Dr Yingjian Liang

Education

- PhD (Sociology) Indiana University Bloomington, 2025
- MA (Sociology) New School for Social Research, 2015
- BA (Management) Central University of Finance and Economics, 2013

Professional Experience

2026 - PRESENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS)

- Within a multidisciplinary team, I will lead a project stream on how institutional actors (i.e., state regulators, employers, recruitment agencies, and schools) shape the multinational migration trajectories of migrant nurses from the Philippines.

2025 - 26

Postdoctoral Fellow, Poverty and Inequality Research Lab, Johns Hopkins University

- I co-lead a qualitative project on residential mobility, family dynamics, and parents' and children's socioeconomic attainment, contributing to data analysis, conceptualization, and manuscript writing, and reported the findings at the 2026 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.
- I contributed to a mixed-method project on the causes and consequences of the swirling trajectories of community college students in the US by leading the qualitative analysis of longitudinal in-depth interviews with 87 students.

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Sociology of work, occupation, and organization
Migration
Social inequality and stratification
Social networks
Cultural Sociology

Short Biography

Yingjian will commence his postdoctoral fellow position at ARI in October 2026. Prior to this position, he received his PhD in Sociology from Indiana University Bloomington and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Poverty and Inequality Research Lab at Johns Hopkins University. His research interests lie at the intersection of migration, organization, and inequality. His dissertation examines how highly educated international migrants adapt their values, behaviors, and social networks to navigate career barriers and, in doing so, actively shape their socioeconomic opportunities and broader patterns of social inequality. At ARI, he will extend this agenda to the study of institutional actors' role in shaping structures of opportunity by studying how organizations produce multinational migration trajectories.

Publications

Refereed Article

- Liang, Yingjian. 2024. "Different Time Frames, Different Futures: How Disadvantaged Youth Project Realistic and Idealistic Futures." Social Problems 71(4): 1032 – 47. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spac053.
    - 2021 John Seidler Graduate Student Paper Award, North Central Sociological Association

Under Review

- Liang, Yingjian. "For the Money or the Work Itself: How Workers Approach Bad Jobs in China's Low-Wage Job Sector." (Revised and Resubmitted at Journal of Social Issues)

- Liang, Yingjian. "Job Search as Cultural Adaptation." (Under Review at American Journal of Sociology)
    - 2024 Edgar Schein Best Student Paper Award, Culture Connect Conference, UC Berkeley

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Awards/Grants and Distinctions

Fellowships and Awards

2024-25	Dissertation Completion Fellowship ($25,000), College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University
2024	Edgar Schein Best Student Paper Award ($2000), the 6th Culture Connect Conference, UC Berkeley
2022-23	Lindesmith-Mullins Fellowship ($20,000), Department of Sociology, Indiana University (The most prestigious departmental prize in recognition of excellence in research)
2021	The Medici Summer School in Management Studies (A leading international institution in management doctoral education hosted annually, on a rotating basis, by MIT Sloan, HEC Paris, and University of Bologna Business School)
2020	Schuessler Scholarship for Study at Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR, $3200), Department of Sociology, Indiana University

2021 John Seidler Graduate Student Paper Award, North Central Sociological Association

2015-16 The University Fellowship (full tuition), The New School for Social Research

2013-15 The NSSR Provost's Scholarship (half tuition), The New School for Social Research

Research Grants

2024 Research Seed Grant ($5000, with Koji Chavez and Kate Weisshaar), Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University

2024 GPSG Travel Award ($500), Graduate and Professional Student Government, Indiana University

2023 John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant ($1250), ASA Culture Section

2023 Grant in Aid of Graduate Research ($1000), University Graduate School, Indiana University

2022 Graduate Research Grant ($2000), Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University

2022 Grant for Research ($1423), Midwestern Sociological Society

2022 Grant in Aid of Graduate Research ($1000), University Graduate School, Indiana University

2021 Graduate Research Grant ($700), College Arts and Humanities Institute, Indiana University

2020 Graduate Research Grant ($500), Asian American Studies Program, Indiana University

2020 GPSG Research Grant ($1000), Indiana University Graduate & Professional Student Government

2019 Stryker Research Grant ($700), Department of Sociology, Indiana University

2019 Graduate Research Grant ($2000), Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University

2018 Graduate Research Grant ($4789), Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development, Indiana University

2016 Summer Research Grant ($250), Department of Sociology, The New School for Social Research

2016 Lee Student Support Fund ($143.5), Society for the Study of Social Problems

2015 Summer Research Grant ($250), The New School for Social Research