

Yuanyuan Yang, PhD, MSW, MPA
Assistant Professor
Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work
The University of Oklahoma
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Education

PhD. Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, 2025

- Dissertation Advisor: Michael Sherraden
- Dissertation title: Relationships between household economic distress and child mental health: Determinants, mechanisms, and interventions

MSW. Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, 2025

- Concentration: Mental health

MPA. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, 2017

- Concentration: Public policy analysis

BM. Business School, Beijing Normal University, 2015

- Concentration: Business administration

Areas of Research and Teaching Interests

Data science for wealth and health equity, child behavioral and mental health, program evaluation and social policy analysis

Professional Experience

2025-present	Assistant Professor Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work The University of Oklahoma
2024-2025	Research Fellow Institute for Child and Family Well-being University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2018-2025	Research Associate /Research Affiliate Center for Social Development Washington University in St. Louis
2022-2023	Social Work Intern Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy, Research and Training Washington University in St. Louis

2019-2020	External Program Evaluator Shanghai United Foundation, Shanghai, China
2017-2018	Research Assistant/Research Fellow China Center for Social Policy Columbia University
2016-2017	Research Assistant McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research New York University

Referred Journal Articles

Published/Accepted (*Co-first author)

1. **Yang, Y.**, Li, D., & An, R. (2025). Impact of Hurricane Maria on mental and physical health among Puerto Ricans: A matched difference-in-differences analysis. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1-15.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2025.2563004>
2. **Yang, Y***, An, R., Cao, F., Ferris, D. (2025). Artificial intelligence in food bank and pantry services: A systematic review. *Nutrients*, 17(9), 1461-1473.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17091461>
3. Shields, M., **Yang, Y.**, & Busch, S. (2025). Psychiatric hospitals are not immune to financialization: Private equity trends and its association with staffing and quality performance. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 82(7), 701-708.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2025.0689>
4. Park, S., Ahn, E., Ahn, T. h., Ahn, S. N., Park, S., Kwon, E., Ahn, S., & **Yang, Y.** (2025). Role of artificial intelligence (AI) in Aging in Place (AIP) research: A scoping review. *The Gerontologist*. gnaf130.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaf130>
5. Li, D., **Yang, Y.**, & An, R. (2025). Impact of Hurricane Maria on physical activity, smoking, and alcohol use among Puerto Ricans. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, 1–12.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09603123.2025.2464078>
6. Chen, J. H; **Yang, Y.**, Fang, C., Huang, C. H., Chiang, C. J., Wu, C. F., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. (2025). Balancing work and earnings: The long-term impact on mental health. *Social Science and Medicine*, 364, 117562.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117562>
7. Lee, J. Y., Ahn, E., Xu, A., **Yang, Y.**, Chang, Y., Cha, H., & Ammari, T. (2025). Artificial intelligence in applied family research involving families with young children: A scoping review. *Family Relations*, 74(3), 1121-1145.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.13090>
8. Ahn, E., Tejada, Y., & **Yang, Y.** (2025). Fairness in machine learning applied to support families: A case study of preventative services. *Family Relations*, 74(3), 1285-1298. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.13114>
9. An, R., & **Yang, Y.** (2024). Artificial intelligence holds promise for transforming public health nutrition. *Nutrients*, 16(23), 4034.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/nu16234034>
10. Chen, J. H., Jones, D., Lee, J., Yan, Y., Hsieh, W. J., Huang, C., **Yang, Y.**, Wu, C. F., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. (2024). Do the benefits of homeownership on mental health vary by race and poverty status? An application of doubly robust estimation for causal inference. *Social Science and Medicine*. 351,

116958. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116958>.
11. Yu, D., Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., McBride, T., & An, R. (2024). Governance Policy Evaluation in the United States during the Pandemic: Nonpharmaceutical Interventions or Else? *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 114(3), 437-461. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2023.2292807>
 12. Fu, L., Zhang, Z., **Yang, Y.**, & McMillen, J. C. (2024). Acceptability and preliminary impact of a school-based SEL program for rural children in China: A quasi-experimental study. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 107579. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2024.107579>
 13. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2023). Interventions to reduce racial discrimination in the United States: A scoping review. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 14(1), 165-183. <https://doi.org/10.1086/723871>
 14. Li, D., Fu, L., **Yang, Y.** & An, R. (2022). Social media-assisted interventions on human papillomavirus and vaccination-related knowledge, intention, and behavior: A scoping review. *Health Education Research*, 37(2), 104-132. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyac007>
 15. Ma, J., **Yang, Y.*.**, Yang, W., Shen, C., & Qiu, P. (2021). The influence of child adversities on Mid-late cognitive function—from the perspective of life course. *Plos one*, 16(8), e0256297.
 16. Guo, S., An, R., McBride, T. D., Yu, D., Fu, L., & **Yang, Y.** (2020). Mitigation interventions in the United States: An exploratory investigation of determinants and impacts. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 1049731520957415.
 17. **Yang, Y.**, Jun-Hong, C., & Jin, M. (2019). Who are the asset-poor in China: A comprehensive description and policy implications. *Journal of Social Policy*, 48(4), 765-787. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279418000855>

