

Updated: August 2025

Bin Xu

Curriculum Vitae

Email: bin.xu@emory.edu

Personal Website: www.binxu.net

POSITIONS

Full Professor of Sociology, Emory University. 2025-

Associate Professor of Sociology, Emory University. 2019-2025

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Emory University. 2016-2019

Postdoctoral Associate, the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University, 2014-2015

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian Studies, Florida International University. 2011-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University. 2011

MA. Sociology, University of California, Davis. 2005

MA. Applied Sociology, Nanjing University, China. 1999

BA. Political Education, East China Normal University, China. 1996

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

1. *Choice Reviews Outstanding Academic Titles*, 2022.
2. 2023-2024. Fellowship. The Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin).
3. 2020-2021. Chronos Faculty Fellowship. The Abraham J. & Phyllis Katz Foundation & Emory University.
4. 2018. The Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book on Sociology of Culture, Section on Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association
5. 2018. Best Book on Asia/Transnational. Honorable Mention, Section on Asia and Asian America, American Sociological Association, 2018.
6. 2017-2018. Henry Luce/ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Postdoctoral (renamed “Early Career”) Fellowship in China Studies.
7. 2016-2018. Public Intellectuals Program (PIP) Fellow. The National Committee on US-China Relations. A major fellowship for China studies scholars.
8. 2010 Best Graduate Student Paper from Asia and Asian America Section of American Sociological Association, 2010.

BOOKS

1. *The Culture of Democracy: A Sociological Approach to Civil Society*. (2022. Polity Press. <https://tinyurl.com/mr3w6buz>)
2. *Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China* (2021, Cambridge University Press, <https://tinyurl.com/bdbtamtw>)
 - One of the five *Choice Reviews* Outstanding Academic Titles regarding China, 2022.
 - Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Choice*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, *China Review International*, among others.
3. *The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China* (2017, Stanford University Press). (<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=26599>)
 - The Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book, Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2018
 - Best Book on Asia/Transnational, Honorable Mention, Section on Asia and Asian America, American Sociological Association, 2018
 - Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Choice*, *Culture Section Newsletter*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *China Quarterly*, *China Review International*, among others.

SPECIAL ISSUE

1. Bin Xu and Ming-Cheng M. Lo. (ed.). 2022. "Toward a Cultural Sociology of Disaster." *Poetics*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/poetics/vol/93/part/PA>. Introduction: Bin Xu and Ming-Cheng Lo. "Toward a Cultural Sociology of Disaster."

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. Bin Xu. *Forthcoming*. "Sacred Ordinairiness: Event, Cultural Codes, and the Politics of a COVID Pandemic Icon." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.
2. Bin Xu, Lingxiao Chen, and Xueqia Zhang. 2025. "How to Say "Black Lives Matter" in Chinese?: Race, Democracy, and Discourses of a Movement". *Social Problems*. Online first: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaf024>
3. Weirong Guo and Bin Xu. 2022. "Dignity in Red Envelopes: Disreputable Exchange and Cultural Reproduction of Inequality in Informal Medical Payment." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. Vol 85 (1): 23-43. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725211044815>
4. Bin Xu and John A. Bernau. 2021. "The Sympathetic Leviathan: Modern States' Cultural Responses to Disasters." *Poetics*. Online first: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2021.101564>.
5. Bin Xu. 2022. "Historically Remaining Issues: The Shanghai–Xinjiang Zhiqing Migration Program and the Tangled Legacies of the Mao Era in China, 1980–2017" *Modern China*. 48(4):721-753

