

Man Xu

Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

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EDUCATION

Exp. Summer 2025	Ph.D., Sociology University of Toronto Dissertation title: <i>Brokering global trade: relational work and identity formation of Chinese Muslim translators in Yiwu</i> Committee: Patricia Landolt & Ping-Chun Hsiung (Co-Supervisors), Laura Doering
2024/2025	Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Newcastle University
2014	M.A., Middle Eastern Studies Lund University
2012	B.A., Persian Language and Literature (Minor: International Relations and Affairs) Peking University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity, South-South Migration, Global Political Economy, Economic Sociology, Labor Studies, Qualitative Methodology, China Studies

PUBLICATION

Peer-reviewed Publication

Man, Xu. 2021. "Constructing the refugee: Comparison between newspaper coverage of the Syrian refugee crisis in Canada and the UK." *Current Sociology* 69(5): 660-681.

Under Review

Man, Xu. "Chinese Muslim Identity Construction Under Neoliberal Multiculturalism: A Transnational Perspective on Ethnicity in China." *The Sociological Review* (Accepted)

Book Chapter

Man, Xu. 2022. "Diasporic before the move: China's Hui Muslims' trade and ties with Iran and Muslimness." Pp.262-273 in *Routledge Handbook on Middle Eastern*

Diasporas, edited by D. Abdelhady and R. Aly. London and New York: Taylor & Francis.

In Progress

Man, Xu. "The moral work of everyday resistance: Negotiate labor strategies in trade brokerage service work." (Preparation for submission to *Human Relations*).

Man, Xu. "Brokers in risky markets: the relational work of translators in China-Middle East trade economy." (Preparing for submission to *the Journal of Cultural Economy*).

Public Writing

Man Xu. "The sky-high dreams of Yiwu's grassroots cosmopolitans." *Sixth Tone*, February 5, 2021. <https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1006807/the-sky-high-dreams-of-yiwus-grassroots-cosmopolitans>

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

2025 "Transnational Identity Construction under Neoliberal Multiculturalism: The case of Hui Muslims in China." ***BSA Annual Conference 2025***. (Regular session), April 23, In person.

"Studying ethnicity in China: how the state and market shape research dynamics." ***BSA Postgraduate Forum: 'Insider-Outsider': Navigating Challenges and Complexities in Cross-national and Cross-cultural Fieldwork*** (Panel Presentation), May 21, In person.

2024 "Relational Work and Employee Agency in Informal Work: Chinese Muslim Interpreters in The Global Trade Economy." ***British Sociological Association Annual Conference*** (Regular session), April 03, Virtual.

"Relational Work and Employee Agency in Informal Work: Chinese Muslim Interpreters in The Global Trade Economy." ***Canadian Sociological Association Annual Conference*** (Regular session), June 05, Virtual.

- 2023 "Reimagine Symbolic Hierarchies Through Neoliberal Multiculturalism: China's Global Rise and Hui Muslims' Identity Construction." ***School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University***. (Research Cluster Seminar), 24th April, Newcastle, UK.
- 2019 "The 'Other' in the "Other place": the methodological challenges of 'south-south' research." ***18th International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) Annual Conference*** (Regular Session), June 16. Malmo, Sweden.
- "The invisible hand of south-south globalization: Chinese migration to Iran." ***Richard Charles Lee Insights Through Asia Challenge (ITAC) Research Presentations***, September 24. University of Toronto, Canada.
- 2017 "Beyond compassion: reflection on the methodological challenge in refugee research." ***The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry***. (Roundtable Presentation), May 17. Champaign, USA.
- "Covering the Syrian Refugee Crisis – Immigration Discourses and the Politics of National Belonging." ***American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*** (Regular Session). August 15. Montreal, Canada.
- 2016 "Covering the Syrian Refugee Crisis – Immigration Discourses and the Politics of National Belonging."
- ***Michigan State University Graduate Student conference*** (Paper presentation). October 21. Michigan. USA.
 - ***the R.F. Harney 10th Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference***. (Paper Presentation). January 26. Toronto, Canada.
 - ***Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting*** (Regular session). June 01. Calgary, Canada.

