

Jen-Chen Chao

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Education

- 2022– Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University
Qualifying Exams: Social Stratification, Social Organization, Gender, Family
Qualifying Paper Committee: Xiang Zhou (Chair), Deirdre Bloome, Christina Ciocca Eller, David Pedulla
Doctoral Trainee in Demography and Population Sciences, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies
Graduate Student Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science
Affiliate, Center for American Political Studies
- 2022 M.A., Sociology, National Taiwan University
- 2020 Visiting Student, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2019 B.A., Sociology, National Taiwan University

Research Interests

Economic Inequality, Education, Gender and Work, Quantitative Methods, Social Demography, Organization, Social Policies

Working Papers

1. **Jen-Chen Chao**, Ang Yu, and Felix Elwert. “Unequal Access, Heterogeneous Returns, and Differential Selection: How Secondary Schools Contribute to Socioeconomic Achievement Gaps in Taiwan.”
2. **Jen-Chen Chao**. “College Majors, Wage Returns, and the Gender Wage Gap: Changes from 2003 to 2023 in the United States.”
3. Christina Ciocca Eller, Ohjae Gowen, **Jen-Chen Chao**, and Natasha Quadlin. “The Economic Returns to ‘Some’ College: Heterogeneous Higher Education Pathways and Inequality in Early Careers.”

In-Progress Research

1. “Educational Attainment, Family Structure, and Income Inequality among American Families with Children, 1995 to 2023” with Xiang Zhou.
2. “Is Citizenship Always a Privilege? Examining the Moderating Role of Immigration Integration Policies on Health Disparities.” with Terrence Chen, Li Hsu, Ka U Karl Ng.
3. “Causal Effects of Parental Leave Policies on Women’s Employment.”
4. “Sexuality and Punishment.” with Sebastian Spitz.

Selected Conference Presentations

1. **Jen-Chen Chao.** 2025. “College Majors, Wage Returns, and the Gender Wage Gap: Changes from 2003 to 2023 in the United States.”
 - Poster presentation at PAA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
 - Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of Life Course Transitions in East Asia, Tokyo.
 - Paper presentation at ISA RC28 Summer Meeting, Los Angeles.
 - Paper presentation at ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago.
2. **Jen-Chen Chao,** Terrence Chen, Li Hsu, I-Lun Shih. 2024. “Is Citizenship Always a Privilege? Examining the Moderating Role of Immigration Integration Policies on Health Disparities.” Poster presentation at PAA Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH.
3. **Jen-Chen Chao,** Ang Yu, and Felix Elwert. 2023. “Are Schools the Great Equalizer in a Stratified School System? Evidence from Taiwan.” Paper presentation at PAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
4. **Jen-Chen Chao** and Janet Chen-Lan Kuo. 2021. “Gender Differences in the Pattern of Mate Selection Preferences among Taiwanese Young Adults.” Paper presentation at the Annual Conference of the Population Association of Taiwan, Taipei.

Awards and Honors

2025–2027	Study Abroad Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Taiwan (\$32,000)
2025	Travel Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University (\$650)
2025	Travel Grant, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies (\$1,200)
2024	Travel Grant, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies (\$1,500)
2023	Travel Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University (\$750)
2022–2026	Scholarship of Government Sponsorship for Overseas Study (Demography), Ministry of Education, Taiwan (\$200,000) (Declined)
2019–2020	Study Abroad Scholarship for Future Scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ministry of Education, Taiwan (\$40,000)
2018	Dean’s List, National Taiwan University

Teaching Experience

2024, 2025 Fall	Teaching Fellow, SOCIOL 2202: Intermediate Quantitative Research Methods, Harvard University (required course for sociology PhD students)
2025 Fall	Quantitative Advisor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University
2025 Spring	Teaching Fellow, SOCIOL 1128: Models of Social Science Research, Harvard University
2020, 2021 Fall	Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Research Method, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University
2021 Spring	Teaching Assistant, Qualitative Research Method, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
Population Association of America
ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility
Quantitative Research Lab, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University

Professional Service

2023–2024	Program Development Committee for Doctoral Traineeship in Demography and Population Sciences, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies
2023–2024	Social Chair of Graduate Student Organization, Department of Sociology, Harvard University

Ad-hoc Reviewer: *Population Research and Policy Review*