6. Bin Xu. 2020. "Listening to Thunder in the Silence on Tiananmen: Politics and Ethics of the Memory of the June Fourth Incident." Online first at *China Information*: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0920203X20956561>.
7. Bin Xu, Licheng Qian, and Weirong Guo. 2019. "The Cultural Sociology of China: Trajectory and Dynamics of a Burgeoning Field." *Cultural Sociology*. Vol. 13(4): 387–410.
8. Bin Xu. 2019. "Intra-Generational Variations in Autobiographic Memory: China's "Sent-Down Youth" Generation." *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 82 (2): 134-157.
9. Bin Xu. 2018. "Commemorating a difficult disaster: Naturalizing and denaturalizing the 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China." *Memory Studies*. 11 (4): 483-497.
10. Qian, Licheng, Bin Xu, and Dingding Chen. 2017. "Does History Education Promote Nationalism in China? A 'Limited Effect' Explanation." *Journal of Contemporary China*. 26 (104): 199-212.
11. Bin Xu. 2016. "Moral Performance and Cultural Governance in China: The Compassionate Politics of Disasters." *China Quarterly* 226 (June): 407-430.
12. Bin Xu. 2014. "Consensus Crisis and Civil Society: The Sichuan Earthquake Response and State-Society Relations." *The China Journal* 71 (January): 91-108.
13. Bin Xu. 2013. "For Whom the Bell Tolls: State-society Relations and the Sichuan Earthquake Mourning in China." *Theory and Society* 42 (5): 509-542
14. Bin Xu. 2013. "Mourning Becomes Democratic." *Contexts* 12 (1): 42-46.
15. Bin Xu. 2012. "Grandpa Wen: Scene and Political Performance." *Sociological Theory* 30 (2): 114-129.
16. Gary Alan Fine and Bin Xu. 2011. "Honest Broker: The Politics of Expertise in the 'Who Lost China?' Debate." *Social Problems* 58 (4): 593-614.
17. Bin Xu and Xiaoyu Pu. 2010. "Dynamic Statism and Memory Politics: A Case Analysis of the Chinese War Reparations Movement." *China Quarterly* 201(1): 156-175. (Best Graduate Student paper award from Asia and Asian America Section of American Sociological Association, 2010)
18. Bin Xu. 2009. "Durkheim in Sichuan: The Earthquake, National Solidarity, and the Politics of Small Things" *Social Psychology Quarterly* 72 (1).

BOOK CHAPTERS AND OTHER NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Bin Xu. 2024. "What Does Good Qualitative Research Look Like? How to Do It?" *Contemporary Sociology*, 53(2), 93-98. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00943061241227330>
2. Bin Xu. 2023. "Morality and Civil Society." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Morality* (2nd edition).
3. Bin Xu. 2018. "The World is Yours!": Youth and Civic Engagement from Sichuan to Parkland." Invited piece for *Made in China* (Australian National University).
4. Bin Xu. 2016. "Memory and Reconciliation in Post-Mao China, 1976-1982" in *Routledge Handbook of Memory and Reconciliation in East Asia*, edited by Mikyoung Kim.

5. Bin Xu. 2016. "Disaster, Trauma, and Memory." in *Routledge Handbook of Memory Studies*, edited by Anna Lisa Tota and Trever Hagen. * Translated into Italian.
6. Bin Xu and Gary Alan Fine. 2010. "Memory Movement and State-Society Relationship in Chinese World War II Victims' Reparations Movement against Japan." Pp.166-189 in *Northeast Asia's Difficult Past: Essays in Collective Memory*, edited by Mikyoung Kim and Barry Schwartz. Palgrave-McMillan. *Translated into Japanese

