

# RUO-FAN LIU

Curriculum Vitae  
May 2025

Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center  
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies  
Stanford University

[ruofanliu@stanford.edu](mailto:ruofanliu@stanford.edu)  
<https://ruofanliu.com/>

## ACADEMIC POSITION

2026 Aug      Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, National Chengchi University.  
2024-2026      Postdoctoral Fellow, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Freeman Spogli  
Institute for International Studies, Stanford University.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.          Department of Sociology (Minor in Education Policy Studies), University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, 2024  
Dissertation: When Ladders Move: How Social Classes Navigate Uncertainty to Gain an Edge  
in Taiwan's Post-Admissions Era  
M.A.          Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017  
B.A.          Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University, 2008

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Education, Social Stratification, Culture and Inequality, Organization, Ethnography and Mixed  
Methods, Transnational and Comparative Sociology, East Asia

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Forthcoming      Out with the Old, In with the New: The Meaning of Merit in Taiwan's Holistic Admissions  
Reforms, *The Journal of Asian Studies*.  
2022              [Hybrid Ethnography: Access, Positioning, and Data Assembly](#). *Ethnography*, (Online First, top  
download among the monthly issue).  
2020              [Pathways to College Admissions: Student Strategies and Class Variations in Activating  
Cultural Knowledge in Taiwan](#), *International Studies in Sociology of Education*, 31:3, 284-304

### BOOK

2015 *Let the Timber Creek: An Alternative School's Utopia for Coming Generations*. New Taipei City, Taiwan: Acropolis. (See [Book Content](#) in English Translation)

- Best non-fiction book, *China Times Open Book Award*.
- Best Ethnographic Master Thesis: Taiwanese Sociology Association, Taiwanese Alternative Education Association, Taiwanese Critical Social Studies Association

#### UNDER REVIEW WITH ANONYMIZED TITLE

A Paper on Digitalization of Credentials.

A Paper on College Information and Students' College Plans.

A Paper on Status Competition and Organizational Strategies with Hsing-Cheng Chen, and Hsuan-Wei Wayne Lee.

A Paper on Temporal Exclusion and First-Generation Students' Pathways" with Elizabeth Lee and Janel Benson.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

Ruo-Fan Liu, Minyoung An, and Gi-Wook Shin, From Brain Linkage to Transnational Pipeline: How Korean Migrants Institutionalize Cross-Border Exchanges.

"Managing Contingency of Privilege Transfer." (In Prep to *Social Problems*)

- Best Graduate Student Paper, East Asia SIG, Comparative Educational and International Society.
- Third-place Graduate Student Paper Award, Midwest Sociological Society.

Study Up Transnationally: Code-Switching and Positionalities across Borders with Gi-Wook Shin (In Prep to *Sociological Research & Methods*)

#### BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*When Ladders Move: How Social Classes Navigate Uncertainty to Gain an Edge in Taiwan's Post-Admissions Era* (In Prep)

#### RESEARCH LAB

2024-2026 Project Investigator, Stanford Next Asia Policy Lab, Project Title: *Invisible Role of Nations in the US Academic Field*, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Freeman Spogli Institution, Stanford University.

2022-2024 Student Project Investigator, College Admissions Lab, Project Title: *Revisiting the Shape of Sieves: How Universities Screen and Why Variation Matters*, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS**

2023	Taiwanese Oversea Pioneers Grants, National Science Council (\$30,000)
2021-2022	Dissertation Fellowship, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (\$20,000)
2021-2022	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, China Times Cultural Foundation (\$6,000)
2019	Social Science Research Council Fellow, Publication Writing Workshop for International Studies
2017-2019	Fellowship, Education Bureau of Taiwan (\$32,000)
2016-2018	Fulbright Fellowship (\$34,000)
2023	Travel Award, American Sociological Society.
2022	Research Grant Award, Midwest Sociological Society (\$3,000)
2022	East and Inner Asian Council Research Grant, Association for Asian Studies (\$2,500)
2022	Vilas Travel Award, Graduate School, UW-Madison
2021	Publication Award, European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan
2019	Liao Shutsung Research Award, National America Taiwanese Professor Association (\$5,000)
2019	Fieldwork Award, Institute for Regional and International Studies, UW-Madison (\$3,000)
2019	Research Grant, Graduate School, UW-Madison (\$1,500)
2018	Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee Grant, UW-Madison

## **CONFERENCE & INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Talks**

2025	“When the Rules of the Game Shift: How Taiwanese Teachers Turn Student Traits into Favorable Signals in Uncertain Admissions,” Stanford University, USA, April 22.
2024	“Taiwan in the World: Uncertainty, Social Changes, and Class Landscape,” Stanford University, USA. May 2.
2023	“Negotiating Potential: How the Privileged Get Ahead in Uncertain Admissions,” Singapore Management University, Singapore. October 26.
2023	“Uncertainty at Play: How Do Universities Respond to Whole-Person Evaluation in an Exam Society?” East Asia Demography and Inequality Workshop (READI), Princeton University, USA. July 25.
2021	“What Do Numbers Tell? Real and Imagined Opportunities to College Entry,” East Asia Demography and Inequality Workshop (READI), Princeton University, USA. March 24.
2021	“Farsighted Habitus: Theorizing Temporality in Cultural Reproduction,” Grad Seminar, Cultural Workshop, University of California Santa Barbara, USA. February 18.
2021	“Do Admission Reforms Level the Playing Field?” National Cheng-Ching University, Undergrad Course, Comparative Education in East Asia, Taiwan. December 12.

