior Seminar Series, UC Irvine’s School of Population and Public Health. 2025.*

“The Mental Health Implications of Informal Care Receipt Instability.” *Gateway to Global Aging Long-Term Care Seminar Series. 2025.*

“Hope in a Hopeless Place: Validating the K-6 Psychological Distress Scales among the Currently Incarcerated Population.” *Quantitative Methods Working Group, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California. 2024.*

“Does Political Polarization Contribute to Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health?” *Princeton-Penn Joint Asian American Summer Paper Workshop. 2022.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Medical Sociology (Fall 2019, Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant, Sociology of Mental Illness (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2021)

Teaching Assistant, Social Statistics (Fall 2020)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Service to the Profession

- Co-Organizer, Session on Politics, Public Policy, and Population Health, Population Association of America’s 2024 Annual Meeting
- Discussant, Session on Politics, Public Policy, and Population Health, Population Association of America’s 2024 Annual Meeting
- Conference Abstract Reviewer: American Public Health Association (2025); Gerontological Society of America (2025); Population Association of America (2024)

- Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer: *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences; Frontiers in Psychology*

Departmental Service

- Organizer, Asian American Studies Reading Group, University of Pennsylvania (2021)
- Student Representative, Computing Committee, University of Pennsylvania (2021)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$38,000)	2023-2024
The Otto and Gertrud K. Pollak Research Award, University of Pennsylvania (\$4,000)	2022
Turner Schulman Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$1,500)	2020
Zhuang Endowed Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania (\$8,000)	2020
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$150,000)	2018-2023
Social Science Scholarship, University of Chicago (\$27,918)	2017-2018
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Virginia	2017
Spring Scholars Award, University of Virginia (\$900)	2016

RELEVANT SKILLS

Quantitative research: survey research methods, causal inference methods, psychometric methods, social network research, longitudinal data analysis, survival analysis

Programming: R, Stata, Mplus, SPSS, Qualtrics, SQL