BOOK REVIEWS

- Book Review. Runya Qiaoan. *Civil Society in China: How Society Speaks to the State* (Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge, 2022). In *Chinese Journal of Political Science*. 2022.
- Book Review. Honig, Emily, and Xiaojian Zhao. 2019. *Across the Great Divide: The Sent-Down Youth Movement in Mao's China, 1968-1980*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. In *PRC History Review*, 2020.
- Book Review. Hsu, Becky Yang, and Richard Madsen, eds. *The Chinese Pursuit of Happiness: Anxieties, Hopes, and Moral Tensions in Everyday Life*. 2020. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. In *Contemporary Sociology*.
- Book Review. *The Civil Sphere in East Asia*. Edited by Alexander, Jeffrey C., David A. Palmer, Sunwoong Park, and Agnes Shuk-mei Ku, eds. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2020. In *Contemporary Sociology*.
- Book Review. 2019. Ya-Wen Lei. *The Contentious Public Sphere: Law, Media, and Authoritarian Rule in China*. In *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 124 (5)
- Book Review. 2011. Ralph A. Thaxton, Jr. *Catastrophe and Contention in Rural China: Mao's Great Leap Forward Famine and the Origins of Righteous Resistance in Da Fo Village*. *Social Movement Studies*. Vol. 10 (4).
- Book Review. 2009. Kevin J. O'Brien. Ed. *Popular Protest in China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008. *Mobilization*, Volume 14 (2).
- Book review: 2008. *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt* by Ching-Kwan Lee, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Volume 13 (4), 2008.

PUBLICATIONS IN CHINESE

- Sun Zhongwei and Bin Xu. 2014. "Sociology of Disaster in the United States and Its Implications for Chinese Disaster Research." (美国灾难社会学发展及其对中国的启示). *Sociological Research* (社会学研究), No.2.
- Bin Xu. 2002. "The Struggles among Gods and Intellectuals: Two Key Issues in Classical Sociology of Knowledge" (诸神之争与知识人：经典知识社会学的两个核心问题) (in Chinese) in *The Journal of Social Theory* (社会理论丛刊) 2002, China.
- Book Review. 曼海姆《文化社會學論集》，《二十一世紀》（香港），October, 2000.
- Translation. *Selected Papers of Karl Mannheim* (translation into Chinese 曼海姆精粹) Nanjing University Press (南京大学出版社), China, 2003.

Translation. John R. Hall and Mary Jo Neitz. *Culture: Sociological Perspectives* (文化: 社会学的视野) Commercial Press (商务印书馆). China. 2004.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. **Article manuscript:** “Theorizing and Interviewing.” With Surbhi Shrivastava. *Status: being prepared for submission*
2. **Article manuscript:** “Memorializing the COVID deaths.” *Status: being prepared for submission.*
3. **Article manuscript:** “Meanings of Zero: the performative logic of China’s zero-COVID policy”. *Status: being prepared for submission.*
4. **Book project:** “Death, Mourning, and Commemoration in COVID”. *Status: work in progress*
5. **Book Project:** “Disaster Politics in China.” *Status: work in progress.*

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

1. 2024. Luce Foundation Grant on “Social and Political Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in China”.
2. 2023-2024. Fellow. The Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin).
3. 2018-2019. ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) “Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Culture and Society” (Conference grant for “Politics, Societies, and Disasters: China and Beyond.” \$25,000)
4. 2013. Visiting Scholar Fellowship. International Center for Studies of Chinese Civilization, Fudan University, Shanghai. Fall semester, 2013.
5. 2012. Project “Some Sufferings Are More Equal than Others: Collective Memory of Zhiqing” won Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) from the American Sociological Association/National Science Foundation. \$7,000
6. 2009 Small Grant from the China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC) of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) (2009. \$1500) for dissertation project.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES

1. Council Member. Culture Section. American Sociological Association 2025-
2. Tenure reviewers for the University of Hawaii (2022) and Furman University (2024)
3. Chair. Section on “Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity.” American Sociological Association. 2023-2024.
4. Council Member. Asia and Asian America. American Sociological Association. 2022-2025.
5. Chair. Best Graduate Paper Committee for Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity. American Sociological Association. 2022.
6. Editorial board member. *Contemporary Sociology*.
7. Chair. Best Graduate Paper for Asia/Asian America Section. American Sociological Association. 2021.

