

Wen-hua (Zoey) Lai

Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University,
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ACADEMIC POSITION

09/2023- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University

EDUCATION

08/2023 Ph.D. Sociology, Michigan State University, USA
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. Isabel Ayala
Qualifying exam: Mental health & Subjective well-being; Health disparities; Neoliberalism

06/2016 M.A. Sociology, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mental/Cognitive Health	Social Determinants of Health & Aging	Stress and Resilience
Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health	Social Relationship/Social Network	Quantitative Methods

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **Lai, Wenhua**, “Social Relationships and Mental Health Disparity by Race/Ethnicity in Later Life” (Accepted) In: *Society and Mental Health*
- 2024 **Lai, Wenhua**, Ning Hsieh, and Hui Liu “Midlife Satisfaction Disparities by Sexual Orientation: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study” In: *Journal of Bisexuality*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15299716.2023.2289027>
- 2024 Nemmers, Natasha, **Wenhua Lai**, Sophia Tsuker, Srabani Haldar, Vicki Freedman, and Amanda Leggett (in press, 2024). “Examining Care Network Characteristics in Older Adults' Relocation to Residential Care Settings” In: *Innovation in Aging*.
- 2023 Zhang, Zhenmei, Ning Hsieh, and **Wenhua Lai**. Social relationships in later life: Does marital status matter? In: *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 40(9): 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075231163112>
- 2021 Hsieh, Ning, Hui Liu, and **Wenhua Lai** “Elevated Risk of Cognitive Impairment Among Older Sexual Minorities: Do Health Conditions, Health Behaviors, and Social Connections Matter?” In: *The Gerontologist* 61(3):352–62. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa136>

2021 Liu, Hui, Ning Hsieh, and **Wenhua Lai** “Sexual Identity and Self-Rated Health in Midlife: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study.” In: *Health Equity* 5(1):587–95. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heq.2021.0034>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Lai, Wenhua, “Friendship’s Influence on Cognitive Health in Older Adults: An Intersectional Perspective” (*Under review, Journal of health and social behavior*)

Lai, Wenhua, Natasha Nemmers, Sophia Tsuker, and Amanda Leggett “Exploring Caregiving Network Characteristics for Older Adults Living with Cognitive Impairment across Race/ethnicity” (*Under review, The Gerontologist*).

Leggett, Amanda, Srabani Haldar, Sophia Tsuker, Natasha Nemmers, **Wenhua Lai**, Richard Gonzalez, HwaJung Choi, Donovan Maust, and Vicki Freedman “Who’s on your team? Classifying Dementia Caregiving Networks and Associations with the Well-being of Caregivers and Individuals with Dementia” (*Under review, The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*).

Leggett, Amanda, Laura Gitlin, Cathleen Connell, Natasha Nemmers, **Wenhua Lai**, and Helen Kales “Approaches to Dementia Family Caregiving During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Strains and Rewards” Book Chapter under review

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Lai, Wenhua, Natasha Nemmers, and Amanda Leggett “Exploring Racial/Ethnic Differences in Caregiving Network Size Trajectories and the Impact on Caregiver Experiences among Informal Caregivers of Individuals with Probable and Possible Dementia: Insights from NHATS & NSOC”

Lai, Wenhua, Natasha Nemmers, and Amanda Leggett “Exploring Racial/Ethnic Differences in Caregiving Network and unmet Care Needs”

Lai, Wenhua, Tsai Chin Cho, Barbara Mendez Campos, HwaJung Choi, “ Does the Timing of Unemployment Associate with Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Late-Life Cognitive Health? A Sequence Analysis Approach”

Barbara Mendez Campos, Tsai Chin Cho, **Wenhua Lai**, HwaJung Choi, “Family Caregiving and Job Disruptions: Impacts on Later-Life Cognition Using Sequence Analysis”

Lai, Wenhua, “Everyday Discrimination and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cognitive Functioning”

