

# Jen-Chen Chao

Department of Sociology  
Harvard University  
504 William James Hall 33 Kirkland St.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Email: [jenchenchao@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jenchenchao@fas.harvard.edu)  
Website: [jenchenchao.github.io](https://jenchenchao.github.io)  
Updated: May 2026

## Education

- 2022– Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University  
Doctoral Trainee in Demography and Population Sciences, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies  
Graduate Student Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science  
Affiliate, Harvard 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

Inequality, Education, Social Stratification and Mobility, Gender and Work, Quantitative Methods, Family Demography

## Working Papers

1. **Jen-Chen Chao**. “College Majors, Wage Returns, and Trends in the Gender Wage Gap, 1989–2023.” Under review.
2. **Jen-Chen Chao**, Ang Yu, and Felix Elwert. “A Tale of Three Mechanisms: How High Schools Shape Achievement Gaps in Taiwan.” Under review.
3. **Jen-Chen Chao**. “Which Fields of Study Are an Equalizer? The Role of School-to-Work Linkages.”

## In-Progress Research

1. 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.”
2. A paper on changing family structure and trends in income inequality. with Xiang Zhou.
3. A paper on sexuality and punishment. with Sebastian Spitz.

## Selected Conference Presentations

1. **Jen-Chen Chao**. 2026. “Which Fields of Study Are an Equalizer? The Role of School-to-Work Linkages.”
  - Paper presentation at PAA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
  - Paper presentation at ISA RC28 Spring Meeting, Seville.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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

2026	Travel Grant, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies (\$500)
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, 2026 Fall	Teaching Fellow, SOCIOL 2202: Intermediate Quantitative Research Methods, Harvard University (required course for sociology PhD students)
2025, 2026 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  
UCLA Inequality Data Science (IDS) Lab

## 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: *Sociology of Education, Sociological Methods & Research, Population Research and Policy Review*