

## Tianyao Qu

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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2026– Assistant Professor in Sociology, Singapore Management University  
2026– Visiting Scholar at Irsay Institute, Indiana University Bloomington  
2024–2026 Postdoctoral Researcher, Irsay Institute & Department of Sociology, Indiana University  
Bloomington (PI: Brea Perry)

### EDUCATION

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2024 Ph.D., Sociology, Cornell University  
Areas of Concentration: Health, Social Networks, and Economic Sociology  
Committee: Benjamin Cornwell (Chair), Vida Maralani, Filiz Garip (Princeton), Will Hobbs  
*Dissertation: A Structural Perspective on Social Relationships and Well-Being*

2021 M.A., Sociology, Cornell University

2018 B.A., Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China  
Graduated with distinction  
*Thesis: Do Higher Social Classes Exhibit Greater Ignorance? Evidence from Visual Attention in an Eye-Tracking Experiment*

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Social Networks, Sociology of Health and Illness, Aging and the Life Course, Gender, Economic Sociology, Social Inequality, Quantitative Methods

### PUBLICATIONS

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Fekete, Maleah Ann, **Tianyao Qu**, Siyun Peng, Brea Perry, and Adam Roth. "Later Life Social Interactions in Community Spaces." Forthcoming at *Social Forces*

**Qu, Tianyao**. 2024. "A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as a Determinant of Depression in Later Life." *Social Science & Medicine* 345:116684.

Cornwell, Benjamin, **Tianyao Qu**, and Erin York Cornwell. 2024. "The Social Connectedness of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence by Survey Mode and Respondent Dementia." *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. 2024. "I Love You to Death': Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 00221465231175685  
[Media Coverage: [Cornell Chronicle](#)]

Wright, Lucas, Roxana Mika Muenster, Briana Vecchione, **Tianyao Qu**, Pika (Senhuang) Cai, Alan Smith, COMM 2450 Student Investigators, Jacob Metcalf, and J. Nathan Matias. 2024. "Null Compliance: NYC Local Law 144 and the Challenges of Algorithm Accountability." In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '24)*, pp. 1701–1713. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery.  
[Media Coverage: [Wall Street Journal](#)]

**Qu, Tianyao**. 2023. "Chronic Illness and Social Network Bridging in Later Life." *Social Networks* 74:1–12.

Yan, Xuewen, and **Tianyao Qu**. 2022. "Linked through the Life Course: Core Family Members' Infection, COVID-19 Illness Severity, and the Moderating Role of Age." *Chinese Sociological Review* 54:482–515.

Yan, Xuewen, **Tianyao Qu**, Nathan Sperber, Jinyuan Lu, Mengzhen Fan, and Benjamin Cornwell. 2021. "Social Connectedness to Other COVID-19 Patients as a Risk Factor for Illness Severity: A Network Analysis of 417 Cases in Shenzhen, China." *American Behavioral Scientist* 65:1901–1928.

Dai, Simin, **Tianyao Qu**, and Zicheng Du. 2017. "The Implications of China's Nationwide Online Live Show: Young Adults' Attempts to Reconstruct Community in the Postmodern Society." *Youth Exploration* 3:5–15. (in Chinese). Reprinted in *Proceedings of China Social Science Excellence*.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PREPARATION

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**Qu, Tianyao**, Maleah Ann Fekete, Siyun Peng, Brea Perry, and Adam Roth. "Hidden Gendered Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction." Under review.

**Qu, Tianyao**. "Paying for Affection, Intimacy, or Status? Virtual Gifting and Emotional Value in Chinese Live-Streaming." Under review.