8. Member. Best Book Prize for Emotions section. American Sociological Association. 2020.
9. Council Member. Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section. American Sociological Association. 2019-present.
10. Co-Chair. Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book in the Sociology of Culture. American Sociological Association. 2019
11. Member. Best Book Prize for Asia/Transnational. American Sociological Association. 2019
12. Nomination Committee member. Theory Section, American Sociological Association (2016-2017).
13. Article Award Committee member. Global and Transnational Sociology Section, American Sociological Association (2016-2017).
14. Graduate Student Paper Award Committee member. Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association (2016-2017).
15. Board Member. North America Chinese Sociologists Association (2013-2015)
16. Reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Mobilization*, *Symbolic Interactionism*, *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Voluntas*, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*
17. Membership: American Sociological Association, Association for Asian Studies, Memory Studies Association.

INTERNAL SERVICES

1. Sociology Graduate Culture Prelims Chair. 2024-2025
2. College Faculty Senate Executive Council. 2020-2024
3. College Faculty Senate. 2020-2024
4. General Education Requirement Implementation Committee
5. Chinese studies hiring committee with REALC
6. Sociology Graduate Recruitment Committee Chair. 2021-2022
7. Sociology Graduate Recruitment Committee Member. 2020-2021
8. Undergraduate Committee. 2023-2024
9. Graduate student advising:
 - 1) Current graduate advisees: Lingxiao Chen, Xueqia Zhang.
 - 2) Committee chair for previous students: Weirong Guo who graduated in 2023 and now a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.
 - 3) Dissertation Committee member: Kemal Budak (Sociology), Dian Dian (Women and Gender Studies), Shang Liu (University of Southern California).
10. Undergraduate students advising:
 - 1) Honor thesis chair: Leng Seong Che (Sociology, 2022)
 - 2) Honor Thesis committee member: Junyi Han (History, 2020).

INTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

1. 2021. Global Perspectives on Race Grant from the Halle Institute for Global Research. Project: "How to Say 'Black Lives Matter' in Chinese?: A Debate over Race in a Transnational Public Sphere." \$20,000.
2. 2018. Grant for Second Book Writing. \$3,000. East Asian Studies. Emory University.
3. 2013. Broad Research Fellowship. School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University. \$1,000
4. 2012 Summer Faculty Development Award from Florida International University. 10% of 9-month salary
5. 2010 Winch Award for Best Graduate Published/Presented Paper from the Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 2010, for paper "Moral Legitimacy and the Ritual of Downplaying: State-Society Relationship in the National Mourning for the Sichuan Earthquake Victims in China."
6. 2009 Karpf Prize for advanced graduate students whose work contributes to promoting "peace, goodwill, tolerance and understanding among the peoples of the Earth." Northwestern University.

INVITED TALKS

1. Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany. "Listening to Thunder in Silence: Remembering and the Forgetting of Tiananmen 1989." June 2024
2. German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Germany. "Meanings of Zero: China's Zero-COVID Policy." June 2024
3. Berlin Technische University, Germany. "Memorializing the COVID deaths." June 2024
4. Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany. "Memorializing the COVID deaths." June 2024
5. University of Vienna, Austria. "Meanings of Zero: China's Zero-COVID Policy." May 2024
6. University of Trento, Italy. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." May 2024
7. University of Trento, Italy. "Memorializing the COVID Deaths." May 2024
8. Oxford University, UK. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." May 2024
9. Columbia University, USA. "Meanings of Zero: China's Zero-COVID Policy." April 2024
10. University of Edinburgh, the United Kingdom. "The Culture of Democracy: A Sociological Approach to Civil Society." March 2024
11. Bard College, Germany. "The Culture of Democracy and Taiwan". December 2023
12. University of Frankfurt, Germany. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." November 2023
13. Max Planck Institute, Germany. "When the State Cries and When It Doesn't". October 2023
14. University of Trento, Italy. "Studying Memory, Mobility, and Forcible Migration." September 2023
15. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea. "The Politics of Compassion." June 2023

