

# Zékai (Zachary) Lu

Department of Sociology  
McGill University  
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## EDUCATION

PhD. Sociology ( <i>Fast tracking, Full GPA</i> ) (2024~)	McGill University
Visiting student (2026)	Beijing Normal University
MA. Sociology ( <i>Transfer to PhD</i> ) (2023~2024)	McGill University
LL.B. Sociology ( <i>Outstanding Thesis</i> ) (2019~2023)	Guangzhou University

## RESEARCH AREAS

**Sociology:** Sociology of Health & Medicine (Health Inequality, Indigenous Peoples' Health); Computational & Digital Sociology (Problematic Social Media Use, Infodemiology); Sociology of Sexuality (Asexuality, Sexual Attitudes); Criminology & Deviance (Substance Use, Drug Policy).

**Psychology:** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) & Life Course Trauma; Mental Health & Psychopathology; Addictive Behaviors

**Methodology:** Multilevel Modeling; Structural Equation Modeling (SEM); Latent Class/Profile Analysis (LCA/LPA); Machine Learning (ML) & Natural Language Processing (NLP); Social Network Analysis; Causal Inference; Intersectionality Frameworks (MAIHDA); Meta-Analysis; Discourse Analysis

**Programming Language:** Python (skilled), R (skilled), Stata (skilled), Mplus (skilled), MATLAB and Netlogo.

## PUBLICATIONS<sup>1</sup>

### Published (Peer Review)

2026 Lu, Zékai (Zachary). 2026. 'The Topology of Adversities: Mapping the Space of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Social Positions, and Risk Behaviors/Health Outcomes among US Adolescents'. *Social Science & Medicine* 119429. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.119429.

2026 Lu, Zékai (Zachary), Zelin Liu, Nan Jiang, and Danhua Lin. 2026. 'The Social Stratification of Slumber: Disentangling the Intersectional Effects of Heterogeneous Adverse Childhood

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<sup>1</sup> \*, Corresponding author. Papers list *In chronological order*

Experiences on Sleep Deprivation in US Children and Adolescents’. *Social Science & Medicine* doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.119400 .

2026 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**, Yanshu Niu, and Yuan Yao. 2026. ‘The Multilevel Meta-Analysis of the Association between Child Maltreatment and Problematic Technology Use: Heterogeneity across Different Subtypes and Moderating Factors’. *Developmental Review* 80:101264. doi:[10.1016/j.dr.2026.101264](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dr.2026.101264).

2026 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**. 2026. ‘Multiple Discrimination Experiences Patterns in the Asexual Adolescent and Youth Community: The Intersectionality of Outness and Gender Identity’. *Journal of Sex Research* 1–17. doi:10.1080/00224499.2026.2656487.

2026 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**, 2026. ‘Disentangling the Developmental Cascades between Adolescent Maltreatment and Internalizing and Externalizing Problems: From Between - person Differences to Within - person Changes’. *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 36(1):e70157. doi:10.1111/jora.70157. e

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**. 2025. ‘Mapping Adolescent Problematic Social Media Use Patterns across 41 Countries/Regions: A Multilevel Latent Class Analysis with Social Determinants’. *Addictive Behaviors* 172:108523. doi:[10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108523](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108523).

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**, Zelin Liu and Danhua Lin\*. 2025. ‘The Association of Relative Deprivation, Interpersonal Relationships, and Problematic Social Media Use in 39 Countries/Regions: Does School Contextual Inequality Matter?’. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*. doi: 10.1556/2006.2025.00091.

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**, and Samuelle Fortin. 2025. ‘Sociocultural Determinants of Injury Risk among Indigenous Peoples in Canada: A Population-Based Study of Heterogeneous Effects’. *Injury Prevention*. doi:[10.1136/ip-2025-045849](https://doi.org/10.1136/ip-2025-045849).

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**. 2025. ‘Adverse Childhood Experiences and Disordered Eating Behaviors Among US Children: Untangling the Developmental Sex Differences’. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*. doi:[10.1002/eat.24555](https://doi.org/10.1002/eat.24555).