**Qu, Tianyao**, Maleah Ann Fekete, Siyun Peng, and Adam Roth. "Daily Routines and Health in Later Life: Temporal Sequences of Activity and Interaction from Ecological Momentary Data." Revise & Resubmit at *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B*

**Qu, Tianyao**, Zoey Lai, Jessica Brantez, and Brea Perry. "Ties That Matter: Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Cognitive Rewards in Later Life." Under review

Perry, Brea, **Tianyao Qu**, Siyun Peng, Adam Roth. How Social Networks Structure Daily Social Experiences in Later Life: Evidence from Ecological Momentary Assessment. Revise & Resubmit at *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B*

**Qu, Tianyao**, Jessica Brantez, and Brea Perry. "Bridging on Gendered Terms: Role Accumulation and Network Inequality." (Draft available)

**Qu, Tianyao**. "Alone in Chaos, Safe in Order: Sequence of Daily Activities and Health."

**Qu, Tianyao**, Lucas Hamilton, Siyun Peng, and Brea Perry. "Negative Ties and Cognitive Aging." In Progress.

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. "How the COVID-19 Pandemic Reshaped Non-Household Social Participation." In Progress.

Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. "Social Network Change and COVID-19 Transmission Among Older Americans." In Progress.

## INVITED TALKS

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Cornwell, Benjamin, and **Tianyao Qu**. "'I Love You to Death.' Social Networks and the Widowhood Effect on Mortality." Duke Network Analysis Center, May 2022.

**Qu, Tianyao**. "The Power of Connection: Social Capital and Well-being in Later Life." Department of Social Work, Shenzhen, China, June 2025. (in Chinese)

**Qu, Tianyao**. "Hidden Gendered Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction". Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, September 2025. (in Chinese)

**Qu, Tianyao**. "Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Gender Inequality in Cognitive Aging". Department of Sociology, Xiamen University, December 2025. (in Chinese)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Qu, Tianyao**, Zoey Lai, Jessica Brantez, and Brea Perry. "Ties That Matter: Social Roles, Bridging Networks, and Cognitive Rewards in Later Life."

- 2026 Yale Cognition Workshop
- Scheduled Oral Session at ASA Annual Meeting, NYC, August 2026

**Qu, Tianyao**, Maleah Ann Fekete, Siyun Peng, and Adam Roth. "Same Old, Same Old: Daily Sequence and Well-Being in Later Life Using Ecological Momentary Data."

- Paper Session, PAA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, 2026

**Qu, Tianyao.** "Paying for Affection, Intimacy, Status? How Virtual Gifting Creates Emotional Value in the Chinese Live-Streaming Industry."

- Early Career Workshop, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Bordeaux, France, July 2026
- Roundtable, ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 2024

**Qu, Tianyao, Maleah Fekete, Brea Perry, Siyun Peng, and Adam Roth.** "Hidden Gender Costs: Cognitive Effort in Real-Time Social Interaction."

- Paper Presentation, ASA Annual Meeting (Gender Inequality Session), Chicago, 2025

**Qu, Tianyao.** "Stay Connected and Regulated? Social Sequences of Everyday Activities and Health During the Global Pandemic."

- Paper Presentation, Sequence Analysis Workshop, PAA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2025
- Paper Presentation, ASA Annual Meeting (Health Inequality Session), Chicago, 2025

**Qu, Tianyao.** "A Bridge Too Far? Social Network Structure as a Determinant in Depression in Later Life."

- Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, 2023
- Paper Presentation, Collaborative for Innovation in Data & Measurement in Aging (CIDMA) Workshop, University of Chicago, September 2023
- Paper Session, PAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2023

**Qu, Tianyao.** "Chronic Illness and Social Network Bridging in Later Life."

- Paper Session, PAA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 2022
- Paper Session, North American Social Networks Conference, 2021.

**Tianyao Qu, Hong Zhang, Yucheng Liang.** "Do Higher Social Classes Exhibit Greater Ignorance? Evidence from Visual Attention in an Eye-Tracking Experiment."