- 2021 “Four Scripts to Turn Thesis into a Book: Event, Interpretation, Role, and Scene,”  
Ethnography Summer Training Program, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.  
January 21.
- 2020 “Hybrid Ethnography: Studying Teens in Digital and Physical Sites,” Colgate University,  
Sociological Research and Methods, USA. December 1<sup>st</sup>
- 2020 “Conducting Ethnography in Uncertain Times,” National Taiwan University, Sociological  
Research and Methods, Graduate Seminar, Taiwan. May 25.

### **Conferences & Panels Organized**

- 2025 “Taiwan Forward, Driving Modernization Amid Shifting Global Dynamics,” Stanford & NTU  
Joint Conference, National Taiwan University, March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 2022 “Reconceptualizing Educational Opportunities: Challenging Inequality, Creating Equity,”  
Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 5-7.
- 2022 Planning Committee; Chicago Ethnography Annual Conference, April 15.
- 2020 Roundtable Organizer and Diversity Committee Member; ASA Culture Section; American  
Sociological Association, August 8-11.
- 2018 Program Committee, North American Taiwan Studies Association, Sociology and Education  
Discipline, University of Texas at Austin, May 24-26.

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

- 2026 “Revisiting The Shape of Sieves: Which Pool is Likely to Change after Rising Competition in  
an Admission Field,” with Hsuan-Wei Lee and Hsing-Cheng Chen, The Future of World  
Society Theory Conference, Stanford University.
- 2025 “Cultural Guides and Bridgework in Uncertain Admissions,” American Sociological  
Association, Chicago, IL, August 8-12.
- 2023 “Inside the Black Box of College Admissions: How Universities Screen and Why Variation  
Matters,” American Sociological Association, PA, August 17-21.
- 2023 “Facing the Unknown Together: How Efforts to Manage Uncertainty Lead to Stratified  
Outcomes” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 17-21.
- 2023 “Well, You Never Know!: Strategic Cultural Coaching and Uncertain Transmission to  
Educational Attainment.” Sociology of Education, Monterey, CA. February 23-26.
- 2022 “Retrospective Cultural Matching: How Cultural Fit is (Re)negotiated in College  
Admissions,” Social Science and History Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 16-19.
- 2022 “Hybrid Ethnography: Positioning, Access, and Data Assembly,” American Sociological  
Association, Virtual, August 5-9.

- 2022 “Envisioning Opportunities to College Admissions: Social Capital in the Development of Students’ College Plans,” RC28 on Social Stratification and Social Mobility, London, England, April 21-23.
- 2022 “The Road (Not) Taken: How Teens Choose Parallel Paths and How Future Involves,” Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL, March 13-16.
- 2021 “Farsighted Habitus: Theorizing Temporality in Cultural Reproduction,” American Sociological Association Virtual. August 6-10.
- 2019 “Status Competitions in the Digital Era: Degree-Seeking, Public Credentialism, and Informal Counseling in Taiwanese Social Media,” Association of Asian Studies Conference, Virtual, January 6-10.
- 2019 “Pathways to College Admissions: Student Strategies and Class Variations in Activating Cultural Knowledge in Taiwan,” Annual Meeting of the Comparative International Education Society, San Francisco, CA, April 14-18.
- 2018 “Bounded Dreams: Social Stratification in Higher Education in Taiwan,” North American Taiwan Studies, Austin, TX, May 24-26.
- 2017 “Revisiting Adolescent Society in East Asia: Student Autonomy, Peer Strategy, and Teacher Control,” American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada, August 12-15.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

### **Instructor**

Sociology of Education (2026 Fall, Graduate & Undergrad Seminar), National Chengchi University.  
The Sociological Enterprise (2023 Fall), University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

### **To the Discipline**

Student Paper Award Committee; Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division; Association of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2022.  
Diversity and Inclusion Committee; ASA Culture Section (with Ann Mische & Jean Beaman), 2021-2022 Roundtable Organizer; ASA Culture Section, 2020-2021.

### **Advising, Mentoring, and Policy Consulting**

Mentor; American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education, 2024-Present  
Student Chair; Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee, UW-Madison, 2018-2019  
Policy Consultant; Taiwan Educational Bureau, Taiwan Congress, Taiwan Thinktank, and Taichung City Government, 2014-2016

### **Occasional Reviewer**

American Sociological Review; Sociology of Education; Media, Culture & Society; Symbolic Interaction; Ethnography; Teachers and Teaching; Ethnic and Racial Studies; Journal of Marriage and Family

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Sociological Association (ASA); Sections: Education; Culture; Children & Young; Social Psychology; Organization; Sociological Theory; Life Course.  
Taiwanese Sociological Association (TSA)

## **LANGUAGES AND SKILLS**

Languages: Mandarin; Hakka; English  
Software: MAXQDA, Stata, Qualtrics, R

## **REFERENCES**

Prof. Mustafa Emirbayer  
Conway-Bascom Professor of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive, WI 53706  
[emirbaye@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:emirbaye@ssc.wisc.edu)

Prof. Eric Grodsky  
Professor of Sociology  
Department Chair, Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive, WI 53706  
[egrodsky@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:egrodsky@ssc.wisc.edu)

Prof. Gi-Wook Shin  
Professor of Sociology  
Director of Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center  
Founding Director of the Taiwan Program and the Korea Program  
Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies  
Professor, by Courtesy, of East Asian Languages & Cultures  
Stanford University  
616 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305  
[gwshin@stanford.edu](mailto:gwshin@stanford.edu)