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**. 2025. “Book Review of Disclosing Sexual Violence in a Digital Society: Storytelling, Activism, and Justice By Tully O’Neill” *Sexualities*.

2025 **Lu, Zékai (Zachary)**. 2025. “Excessive Digital Devices Use as an Intermediate Variable between Heterogeneous Adverse Childhood Experiences and Psychopathology in US Adolescents: A Latent Class Cross-Sectional Analysis.” *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. doi: [10.1007/s00787-025-02777-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-025-02777-8).

2025 Bi, Kaiwen, Gabriel J. Merrin, Tianyu Li, Xianlin Sun, Yi Chai, **Zekai Lu\***, and Mark Shuquan Chen\*. 2025. “Navigating Unmeasured Confounding in Nonexperimental Psychological Research: A Practical Guide to Computing and Interpreting E-Value.” *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* 8(2):25152459251326571. doi:[10.1177/25152459251326571](https://doi.org/10.1177/25152459251326571).

2025 **Lu, Zekai**. 2025. “Public Concern of Child Maltreatment in China from 2011 to 2024 and Its Socioeconomic Determinants: An Infodemiology Analysis Using Baidu Index.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 163:107352. doi: [10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107352](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107352).

- 2025 **Lu, Zekai\***, Eran Shor, and Samuelle Fortin. 2025. “Ethnic Belonging and Chronic Disease in Indigenous Populations in Canada.” *Preventive Medicine* 192:108236. doi:[10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108236](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108236).
- 2024 **Lu, Zekai\***, Ge Tang, and Samuelle Fortin. 2024. ‘Explaining Child Maltreatment and Aggression among Chinese Drug User: The Mediating and Moderating Roles of Drug Craving and Impulsivity.’ *Child Abuse & Neglect* 154:106954. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2024.106954>.
- 2024 **Lu, Zekai**, Rongqin Yuan, Zelin Liu, and Hong Lu. 2024. ‘Exploring the Symptom Patterns of Depression and Anxiety among Teachers during COVID-19: A Latent Profile Analysis.’ *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. doi: 10.1037/tra0001686.
- 2022 **Lu, Zekai**, Chuyin Xie, Nian Liu, Ying Xie\*, and Hong Lu\*. 2022. ‘Can We Predict Aggression?’—Determining the Predictors of Aggression among Individuals with Substance Use Disorder in China Undergoing Enforced Detoxification through Machine Learning. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2022.10.005>.
- 2022 **Lu, Zekai**, Lingxi Peng, Xuan Liu, Lizhi Zhan, Haohuai Liu, and Rong Hu\*. 2022. “The Systematic Traceability and Analysis of COVID-19.” *Journal of Nonlinear and Convex Analysis* 23(10): 2383–93 <sup>2</sup> . <http://yokohamapublishers.jp/online-p/JNCA/Open/vol23/jncav23n10p2383-oa/HTML5/index.html>
- 2023 Liu, Nian, **Zekai Lu\***, and Xie Ying. n.d. Application of the R Package ProcessR to Implement Various Types of Intermediary Models. *China Health Statistics (Chinese)*.**(CHINESE CSCD<sup>3</sup>)**
- 2022 Liu, Nian, **Zekai Lu**, and Ying Xie\*. 2022. Tracking Study on the Relapse and Aftercare Effect of Drug Patients Released From a Compulsory Isolated Detoxification Center. *Frontiers in Psychiatry* 12 (January): 699074. <https://doi.org/10/gn458v>.
- 2021 Xu, Junhui, **Zekai Lu**, and Ying Xie\*. 2021. Loan Default Prediction of Chinese P2P Market: A Machine Learning Methodology. *Scientific Reports* 11 (September): 18759. <https://doi.org/10/gmwnfz>.
- 2021 Liu, Nian, **Zekai Lu**, and Ying Xie\*. 2021. Factors Affecting the Public Acceptance of Extramarital Sex in China. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18 (11): 5767. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18115767>.