Under Review/Revise and Resubmit

1. Park, M., **Yang, Y.**, Gu, B., Choi, Y., & H. C. Yoo. Model minority myth, school and socio-economic achievement, and mental health of Filipino American and Korean American youth. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*. Revised and Resubmitted.
2. Chen, J. H., Fang, C., Chen, T., Helton, J., Vaughn, M. G., **Yang, Y.** Testing the risk of child hyperactivity-inattention problems in families living with housing-cost burden during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*. Revised and Resubmitted.
3. Chen, M., **Yang, Y.**, Li, Y., Zheng, S., & Choo, C. Navigating healthcare, managing life, or falling through the cracks? A theory-informed systematic review of chronic challenges faced by women with recurrent urinary tract infections. *Social Science & Medicine*. Under review.
4. Chen, J. H., **Yang, Y.**, & Wu, C. F. Vaughn, M. G., & Liu, W. C. SNAP benefits, food gaps, and the risk of persistent child obesity: A COVID-19 sensitive analysis. *Preventive Medicine*. Under review.
5. Chen, J. H., Fang, C., **Yang, Y.**, Chiang, C. J., Wu, C. F., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. The risk of sustaining problematic behaviors in children: Protection role by avoiding parental verbal aggression. *Children and Youth Services Review*. Under review.
6. Chen, J. H., Helton, J., Wu, C. F., Fang, C., **Yang, Y.**, Liu, W. C., & Chen, X. The tug-of-war between the savings and food insecurity: Does poverty matter? *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. Under review.

7. Chen, J. H., Helton, J., Chen, X., Chiang, C. H., Liu, W. C., **Yang, Y.**, Wu, C. F., Jonson-Reid, M., & Drake, B. Under the same roof: Does income determine mental health similarly for young adults and their parents? *International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services*. Under review.
8. Chen, J. H., Helton, J., Vaughn, G. M., Birkenmaier, J., Wu, C. F., Chiang, C. J., Liu, W. C., Fang, C., & **Yang, Y.** A hidden toll of food insecurity: Co-occurrence of parental distress and child behavioral problem. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*. Under review.

In Progress

1. **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., & Zhang, Z. Fostering rural children's well-being in China: The essential role of social-emotional competence in reducing mental health risks.
2. **Yang, Y.** Parental indebtedness and its influence on child health: Advancing economic psychology through the study of family attachment and behavioral patterns.
3. Kohl, T., **Yang, Y.**, Jonson-Reid, M., & Auslander, W. Parenting and child behavior outcomes 18 months following participation in Pathways Triple P: Are gains sustained among child welfare involved families?

Research Grants

2024	Principal Investigator <u>Fostering Rural children's social-emotional competence in China: A baseline and one-year follow up assessment</u> Global Pilot Research Funds (Total: \$ 2,500)
2023	The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (Unfunded) <u>The impact of Household Income and Asset poverty on Child Mental health in the U.S.</u>
2011-2013	Principal Investigator <u>Status and Determinants of Rural Female Migrant Worker Reflux in Southwest China</u> National College Student Research and Career Development Fund (Total: ¥ 30, 000)
2011-2012	Principal Investigator <u>A Comparative Analysis of Consumption Behaviors: Chinese versus Foreign Tourists at the Yungang Grottoes</u> National College Student Research and Career Development Fund (Total: ¥ 2, 000)

Fellowships & Awards & Honors

2024	Predoctoral Fellowship in Child & Family Well-being (\$ 6,000) Institute for Child and Family Well-being, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
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2024	Early Career Preventionist Network Travel Fund (\$ 300) Society for Prevention Research
2023	Academic Data Science Alliance Travel Fund (\$ 800) West Big Data Hub, University of California, Berkeley
2023	Data Science for Social Good Fellowship (\$ 5, 000) School of Computer Science, University of North Florida
2021-2023	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Scholarship (2 years, \$30, 000) Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis
2018-2023	Doctoral Fellowship (5 years, \$132, 500) Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis
2013	“Challenge Cup” Extracurricular Academic Research Contest First Prize, Beijing municipal Education Commission
2012	Golden Voice Fellowship (¥ 3, 000) Beijing Normal University
2010-2013	Scholarship for Academic Excellence (3 years, ¥ 9, 000) Business School, Beijing Normal University
2010-2013	Scholarship for Innovation and Competition (3 years, ¥ 6, 000) Business School, Beijing Normal University