Seminar Organized

- 2025 Seminar Organizer. "Intimacy as a lens in work and migration". ***School of Geography, Politics and Sociology***, Newcastle University.

SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH FUNDING & AWARDS

External Research Grants

2022-2023 **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship** (US \$20,000), Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange

Internal Research Grants

2021-2022 **R.F. Harney Graduate Research Fellowship** (CAD \$1,000) in Ethnic, Immigration, and Pluralism Studies, University of Toronto

2019 **Dr. David Chu Scholarships in Asia-Pacific Studies** (CAD \$4,500), University of Toronto

2019 **Richard Charles Lee Insights Through Asia Challenge Fellowship** (CAD \$3205), Asian Institute, University of Toronto

Other Awards

2020 **Research Travel Grant** (CAD \$6,010), School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto

2019-2021 **Doctoral Completion Award** (CAD \$18,000), Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

2020 **Sociology Research Grant** (CAD \$1,500), Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

2019 **School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant** (CAD \$630), University of Toronto

2015-2016 **Outstanding Admission Scholarship** (CAD \$3000), Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

2012-2014 **Global Scholarship** (SEK 55,000), Lund University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2024

Course Instructor

Sociology Department, University of Toronto Tri-Campus

SOC254 Intermediate Qualitative Methods (Summer 2022)

Overall Teaching Evaluation Score: 4.7 out of 5 (departmental average score: 4.1)

Guest Lecturer

Sociology Department, University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus

SOCC34 Migrations and Transnationalism (Fall 2023)

SOC205 Urban Sociology (Summer 2016)

Teaching Assistant

Sociology Department, University of Toronto Tri-Campus

SOC100 Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2023/2018)

SOC204 Introduction to Qualitative Methods (Fall 2022, Summer 2021, Fall 2020)

SOC205 Urban Sociology (Summer 2016)

SOC240 Introduction to Social Policy (Summer 2016)

SOC221 The Logic of Social Inquiry (Fall 2015/2017)

SOCB47 Social Inequality (Winter 2024/2021)

SOC236 Globalization (Winter 2018)

SOC311 Immigration and Race Relations in Canada (Summer 2023/2024)

SOC348 Indigenous Rights, Resistance & Resurgence (Winter 2021)

SOC332 Race & Ethnicity in Canada (Winter 2019)

SOC370 Immigration and Employment (Summer 2020)

SOCC04 Social Movements (Winter 2020/2017)

SOC371 Comparative Political Sociology (Winter 2017, Summer 2020)

SOC394 Immigration and Crime Control (Summer 2020)

SOC455 Comparative Indigenous Politics (Winter 2019)

SOCB30 Political Sociology (Winter 2019)

Mentorship

Asian Institute, University of Toronto St. George Campus

C450 Asian Pathways Research Practicum (Winter 2019)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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| 2023-2024 | <p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto</p> <p>Supervisor: Claire Tsai</p> <p>Designing, conducting, analyzing semi-structured in-depth interviews and writing reports for the research project, <i>"institutional actors' risk perception"</i>.</p> |
| 2017 – 2023 | <p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Scarborough</p> <p>Supervisor: Ping-Chun Hsiung</p> <p>Archival data organization, cataloging, data cleaning for the research project titled, <i>"The politics of investigative research during China's Great Leap Forward (1958–1962)"</i></p> |
| 2016-2017 | <p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Scarborough</p> <p>Supervisor: Ping-Chun Hsiung</p> <p>Conducting literature reviewing and writing report about the development of qualitative research in Chinese sociology.</p> |
| 2013 | <p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), American University of Beirut, Lebanon,</p> <p>Conducting literature review, writing policy memos and research reports for the research project titled, <i>"Youth in Arab States"</i>.</p> |

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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| 2016 | Volunteer and Mentor for Syrian newcomer youths, Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations Cultural Exchange & Support Initiative (NMC-CESI) |
| 2016 | Volunteer, the Peer Project, Youth Assisting Youth |

2014-2015

Intern, Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP): *NGO for children, youth, and women in Lebanon*

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), Chinese (Fluent), Persian (Intermediate), Arabic (Elementary)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Sociological Association

British Sociological Association

Canadian Sociological Association

Association of Asian Studies