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<sup>2</sup> As the article is in subscription, while someone finds this paper interesting can access a preprint in my *personal website* <https://williamlord.github.io/TheSystematic.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Chinese Science Citation Database

2021 **Lu, Zekai**, and Xie, Ying\*. 2021. A study of public opinion texts on the “Sino-US diplomatic storm” in microblogs: a word vector sentiment analysis based on R language. *Media Watch*, no. 02: 54-61. <https://doi.org/10.19480/j.cnki.cmgc.2021.02.007>. (**CHINESE CSSCI**<sup>4</sup>)

2021 **Lu, Zekai**, Yaya Wang, and Ying Xie\*. n.d. A random forest-based approach to poverty alleviation identification. *China Market*. 2021, 22-23+36. <https://doi.org/10.13939/j.cnki.zgsc.2021.25.022>

### Accepted

2023 **Lu, Zekai**, Nian Liu, Ying Xie, and Junhui Xu. 2021. Time Series Analysis and Forecasting of China’s Energy Production during Covid-19: Statistical Models vs Machine Learning Models. *Energies*. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1074872/v3>.

### Under Review

1. The Irreversibility of Harm: Asymmetric Effects of Child Maltreatment on Behavioral Problems. *Under External Review Child Abuse & Neglect (First Author)*
2. Racialized Transitions in Discrimination Experiences Across the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Latent Transition Analysis of Health Implications in Canada. *Invited to submit to Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*
3. From Social Problem to Clinical Risk: Computational Textual Evidence of How Adverse Childhood Experiences Discourse Reshapes the Child Welfare Knowledge Field. *Under External Review Trauma, Violence, & Abuse (First Author)*
4. Religious Freedom and Population Health: Cross-National Panel Evidence on Political Liberalization as the Mediating Pathway. *Under External Review in Journal of Religion and Health (First & Corresponding Author)*
5. When Convergence Produces Divergence: Internet Use, Gendered Returns, and the Widening Gender Ideology Gap in China, 2012–2023. *Submitted to the Journal of Chinese Sociology (Sole Author)*
6. Faith Beyond the Congregation: Religion, Generalized Trust, and Subjective Wellbeing in Contemporary China. *Submitted to Social Force (Sole Author)*
7. How Well Does Combining Inverse Probability Weighting with the BCH Method Work for Causal Inference with Latent Class Exposures? A Monte Carlo Evaluation. *Submitted to Multivariate Behavioral Research (First & Corresponding Author)*

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<sup>4</sup> Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index(CSSCI), Considered to be the most authoritative index of Chinese social science journals.

8. Bayesian Psychopathology Network Analysis of Adversity Exposure, Risky Behaviors, and Psychological Distress Among US Transgender and Gender Diverse Adolescents Minor R&R in *International Journal of Transgender Health* (Sole Author)
9. The Topology of Adversities: Mapping the Space of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Social Positions, and Risk Behaviors/Health Outcomes among US Adolescents. Minor R&R in *Social Science & Medicine* (Sole)
10. Mapping the Longitudinal Dynamics of Depressive Symptoms and Cognitive Function in Aging: Insights from Temporal Network Analysis. *Under External Review in Aging and mental health* (Sole)

### **Preparing.**

1. The Discordant Self: A Longitudinal Response Surface Analysis of Objective-Subjective Health Congruence and Well-being in Older Americans
2. Religious Attendance and Multidimensional Health Among Older Americans: Bidirectional Within-Person Dynamics from a General Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis of the Health and Retirement Study, 2006~2020
3. Do Living Arrangements Really Impact Health? Evidence From Fixed-Effects-With-Individual-Slopes Analysis of U.S. Older Adults
4. Does Body Image Distortion Mediate the Link Between Adolescent Bullying and Depression in Early Adulthood? Evidence From a National Irish Cohort
5. The Burden of Dual Belonging in a Settler-Colonial State: The Case of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. With my Supervisor Eran Shor
6. *The Great Divergence*: The Dynamic Evolution and Intersectional Formation of Sex Attitudes in Contemporary China. With my Supervisor Eran Shor
7. Predicting and Explaining Suicidal Ideation Among Indigenous People in Canada Using Machine Learning Methods: A Nationally Representative Study
8. Rethinking the measurement of Adverse Childhood Experiences — A causal tree-based approach
9. *Exemplar of the New Century?* - Understanding China's Drug Policy in the 21st Century through Critical Discourse Analysis

