

Amy Zhou

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University	2019-present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Practical Ethics, University of California-San Diego	2018-2019

Education

University of California-Los Angeles, PhD in Sociology	2018
University of California-Los Angeles, MA in Sociology	2011
University of California-Los Angeles, BA in Sociology, minors in Public Health and Women's Studies	2008

Research fields

Medical sociology, global and transnational sociology, race/ethnicity, science & technology, qualitative methods

Publications

Book:

Zhou, A. (Forthcoming, 2026). *Unequal Worlds of Care: The Politics of Global Health in Malawi*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

Zhou, A. (2021). Limits of neoliberalism: HIV, COVID-19, and the importance of healthcare systems in Malawi. *Global Public Health*, 16(8-9: Politics and Pandemics): 1346-1363.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2021.1940237>

Zhou, A., Sabatello, M., Eyal, G., Lee, S., Rowe, J., Stiles, D., Swanson, A., Appelbaum, P. (2021). Is precision medicine relevant in the age of COVID-19? *Genetics in Medicine*, 23: 999-1000.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41436-020-01088-4>

Zhou, A. (2019). Therapeutic citizens and clients: Diverging practices in Malawi's healthcare facilities. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 41(4): 625-642. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.12841>

Zhou, A. (2016). The uncertainty of treatment: Women's use of HIV treatment as prevention in Malawi. *Social Science & Medicine*, 158: 52-60.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.04.013>

Zhou, A. (2016). Serving some and serving all: How providers navigate the challenges of racially targeted health services. *Ethnicity & Health*, 22(5): 443-457.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2016.1244627>

Kim, MH., Zhou, A., Mazenga, A. et al. (2016). Why did I stop? Barriers and facilitators to uptake and adherence to ART in Option B+ HIV care in Lilongwe, Malawi. *PloS One* 11(2):e0149527.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0149527>

Book chapters:

Van de Ruit, C. & Zhou, A. (2022). The problem of insecure community health workers in the Global South. In Muschert, G.W. et al (Eds) *Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) volume Global Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions 2022*, Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

Other Publications

Farber, R., Harris, J., Singh, R.; Bell, S.E., Friedman, S.R., Jalali, R., Shaffer, J., van de Ruit, C., Vijayakumar, G., Walkover, L., Yamin, A., Zhou, A. (2025). "Reimagine Aid: Don't Destroy It." Brief Communication. *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-025-09475-1>

Zhou, A. Book Review: *Commodities of Care: The Business of HIV Testing in China* by Elsa L. Fan. *Gender & Society*, 36(6), 972- 974. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08912432221115731>

Zhou, A. (2016). Should I live a life of medicines?: Women's decisions for taking HIV treatment in Malawi. *UCLA Center for the Study of Women*.

Works in Progress

Zhou, A. (In progress). "Geneticization of nature: Different expectations of the capabilities and risks of gene drive technology." Article in preparation for *Science, Technology, and Human Values*.

Academic and Professional Honors

Graduate student paper award – UCLA "Going Global" conference	2017
Elizabeth Blackwell, MD Graduate Award – UCLA Center for the Study of Women	2016
Excellence in Teaching Award – UCLA Department of Sociology	2011

Grants and Fellowships

Columbia University Center for Political Economy Faculty Grant	2024-present
Barnard College Presidential Research Award	2024-present
Barnard College Special Assistant Professor Leave Supplement	2023-2024
UCLA Graduate Division Dissertation Year Fellowship	2014-2016
National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant	2014
UCLA International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship (declined for NSF)	2012-2013

UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship	2012
UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship	2010

Invited Presentations

European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference. Amsterdam, Netherlands. "Against 'Recovery': A Feminist/Intersectional Science and Technology Studies (FISTS) Take on Social Justice, Embodiment, Health, and Dis-ease."	2024
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. "Sociology of Medicine and Global Epidemics" Special Session (organizer),	2023
Precision Medicine & Society Virtual Seminar. Columbia University. New York, NY. "Is Precision Medicine Relevant in the Age of COVID-19?"	2020
Precision Medicine & Society Annual Conference. Columbia University. New York, NY. "Reflections on Precision Medicine and Society from an International Perspective"	2020
UCSD Ethics and Social Implications of Gene Drives Conference. San Diego, CA. "Perceptions of Risk Among Gene Drive Stakeholders"	2019
University of New Mexico, Department of Sociology. Albuquerque, NM. "Fragmented care: the impact of global health projects on health practices"	2019
African Studies Association, Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. "HIV policy innovation and the unexpected challenges of taking treatment"	2017

Conference Presentations

Sociology of Development, Conference. "Politics of legibility: HIV and healthcare systems in Malawi."	2024
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. "Geneticization of nature: Different expectations of the capabilities and risks of gene drive technology."	2022
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. "Limits of neoliberalism: HIV, COVID-19, and healthcare systems in Malawi"	2021
Society for the Study of Social Problems, Annual Meeting. "Limits of neoliberalism: HIV, COVID-19, and healthcare systems in Malawi"	2021
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. "Precarious opportunities: Career trajectories of Malawi's healthcare workers"	2020
Society for the Study of Social Problems, Annual Meeting.	2020

