

# Wen-hua (Zoey) Lai

Department of Sociology  
Michigan State University  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2023 (Exp) Ph.D., Sociology, Michigan State University  
Dissertation Title: “*Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Mental and Cognitive Health among Older Adults: the Roles of Stress Exposure and Social Relationships*”  
Committee: Dr. Ning Hsieh (chair), Dr. Hui Liu, Dr. Zhenmei Zhang, Dr. Richard Lucas, and Dr. Isabal Ayala
- 2016 Examination: Mental Health, Public Health, and Health Disparities, Neoliberalism  
M.A., Sociology, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Mental/Cognitive Health	Social Determinants of Health	Aging and Life Course
Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health	Social Relationship/Social Network	Quantitative Methods

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- Hsieh, Ning, Hui Liu, and **Wenhua Lai**. 2021. “Elevated Risk of Cognitive Impairment Among Older Sexual Minorities: Do Health Conditions, Health Behaviors, and Social Connections Matter?” *The Gerontologist* 61(3):352–62. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa136>
- Liu, Hui, Ning Hsieh, and **Wenhua Lai**. 2021. “Sexual Identity and Self-Rated Health in Midlife: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.” *Health Equity* 5(1):587–95. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heq.2021.0034>

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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Zhenmei Zhang, Ning Hsieh, and **Lai, Wenhua**. “Social Relationships in Later Life: The Role of Marital Status” (*Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*)

**Lai, Wenhua**, “Social Relationships, and Mental Health Disparity by Race/Ethnicity in Later Life” (*Revise and Resubmit at Society and Mental Health*)

**Lai, Wenhua**, Ning Hsieh, and Hui Liu “Life Satisfaction in Midlife: How Does It Vary by Sexual Orientation?” (*Under Review*).

#### **MANUSCRIPTS OR RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

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**Lai, Wenhua**. “Financial Strain, Ongoing Stress and Late-life Mental Health Disparities at the intersection of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Nativity Status”

**Lai, Wenhua**. “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cognitive Aging: The Role of Eveready Discrimination and Discrimination Attribution in Later Life”

**Lai, Wenhua**. “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cognitive Aging: Does the Psychological and Social Resources Matters?”

Zhang, Zhenmei and **Wenhua Lai**. “Cognitive Health and Changes in Social Network Following Widowhood.”

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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2022	Dissertation Completion Fellowships, College of Social Science, Michigan State University
2022	Corey Research Enrichment Award, College of Social Science, Michigan State University
2022	Graduate Office Fellowship Travel Awards, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2021	Graduate Office Fellowship for Dissertation Research Funding, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2021	Milestone award Graduate Office Fellowship
2021	Sociology Students of Color Fellowship for Research Enrichment, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2020	Graduate Office Fellowship for professional development, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2019	Graduate Office Fellowship for professional development, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2018	Graduate Office Fellowship Travel Awards, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2017	Graduate Office Fellowship for professional development, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
2016-19	Government Fellowship for Overseas Study, Taiwan