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

1. Exemplar of the New Century? - Understanding China's Drug Policy in the 21st Century through Critical Discourse Analysis *Canadian Sociological Association 2024*

## **WORK APPOINTMENT**

2026 – Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre Data Analyst.

2023 – McGill University Sociology Research Assistant.

2021 – 2023 Guangzhou University Research Assistant, Center for Brain and Cognitive Sciences (Psychology), School of Education

2019 – 2022 Guangzhou University Research Assistant, Department of Sociology

## **MEMBERSHIP**

2024– Member of *Canadian Sociological Association*

2023 – Member of *The Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship*

2019 – Member of *The Chinese Association of **Social Psychology***

## **REVIEWERS' APPOINTMENT**

- 1.** Child Abuse & Neglect
- 2.** Psychological Medicine
- 3.** BMC Psychology
- 4.** Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health
- 5.** Journal of Affective Disorders
- 6.** Cogent Social Sciences
- 7.** Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy
- 8.** Frontiers in Public Health
- 9.** PLOS ONE
- 10.** Annals of Operation Research

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Fall Term 2025 Teaching Assistant for ***SOCI 350 Statistics in Social Research*** (Dr. Orsola Torrisi, McGill University).

Winter Term 2025 Teaching Assistant for ***SOCI 309 Health and Illness*** (Dr. Mehri Ghazanjani, McGill University).

Fall Term 2024 Teaching Assistant for ***SOCI 350 Statistics in Social Research*** (Dr. Orsola Torrisi, McGill University).

Winter Term 2024 Teaching Assistant for *SOCI 309 Health and Illness* (Prof. Quesnel-Vallee, McGill University).

Fall Term 2023 Teaching Assistant for *SOCI 235 Technology and Society* (Mr. Drago, McGill University).

Fall Term 2020-2021 Teaching assistant of *Quantitative Analysis Method* (Prof. Ying Xie, Guangzhou University)

Fall Term 2020-2021 Teaching assistant of *Application Of Statistical Software In Social Sciences* (Dr. Nian Liu, Guangzhou University)

Spring Term 2020-2021 Teaching assistant of *Application of Statistic Software* (Dr. Nian Liu, Guangzhou University)

## **INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

2022/05-2022/07 Intermediate Social Work Internship in *Guangzhou Shanshan Social Service Centre*

2022/09-2022/11 Psychological Trainers Internship in *Guangzhou Clear Sky Psychological Service*

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

### **Awards and Honors**

2023 Outstanding graduate thesis in Guangzhou University

2022 First prize for thesis in First Chinese Political Science Undergraduate Symposium

2021 First-class scholarship of Guangzhou University

2021 Outstanding student at Guangzhou University

2021 Excellent academic scale of Guangzhou University

2021 The second prize of the College Challenge Cup of Guangzhou University

2020 Third-class scholarship of Guangzhou University

### **Grants and Fellowships**

2026 FRQS Bourses de doctorat en recherche - volet régulier (100,00\$)

2025 Western Graduate Research Scholarship (\$16,912 per year, decline the offer)

2023 Western Graduate Research Scholarship (\$16,912 per year, decline the offer)

2023 Graduate entrance scholarship of UBC (\$5000, decline the offer)

2020-21 Provincial scientific research projects for college students (¥7000)

2020-21 College Challenge Cup of Guangzhou University (¥2500)