"Precarious opportunities: Career trajectories of Malawi's healthcare workers"	
Eastern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.	2020
"Changing Nature?: Perceptions of Risk Among Gene Drive Stakeholders"	
Development in Dialogue, Sociology of Development. South Bend, IN.	2019
"Precarious opportunities: Career trajectories of Malawi's healthcare workers"	
American Sociological Association, Global Health and HIV. New York, NY.	2019
"Policy innovation from the Global South: Malawi's Development of Option B+"	
The Crisis of History and the History of Crisis. Comparative & Historical Section, American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.	2018
"For the mothers and children of our country: HIV policy innovation from the Global South."	
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.	2017
"Therapeutic citizens & clients: Diverging practices in Malawi's healthcare facilities"	
Society for the Study of Social Problems, Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.	2017
"Therapeutic citizens & clients: Diverging practices in Malawi's healthcare facilities"	
Disparities in Development: Global, Regional, and Local. Sociology of Development, American Sociological Association. Detroit, MI.	2017
"Un-developing institutions: HIV policies and therapeutic triage of prenatal care"	
Thinking Gender: UCLA Center for the Study of Women. Los Angeles, CA.	2017
"Un-developing institutions: HIV policies and therapeutic triage of prenatal care"	
Going Global: UCLA International Institute Conference. Los Angeles, CA.	2016
"The uncertainty of treatment: Women's use of HIV treatment as prevention"	
International AIDS Society Conference. Vancouver, Canada.	2015
"Why Did I Stop? Barriers and Facilitators to Uptake and Adherence to ART"	
7 th International Workshop on HIV Pediatrics. Vancouver, Canada.	2015
"Why Did I Stop? Barriers and Facilitators to Uptake and Adherence to ART"	
American Studies Association, Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.	2013
"Competing responsibilities: the dilemmas of racially targeted health services"	
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.	2012
"Competing responsibilities: the dilemmas of racially targeted health services"	
UCLA Strategic Decision-Making in Labor and Social Movements. Los Angeles, CA.	2010
"Multicultural Health: Racialization and New Forms of Inclusion."	
American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA	2009
"Sex, drugs, and cultural taboo: HIV / AIDS and its impact on the Asian American /	

Pacific Islander Community.”

Public Sociology

Panelist on women’s birth control options at The Wing, a network of work and community spaces designed for women.	2019
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Grant Activity

Active Grants:

Title: Special Assistant Professor Leave Supplement

Funder: Barnard College

Term: 1/1/2023 – present

Amount: \$12,000

Title: Presidential Research Award

Funder: Barnard College

Term: 8/1/2024 - present

Amount: \$48,615

Title: Center for Political Economy Faculty Grant

Funder: Columbia University Center for Political Economy

Term: 8/1/2024 - present

Amount: \$33,950

Teaching Experience

Methods for Social Research – Barnard College	2019- <i>present</i>
Medical Sociology – Barnard College	2019- <i>present</i>
How Race Gets Under Our Skin – Barnard College	2019- <i>present</i>
Global Health, Politics, and Society – Barnard College	2019- <i>present</i>
Senior Thesis – Barnard College	2019- <i>present</i>
Community and Corporate Internships in Sociology – UCLA	2016

Graduate Student Advising

Elizabeth Adetiba – Columbia University, Sociology, PhD Committee	2022-2025
Max Calleo – Columbia University, Sociology, MA Committee	2021-2022
Larry Au – Columbia University, Sociology, PhD Committee	2021-2022
Hawi Teizazu – Columbia University, Sociomedical Sciences, PhD Committee	2019-2023

Undergraduate Student Advising

Sophie Bury – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2024-2025
Eve Spear – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2023-2024
Anda Gravlin – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2023-2024
Jana Abu Ayash – Barnard College, Athena Fellows Program (Faculty advisor)	2021-2022
Yunzhe Hu – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2021-2022
Estefannia Palacio – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2021-2022

Naina Lavakare – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2021-2022
Marina Chiaramonte – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2020-2021
Halle Jacobs – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2020-2021
Hannah Staples – Barnard College, Sociology (Thesis advisor)	2019-2020

Academic Service

Barnard College:

Representative to Columbia University Senate	2024-present
Faculty advisor for Athena Fellows Program	2021-2022
Panelist for Barnard Bold: Embedding Antiracism in the Classroom	2021
Co-director of Science and Public Policy Program (SCPP)	2020-present
Advisory Board for Barnard College Center for Research on Women	2019-present

Columbia University:

Commission on the Status of Women	2024-present
Coordinating committee for Precision Medicine Initiative	2021-2024
Steering committee for Precision Medicine & Society program	2019-2024
Faculty affiliate for Columbia Population Research Center	2019-present
Mentor for Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Program	2019

Service to the Profession

Editorial Board of <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i>	2025-present
Nominations Committee, Medical Sociology, ASA	2023-2024
Book Award Committee, Global and Transnational Sociology, ASA	2022-2023
Reviewer for <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> , <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> , <i>Sociology of Development</i> , <i>Sociological Forum</i> , <i>African Journal of AIDS Research</i> , <i>Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers</i>	2017-present

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association, Eastern Sociological Society, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Sociologists for Women in Society