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 Pilot Study Grant, Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging, University of Michigan “Psychosocial Stress, Stress Appraisal, and Resilience: Exploring the Biopsychosocial Pathways of Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Epigenetic Biological Age Acceleration” (PI: Wenhua Lai. Award \$40,000 direct cost)
- 2024 Poster Session at the NHATS/NSOC Research Conference on Caregiving to Older Adults with Dementia (\$1500), University of Michigan
- 2023 Dissertation Completion Fellowships, Michigan State University (\$9,000)
- 2022 Corey Research Enrichment Award, Michigan State University (\$1,000)
- 2022 Graduate Office Fellowship Travel Awards, Michigan State University (\$1,200)
- 2021 Graduate Office Fellowship for Dissertation Research Funding, Michigan State University (\$1,500)
- 2021 Milestone Award Graduate Office Fellowship (\$475)
- 2021 Sociology Students of Color Fellowship for Research Enrichment, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (\$900)
- 2019-2020 Graduate Office Fellowship for professional development, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (\$5,000)
- 2018 Graduate Office Fellowship Travel Awards, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (\$1460)
- 2017 Graduate Office Fellowship for professional development, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (\$2,900)
- 2016-19 Government Fellowship for Overseas Study, Taiwan (\$60,000)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **Wenhua Lai** “Friendship’s Influence on Cognitive Health in Older Adults: An Intersectional Perspective” Population Association of America, Columbus, OH.
- 2023 **Wenhua Lai**. “Everyday Discrimination and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Cognitive Functioning” The Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL.
- 2022 **Wenhua Lai**. “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 **Wenhua Lai**. “Sexual Identity and Life Satisfaction in Midlife: Finding from the Health & Retirement Study?” American Sociologic Association, Virtual.
- 2021 **Wenhua Lai**, Ning Hsieh, and Hui Liu “Life Satisfaction in Midlife: How Does It Vary By Sexual Orientation?” Population Association of America, Virtual.
- 2019 **Wenhua Lai** “Is homeownership the key of life satisfaction? Empirical evidence from urban China” American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2019 Stephen Gasteyer and **Wenhua Lai**. “Human Rights and Water Inequality in the United States: A Political Ecological Analysis” American Association of Geographers, DC.
- 2018 **Wenhua Lai** “Homeownership and Subjective Wellbeing in China: Does Owning a House Make You Happier?” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 **Wenhua Lai** “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

- 2023- Present **Postdoc Research Fellow**, National Institute on Aging (R01) Grant: “Characterizing Dementia Caregiving Styles and Associations with Persons Living with Dementia’s Well-Being and Potentially Inappropriate Healthcare Utilization.” PI: Amanda Leggett
- 2021-2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, National Institute on Aging (R03AG062936) Grant: “Marital Biography and Risk of Dementia in the United States.” PI: Zhenmei Zhang.
- 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**, National Institute on Aging. (R01AG061118) Grant: “Marriage, Cognitive Trajectories and AD/DRD Risk in Late Life.” PI: Hui Liu.
- 2018-2019 **Graduate Research Assistant** for Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University, Sociology Department. Research project on “Closing the Water Access Gap in the U.S
- 2015-2016 **Graduate 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”
- 2014-2015 **Graduate Research Assistant**, for Yuju Chien. National Taiwan University, Sociology Department. Research project on “Avian flu control governance, disease prevention and practices in Taiwan.”

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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 Psychology, Wayne State University (Guest Lecturer)

PSY 2410 (Health Psychology)

Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University (Teaching Assistant)

SOC 2027 Social Organizations and Networks (S2015)

SOC 2201 Cultural Sociology (F2014)

Undergraduate Research Mentor, Wayne State University

Mentoring Student in developing an abstract and poster presentation at the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center’s Beyond Amyloid Research Symposium in Grand Rapids, MI.

Thanzeela Ebrahim (2024) “ The association between financial burden and psychological well-being for caregivers during COVID-19.”

Barbie Castro Sanchez (2024). “Caregiver sense of feeling trapped and stressed: A look into financial status, education and self-efficacy”.

METHODS TRAINING

- 2024 Genomics for Social Scientists Workshop, University of Michigan
- 2024 MCCFAD Summer Data Immersion, Institute for social science, University of Michigan
- 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

JOURNAL REVIEWER

- 2023- Present The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences,
Innovation in Aging
Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA)
- 2023- Present Abstract review for the Gerontological Society of America's annual meeting

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 2022 Student Representative, Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2022-Present DEI Committee Representative, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2021-Present Mentor, Peer Mentoring Program, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2020 Invited Panelist, "Professional Development Series: Effective Writing,"
Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2018-2019 Student Representative, Graduate Education Committee, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University
- 2017-2018 Sociology Collective Co-Leader, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Sociological Association (ASA)
Sections: Medical Sociology, Mental Health, Sociology of Population,
Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Aging and the Life Course
- Population Association of America (PAA)
- Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Sections: Behavioral & Social Sciences

REFERENCES

Ning Hsieh, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Chair)
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
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Professor, Department of Sociology
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Department of Psychology
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