- Paper Session, Annual Meeting of Chinese Sociological Association, Kunming, China, 2019

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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(\* indicates independent teaching of discussion sections or labs)

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

- \* COMM 2820 Research Methods in Communication Studies, Fall 2022
- \* SOC 6020 Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research (Graduate level), Spring 2022
- \* SOC 3010/6010 Statistics for Sociological Research (Undergrad & Graduate Level), Fall 2019
- \* SOC 2220 Controversies About Inequality, Fall 2020
- \* SOC 1101 Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2020

- COMM/INFO 3400 Technology and Interpersonal Relationship, Spring 2021
- COMM/INFO 2450 Communication and Technology, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Summer 2023 (Head TA; assisted with syllabus design, course assignments, and personnel coordination)

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

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2025 SALC BIPOC Student Travel Award, Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association

2025 Early-Career Scholar Travel Grant, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

2023 Small Grant, Qualitative & Interpretive Research Institute, Cornell Center for Social Sciences (\$800)

2023 Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University (\$250)

2023 Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University (\$2,000)

2022 Citation for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Sociology, Cornell University (SOC 6020, *Intermediate Statistics for Sociological Research*)

2021–2023 Conference Travel Grant, Cornell Population Center (\$500)

2021–2022 Seed Grant, Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality (\$1,000)

2020 Graduate Research Funding, Cornell Center for the Study of Economy & Society (\$1,500)

2020 Clogg Scholarship, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

2019–2024 Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University

2018, 2023 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2018 Outstanding Undergraduate Award, Sun Yat-sen University, China

2018 Bachelor's Thesis Research Funding, Department of Sociology, Sun Yat-sen University, China

2017 National Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate, Baosteel Education Foundation, China

2014–2017 Excellent Student Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University, China

2017 Department Scholarship, Empirical Social Science Research Summer Class, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### ***At Cornell University***

#### **Co-Investigator, NYC Hiring Algorithm Research Project**

2023-2024 (PI: Nathan Matias, Department of Communication)

- Collected transparency notices and bias audits for 500+ New York State companies using Automated Employment Decision Tools (AEDTs) in job listings, analyzed compliance with NYC Local Law 144, and surveyed 500+ college students on perceptions of AI-based screening.

#### **Research Assistant, Multiverse Analysis: Social Capital and Income Inequality**

2021- 2022 (PIs: Cristobal Young, Benjamin Cornwell, and Barum Park, Department of Sociology)

- Curated multiple dimensions of social capital (name-, position-, and resource-generators)
- Harmonized social capital measures and inflation-adjusted household income across national datasets (GSS 1972-2020, CPS, ANES, CNES, American Changing Lives 1986-2011, American Trends Panel Survey) and visualized their relationships.

### ***At Sun Yat-sen University***

#### **Research Assistant & Field Interviewer, China Labor Force Dynamics Survey (CLDS)**

Summer 2016 (Center for Social Survey & Department of Sociology)

- Household interview supervisor: Selected on-site samples, mapped community boundaries, trained and led a team of 8 interviewers to complete 120 household interviews in three Shenzhen neighborhoods, improved longitudinal follow-up rates by ~10%; Research assistant: cleaned data for errors and missing items.

### **SERVICE**

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- Judge, Cornell Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2023
- Co-organizer, 12<sup>th</sup> Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Research Symposium, 2020
- Treasurer, Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Association, 2020-2021
- Graduate Student Mentor, 2019-2020

*Ad hoc reviewer: American Sociological Review; Journal of Health and Social Behavior (\*4); Social Forces (\*2); Social Science and Medicine- Population Health (\*3); Research on Aging; The Journals of Gerontology: Series B (\*4); Chinese Sociological Review (\*2); BMC Public Health; Sociological Focus; SOCIUS; Current Psychology; 2023 PAA poster discussant*

### **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association

Population Association of America

International Network for Social Network Analysis

Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics

International Chinese Sociological Association

Cornell Population Center, Cornell University

Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University

Irsay Research Institute, Indiana University

### **COMPUTER LANGUAGES**

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Stata, R, UCINET, Network Canvas, MAXQDA

### **METHODS AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS**

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Social Network Analysis, Social Sequence Analysis, Multilevel and Longitudinal Modeling, Time Use and Event Data, Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA), Survey and Experimental Design (Qualtrics, MTurk), In-depth Interviews, Mixed Methods

## REFERENCES

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Brea Perry (blperry@iu.edu), Allen D. and Polly S. Grimshaw Professor of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47408

Benjamin Cornwell (btc49@cornell.edu), Professor of Sociology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850

Vida Maralani (vida.maralani@cornell.edu), Associate Professor of Sociology & Director of Graduate Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850