Teaching Experiences

Fall 2025, **Statistics for Social Work** (Bachelor level)
 Fall 2024, **Social, Economic, and Political Environment** (Master Level)
 Spring 2024, **Applied Linear Modeling** (Doctoral level)
 Fall 2023, **Introduction to Python for Public Health Data Analysis** (Master level)
 Fall 2023, **Generalized Linear Modeling** (Doctoral level)
 Spring 2023, **Survival Analysis** (Doctoral level)
 Spring 2022, **Structural Equation Modeling** (Doctoral level)
 Fall 2021, **Generalized Linear Modeling** (Doctoral level, online)
 Spring 2021, **Survival Analysis** (Doctoral level, online)
 Fall 2020, **Generalized Linear Modeling** (Doctoral level)
 Spring 2020, **MSW Research Seminar II** (Master Level)
 Fall 2019, **MSW Research Seminar I** (Master Level)
 Spring 2019, **Applied Linear Modeling** (Master Level)

Presentations

Society for Social Work Research Workshop Presentations (Peer-reviewed)

1. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (Accepted). Debates and challenges in causality analysis: What key messages have we learned in the past half century? Society for Social Work Research 30th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
2. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2024, January), Caveats in Running Logistic Regression and Other Nonlinear Models. Society for Social Work Research 28th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
3. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2021, January), Analyzing zero-inflated and skewed outcome variable with an inverse-normal transformation: Taking the Covid-19 data as an example. Society for Social Work Research 25th Annual Conference. Online presentation.

Conference Oral Presentations (Peer-reviewed)

1. **Yang, Y.**, Mersky, J., & Lee, C. T. (Accepted). Linking subjective and objective measures of economic hardship to parent and child mental health: A longitudinal analysis of a low-income Sample. Society for Social Work Research 30th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
2. Shields, M., **Yang, Y.**, & Busch, S. (2024, June), Psychiatric Hospitals Are Not Immune to Financialization: Private Equity Trends and Its Association with Staffing and Quality Performance. AcademyHealth 2024 Annual Research Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland.
3. **Yang, Y.**, & Kohl, T. (2024, January), Parenting and Child Behavior Outcomes 18 Months Following Participation in Pathways Triple P: Are Gains Sustained Among Child Welfare Involved Families? (Oral presentation). Society for Social Work Research 28th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
4. **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., & Guo, S. (2023, January), Interventions to reduce racial discrimination in the United States: A scoping review. (Oral presentation). Society for Social Work Research 27th Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
5. **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., & Guo, S. (2022, January), Timing of enacting, lifting, and re-enacting the non-pharmaceutical mitigation interventions (Symposium paper). Society for Social Work Research 26th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
6. **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., & Guo, S. (2021, January), Factors associated with the implementation of non-pharmaceutical mitigation interventions. (Symposium paper). Society for Social Work Research 25th Annual Conference. Online presentation.
7. Qian, J., Lin, X. S., Chen, Z. X., **Yang, Y.**, & Tian, B. W. (2014, June). What matters in the relationship between mentoring and job-related stress? The moderating effects of protégés' traditionality and trust in mentor. The 5th annual conference of International Association for Chinese Management Research Conference, Beijing, China.

Poster Presentations (Peer-reviewed)

1. **Yang, Y.**, Li, D., & An, R. (2025, January). Impact of Hurricane Maria on mental and physical health among Puerto Ricans: A matched Difference-in-Differences analysis. Society for Social Work Research 29th Annual

- Conference. Seattle, WA.
2. Park, M., **Yang, Y.**, Gu., B., & Choi, Y. (2025, January). Model minority myth, school and socio-economic achievement, and mental health of Filipino American and Korean American youth. Society for Social Work Research 29th Annual Conference. Seattle, WA.
 3. Park, S., Ahn, E., Ahn, T. H., Ahn, S. N., Park, S., Kwon, E., Ahn, S., **Yang, Y.** (2024, November). Role of machine learning in Aging in Place research: A scoping review. Gerontological Society of America 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting. Seattle, Washington.
 4. **Yang, Y.**, Fu, L., Zhang, Z. (2024, May). Fostering rural children's well-being in China: the essential role of social-emotional competence in reducing mental health risks. Society for Prevention Research 32nd Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
 5. Fu, L., Zhang, Z., **Yang, Y.**, & McMillen, C. (2024, January). Promoting social and emotional competencies for rural children in China: A quasi-experimental study. Society for Social Work Research 28th Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
 6. **Yang, Y.**, Yelverton, A., Richard, D., Umapathy, K., & Chen, L. (2023, October). Building bridges in arts education: A partnership for equity and innovation in Florida's public schools. 2023 Academic Data Science Alliance. San Antonio, TX.
 7. Fu, L., Zhang, Z., & **Yang, Y.** (2023, March). Promoting social-emotional competencies for rural children in China: A quasi-experimental study. 2023 Society for Research in Child Development. Salt Lake City, UT.
 8. Li, D., An, R., & **Yang, Y.** (2022, March). Impact of Hurricane Maria on physical activity, smoking and alcohol consumption among Puerto Ricans. 2022 American Academy of Health Behavior. Key Largo, FL.
 9. Li, D, Fu, L., **Yang, Y.**, & An, R. (2022, March). Social media-assisted interventions on human papillomavirus and vaccination-related knowledge, intention, and behavior: A scoping review. 2022 American Academy of Health Behavior. Key Largo, FL.
 10. **Yang, Y.**, & Li, Z. (2018, November). Composite Financial Status: An Alternative Approach to Measuring and Predicting Poverty in China. The 2018 annual conference of Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management. Washington, DC.