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2022 **Lai, Wenhua.** “Financial Strain, and Mental Health Disparity by Race/Ethnicity in Later Life.” American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 Zhang, Zhenmei, Ning Hsieh, and **Wenhua, Lai.** “Social Relationships in Later Life: The Role of Marital Status.” Population Association of America, Virtual.
- 2021 “Sexual Identity and Life Satisfaction in Midlife: Finding from the Health & Retirement Study?” American Sociologic Association, Virtual.
- 2021 **Lai, Wenhua,** Ning Hsieh, and Hui Liu “Life Satisfaction in Midlife: How Does It Vary by Sexual Orientation?” Population Association of America, Virtual.
- 2019 **Lai, Wenhua.** “Is homeownership the key of life satisfaction? Empirical evidence from urban China” American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2019 Gasteyer, Stephen, and **Wenhua, Lai.** “Human Rights and Water Inequality in the United States: A Political Ecological Analysis” American Association of Geographers, DC.
- 2018 **Lai, Wenhua.** “Homeownership and Subjective Wellbeing in China: Does Owning a House Make You Happier?” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 **Lai, Wenhua.** “Behind the Property Frenzy in China: An Analysis of the Housing Ownership From a Sociocultural Perspective. Annual Sociology of Development Section, Detroit, MI.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2021-22 **Research Assistant**, National Institute on Aging.  
Grant: “Marital Biography and Risk of Dementia in the United States.”  
Principal Investigator: Zhenmei Zhang
- 2020 **Research Assistant**, National Institute on Aging.  
Grant: “Marriage, Cognitive Trajectories and ADRD Risk in Late Life.”  
Principal Investigator: Hui Liu.
- 2018-19 **Research Assistant** for Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University,  
Sociology Department. Research project on “Closing the Water Access  
Gap in the United State.”
- 2018 **Research Assistant** for Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University,  
Sociology Department. Research project on “Perform Policy & Community  
Level Analysis of GLRI Investment and Outcomes in Priority  
Watersheds— A comparative analysis of Effectiveness of Agricultural  
Programs (REAP) among Great Lake Districts.”
- 2015-16 **Research Assistant**, for Yuju Chien. National Taiwan University,  
Sociology Department. Research project on “The history of antibiotic  
use in pig and poultry industries and the development of Taiwanese  
animal husbandry: from policy to practices, and the unexpected  
consequences”

2014-15     **Research Assistant**, for Yuju Chien. National Taiwan University,  
Sociology Department. Research project on “Avian flu control  
governance, disease prevention and practices in Taiwan.”

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (Teaching Assistant)

SOC 882. Analysis of Social Data II (Graduate), Statistical Lab (S2022, S2020)

SOC 881. Analysis of Social Data I (Graduate), Statistical Lab (F2021)

SOC 451. Methods of Social Research I (Recitation instructor) (F2019)

SOC 220. Criminology (S2017)

Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University (Teaching Assistant)

SOC 2027. Social Organizations and Networks (S2015)

SOC 2201. Cultural Sociology (F2014)

## **METHODS TRAINING**

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2022           Longitudinal Structural Equation Modeling with Latent Variables: two-week workshop  
Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University

2020           Multilevel Modeling in Social Sciences. Inter-university Consortium for Political and  
Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan.

2018-19       Machine Learning: Applications and Opportunities in Social Science Research. Inter-  
university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan.

2019           PSY992 Seminar of psychology: R Programming. Department of Psychology,  
Michigan State University

2018           SOC883 Multilevel Modeling and Structural Equation Modeling. Department of  
Sociology, Michigan State University

2017           CEP991B Theory, Methods, and Research Design of Social Network. Department of  
Education, Michigan State University

*Software Proficiencies* STATA, MPLUS, R, LISREL

## **SERVICE**

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2022-present   DEI Committee Representative, Michigan State University

2021-present   Mentor, Peer Mentoring Program, Department of Sociology Michigan State University

2020           Invited Panelist, “Professional Development Series: Effective Writing,” MSU

2018-19       Student Representative, Graduate Education Committee, Department of Sociology

2017-18       Sociology Collective Co-Leader, Department of Sociology Michigan State University

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

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American Sociological Association

Sections: Medical Sociology, Mental Health, Sociology of population,  
Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Aging and the Life Course

Population Association of America

Gerontological Society of America

## REFERENCES

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Ning Hsieh, PhD (PhD dissertation committee chair)  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Michigan State University  
[hsiehnin@msu.edu](mailto:hsiehnin@msu.edu)

Hui Liu, PhD  
Professor of Sociology  
Graduate Program Director  
Michigan State University  
[liuhu@msu.edu](mailto:liuhu@msu.edu)

Zhenmei Zhang, PhD  
Professor of Sociology  
Michigan State University  
[zhangz12@msu.edu](mailto:zhangz12@msu.edu)