16. Keynote Address to the 2022 Historical Society for Twentieth Century China Biennial Conference. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." August 2022.
17. Columbia University, School of Social Work. "Dramas of Catastrophes: The American and Chinese States' Culture Response to the COVID Crisis." April 2022.
18. Harvard University. Fairbank Center for China Studies. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." March 2022
19. Stockholm University, Sweden. "Theorizing and Life History Interviews." December 2021
20. New York University, Shanghai. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." November 2021.
21. Memory Studies Association. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." October 2021.
22. Emory Emeritus College. "Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China." July, 2021.
23. Cornell University. "Chairman Mao's Children: Politics, Generation, and China's Difficult Memory." October, 2020.
24. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology Department. "Chairman Mao's Children: Politics, Generation, and China's Difficult Memory." September, 2020.
25. University of Georgia. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." March 2020
26. University of Texas, Austin. "Chairman Mao's Children and China's Difficult Past: Generation and Memory." October 2019
27. "Collective Memory of China's Zhiqing Generation." University of Arkansas. April 2019.
28. "Nostalgia, Resistance, and Pursuit of Happiness: Group, Memory, and China's Zhiqing Generation." Emory University, April 2019.
29. "Collective Memory of China's Zhiqing Generation." University of Michigan, Lieberthal and Rogel Center for Chinese Studies. December, 2018.
30. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." University of Tennessee, Knoxville. November, 2018.
31. "Regretless Youth and Long Live Youth!: Exhibits and Museums as Sites of Memory for China's Zhiqing Generation." Emory University, September, 2018.
32. "How Activism and the Media can Thrive in China." Invited talk on a panel, World Affairs Council, Atlanta. August 8, 2018.
33. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." University of Toronto, The Munk School of Global Affairs. March 26, 2018
34. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Columbia University, School of Social Work. March 20, 2018
35. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Northwestern University, Equality Development and Globalization Studies. March 8, 2018
36. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." University of Pennsylvania, February 22, 2018

37. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Yale University, Council on East Asian Studies, February 1, 2018
38. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." The National Committee on US-China Relations, New York. January 31, 2018.
39. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Public lecture at Taihu Qunxue Shuyuan (A community center in Jiangsu, China). November, 2017.
40. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Nanjing University, China. November, 2017.
41. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." University of California at Davis, November 16, 2017
42. "Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture: Pedagogical Reflections." Georgia Highlands College. October, 2017.
43. "New Scholarship on China." The China Research Center, Georgia Tech. October 19, 2017.
44. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Georgetown University. September, 2017
45. "The Politics of Compassion: the Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China." Emory University, September, 2017
46. "A Genealogy of the Sociology of Memory." Nanjing University, China. December, 2016.
47. "Collective Memory of China's 'Educated Youth' Generation." Emory University, December, 2016
48. "Unequal Memories: the 'Educated Youth' Generation and China's Difficult Past." Vanderbilt University, April 8, 2016
49. "Politics of Moral Sentiments: Civil Society and the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake in China." University of Hong Kong. May 11, 2015
50. "Remembering and Forgetting the Sichuan Earthquake." Talk at Social Science Workshop on China, Yale University. January, 2015.
51. "Collective Memories of China's Educated Youth Generation." Talk at Postdoctoral Speaking Series. November, 2014. Yale University.
52. "Moral Legitimation and the State-Society Relations in the Sichuan Earthquake." University of Macau, December, 2013.
53. "Moral Legitimation and the Sichuan Earthquake." Invited talk at School of Economics, Fudan University, Shanghai, November 2013.
54. "Some Sufferings are Moral Equal than Others: Collective Memory of China's Educated Youth Generation." *Culture and Society Workshop*, Northwestern University. April 2013.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

1. Organizer. Regular sessions on Sociology of Culture I and II. American Sociological Association. Annual meeting in 2021.
2. Organizer. "States, Societies, and Disasters: China and Beyond." Venue: University of Copenhagen, Denmark. ACLS funded (Grant on "Comparative Studies of Chinese Culture and Society" \$25,000). 2019.

3. Organizer. Panel on “Collective Memory: New Approaches and Cases.” Eastern Sociological Society, New York, February, 2015
4. Organizer. “History and Memory of China’s Educated Youth (*zhiquing*) Generation.” December 2013, Fudan University, Shanghai.