Invited Presentations

1. **Yang, Y.** (2024, October). AI for Health Symposium 2024. AI & Digital Health Summit: St. Louis, MO. (Panel Presentation/Discussion with Eunhye Ahn, Patrick Fowler, Hannah Kinzer, Alex DiChristofano).
2. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2020, September). Some states may have missed optimal timing to enact virus mitigation efforts: Findings of the determinant study. Open Classroom, the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis. Online presentation
3. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2020, July). Evidence-based policy evaluation using mixed methods. School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University. Online presentation
4. Guo, S., **Yang, Y.**, & Fu, L. (2020, June). Evidence-based policy evaluation: Taking the social distancing interventions in the US as an example. School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Xi'an Jiaotong University. Online presentation

School, Community & Professional Services

- Zarrow School Curriculum Committee, Committee Member, 2025-present
- Zarrow School Undergraduate Research, Committee Member, 2025-present
- OU Health Sciences Interdisciplinary Programs, APD Facilitator, 2025
- SSWR Doctoral Student Committee, Committee Member, 2022-2024
- COVID-19 Support Group at the Brown School, Volunteer, 2020-2021
- SSWR Conference, Volunteer, 2019
- Volunteer Mentoring program at Bright Time Primary School, Organizer, Phenom Pham, Cambodia, 2012
- The Red Cross Society of China at Beijing Normal University, Volunteer, Beijing, China, 2010-2012
- Pigeon Young Volunteer Association, Volunteer, Beijing, China, 2010-2012

Media Coverage

- MedPage Today, [Private equity's rise in psych hospitals; TikTok's mental health plan; OCD Trial](#)
- Truthout, [Private equity firms see psychiatric hospitals as profit opportunities](#)
- Medical Economics, [In defense of private equity in health care, mostly](#)
- MedicalXpress, [Private equity ownership tied to lower psychiatric hospital staffing but also higher quality performance](#)
- WashU News Bureau, [Some states may have missed optimal timing to enact virus mitigation efforts, study finds](#)
- WashU News Bureau, [Policy interventions helped save lives during pandemic, study finds](#)
- Data Science for Social Good, [DSSG Internships help prepare for data science leadership](#)
- Data Science for Social Good, [FL DSSG big reveal Cathedral Arts Project](#)

Professional Development & Trainings

2023	Summer Institute in Computational Social Science New York University
2023	Mediation Analysis: Nearly 100 Years of Progress Seminar Statistical Horizons (online)
2023	Machine Learning for Estimating Causal Effects Washington University in St. Louis

2023	Write Effective ChatGPT Prompts to Boost Research Productivity Washington University in St. Louis
2022	Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reported Training Missouri KidsFirst (online)
2022	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Medical University of South Carolina (online)
2021	Ask Listen Refer Suicide Prevention Training Missouri Foundation of Health (online)
2020	Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Workshop Statistical Horizons (online)
2019	Advanced Workshop on Social Work Research Methods Xi'an Jiaotong University Social Work Summer School, China
2019	Missing Data Imputation Workshop Statistical Horizons (online)

Professional Membership

Society for Prevention Research (SPR)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

Academic Data Science Alliance (ADSA)

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

China Health Policy and Management Society (CHPMS)

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Skills

Language Skills: Mandarin (native), English (proficient)

Computer Skills: Python, STATA, R, Mplus, SPSS, SAS, JAVA, Nvivo, ArcGIS, Tableau, Qualtrics

Quantitative and Qualitative Research Skills: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Sentiment Analysis, Social Network Analysis, Multilevel Modeling and Longitudinal Analysis, Applied Linear Modeling, Generalized Linear Modeling, Propensity Score Analysis, Structural Equation Modeling, Survival Analysis, Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, Content Analysis, Causal Inference (Instrument Variable, Regression Discontinuity, Difference in Difference, Matching), Missing Data Imputation, Latent Class Analysis

