

HAICHENG WANG

Research Scientist | Computational Social Science & Mixed-Methods Research
Shenzhen, China | haicheng.wang@connect.ust.hk
Updated July 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Astraculum AI, Beijing & Shanghai, China	Apr 2026–Present
Research Scientist	Jul 2026–Present
Research Intern	Apr 2026–Jul 2026
- Conduct research and development on LLM-based social simulation, designing synthetic populations and multi-agent interaction scenarios to generate behavioral and population-level statistical data. - Examine how demographic attributes, prompt design, and interaction structures affect the consistency, plausibility, and potential biases of model-generated outcomes. - Develop frameworks for using LLM-generated synthetic data to complement surveys and observational methods, enabling rapid hypothesis testing and large-scale social scenario analysis.	

EDUCATION

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR	Sep 2024–Jul 2026
MPhil in Social Science, Division of Social Science, School of Humanities and Social Science	
Thesis: Transitional Refugees: Immigrants Trapped between Globalization and Deglobalization in Hong Kong	
Supervisor: Wenjuan Zheng; Committee: Shuk-Mei Agnes Ku (Chair), Julian Groves	
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China	Aug 2020–Jun 2024
LL.B. in Sociology, Department of Sociology, School of Social Science	
Thesis: Continuing with “Early Love”: Students, Families, and High Schools Confronting the Gaokao	
Supervisor: Yue Du; Committee: Xiulin Sun (Chair), Xiaoyu Li, Zhengxin Li	

PUBLICATIONS

* Corresponding author	
Yang, X., & Wang, H.* (2026). Trying to Live with the Wild: Citizen Science and the Co-Production of Urban Ecology in Urban China. <i>Geoforum</i> , 175, 104729.	
Wang, H. (2026). From “Learn to Return” to “Learn to Leave”: How Urbanization Shapes the Socialization Process of Chinese Rural Youth. <i>Youth & Society</i> , 58(4), 578–601.	
Presented at: Hong Kong Sociological Association 2023 Annual Conference, Section on Education and Immigration.	

SELECTED RESEARCH & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Growing Up as a Refugee: Education, Race, and the International Migration Process of Refugee Youth in Hong Kong	Aug 2025
ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago Presenter and Presider, International Migration Roundtable: Refugee	
- Conducted in-depth field research involving semi-structured interviews with 32 refugee families residing in Hong Kong. - Identified how limited educational access, discrimination, and legal uncertainty create both vulnerability and agency among refugee children. - Theorized Hong Kong as a node in low-end globalization and anti-globalization, positioning refugee children at the intersection of global capitalism and border politics.	
Transitional Refugees: Immigrants Trapped between Globalization and Deglobalization in Hong Kong	2026
ASA Annual Meeting, New York	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Thrust of Urban Governance and Design, HKUST(GZ)	Jun 2026–Present
Research Assistant to Prof. Sukie Xiuqi Yang	
- Conduct an extensive literature review, synthesizing relevant theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and methodological approaches to inform project development. - Support the design of a large-scale longitudinal mixed-methods study on families and children in socioeconomically disadvantaged regions of mainland China. - Develop survey and in-depth interview protocols, sampling and recruitment strategies, and fieldwork plans in coordination with prospective local partners.	
Civic Life of Cities Lab, Stanford University	Dec 2024–Present
Research Assistant to Prof. Wenjuan Zheng	
- Analyze survey and demographic datasets from six global cities to support comparative research on urban social behavior and policy effects. - Use Python for web scraping and data visualization and R for statistical modeling, including hierarchical linear models and difference-in-differences designs.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

School of Social Work & Faculty of Information, University of Toronto	Jun 2023–Sep 2023
<i>Research Assistant to Prof. Jia Xue</i>	
Applied text classification, topic modeling, and content analysis in Python for the NGOsmuse project, examining how Canadian NGOs addressed domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic using large-scale textual and digital communication data.	
Rural Revitalization Workstation, Tsinghua University	Mar 2021–Jul 2021
<i>Research Assistant to Prof. Zhengxu Zhou</i>	
Conducted large-scale rural fieldwork and contributed to the Chinese Rural Construction Survey (CRCS) database, with training in survey design, data cleaning, and thematic analysis.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	2024–2026
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
SOSC 2290 Understanding Globalization	Spring 2025
SOSC 2140 Research Methods in the Social Sciences	Fall 2025
SOSC 2299 The Rise and Fall of Globalization	Spring 2026
SOSC 5170 Qualitative Research Methods	Spring 2026

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Sociology Theory Record, Hangzhou, China	Aug 2023–Present
<i>Editor, Translator, and Program Organizer</i>	
- Translate contemporary sociological and interdisciplinary scholarship for an audience of more than 50,000 Chinese-language readers through WeChat. - Initiate and organize cross-institutional academic workshops connecting graduate students and faculty from the University of Chicago, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Peking University, and other institutions. - Selected work: Changing China in Sociological Eyes	
China International Intellectech Group Co., Ltd., Guangzhou, China	Nov 2024–Feb 2025
<i>Consultant</i>	
Provided human resources management recommendations and program support for state-owned enterprises in China.	
Center for Refugees and Diversity Hub, Christian Action, Hong Kong SAR	Oct 2024–Jun 2026
<i>Assistant Social Worker</i>	
Provided academic tutoring and mentorship to refugee students in middle and high school, supported their adjustment to local curricula, and led fundraising initiatives for future college education.	

HONORS & AWARDS

University of Bristol Global Knowledge Network Award , University of Bristol, £8,000	Apr–Jul 2026
Postgraduate Scholarship , Fok Ying Tung Graduate School, HKUST, HK\$432,720	Sep 2024–Jun 2026
Research Travel Grant , Fok Ying Tung Graduate School, HKUST, HK\$15,090	Aug 2025
Undergraduate Academic Advancement Grant , Tsinghua University, RMB 50,000	Sep 2023–Aug 2024
Spark Scientific and Technological Innovation Fellowship , Tsinghua University	Sep 2023–Jun 2024
Academic Merit Scholarship , School of Social Science, Tsinghua University, RMB 5,000	Mar 2024
Integrated Excellence Scholarship , School of Social Science, Tsinghua University, RMB 10,000	Sep 2023
Overseas Research Grant for Outstanding Undergraduates , Tsinghua University, RMB 30,000	Jun 2023
Integrated Excellence Scholarship , School of Social Science, Tsinghua University, RMB 10,000	Sep 2022
Social Worker Merit Scholarship , School of Social Science, Tsinghua University, RMB 4,000	Sep 2022
Social Worker Merit Scholarship , School of Social Science, Tsinghua University, RMB 4,000	Sep 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Programming & quantitative analysis: R, Python, Stata, SPSS
Qualitative research: NVivo, Dedoose, MAXQDA
Other software: Microsoft Office
Languages: Mandarin (native); English (fluent); Cantonese (intermediate); Japanese (reading); German (basic reading); French (basic reading)