

Sha JIANG

Division of Social Science
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Research Interests

Aging and Health; Kinship and Support Networks; Social Inequality; Quantitative Methods

Professional Experience

- 7/2026- **Assistant Professor**, *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*.
 - In the Division of Social Science
- 7/2024- **Research Scientist**, *Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany*.
 - 6/2026 ○ In the Research Group of Kinship Inequalities and the Department of Digital and Computational Demography
- 7/2023- **Postdoctoral Scholar**, *University of California, Berkeley*.
 - 6/2024 ○ Work on the CenSoc database with Prof. Joshua Goldstein in the Department of Demography
- 7/2017- **Visiting Student**, *Stanford University*.
 - 12/2017 ○ Work with Prof. Shripad Tuljapurkar in Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies

Education

- 2023 **Ph.D. in Biology (specialized in Demography and Ecology)**, *Stanford University*.
 - Thesis: Trends and Implications of Variability in Demographic Rates
 - Committee: Shripad Tuljapurkar (Chair & Advisor), Marcus Feldman, Noah Rosenberg, Joshua Goldstein
- 2019 **M.A. in Demography**, *Huazhong University of Science and Technology, P.R.China*.
 - Thesis: The Changing Process of China's Fertility Level from the International Perspective – Based on Research of Fertility Pattern
- 2015 **B.A. in Sociology**, *Huazhong University of Science and Technology, P.R.China*.
 - Thesis: Gender Differences in Influences of Spouse's Premarital Family Socioeconomic Status on the Family Birth Number

Publications

Published

- 2025 **Sha Jiang**, Wenyun Zuo, Zhen Guo, and Shripad Tuljapurkar. "[Changing demographic rates reshape kinship networks](#)", *Demography*.
 - Featured in [NIUSSP online news magazine](#); Reported by MPIDR as a [Press Release](#).
- 2025 **Sha Jiang**, Wenyun Zuo, Zhen Guo and Shripad Tuljapurkar. "[When to claim a pension: the effect of uncertainty in ages at death](#)", *Genus*, 81(5).
 - Featured in [NIUSSP online news magazine](#); Reported by MPIDR as [Spotlight News](#).
- 2023 **Sha Jiang**, Wenyun Zuo, Zhen Guo, Hal Caswell, and Shripad Tuljapurkar. "[How the demographic transition affects kinship networks: a formal demographic approach](#)", *Demographic Research*, 48(32):899-930.
- 2022 **Sha Jiang**, Harman Jaggi, Wenyun Zuo, Madan K. Oli, Tim Coulson, Jean-Michel Gaillard and Shripad Tuljapurkar. "[Reproductive dispersion and damping time scale with life-history speed](#)", *Ecology Letters*, 25(9), 1999-2008.

- 2021 Peng, Yuan, Lin Dong, Haili Liang, Liuqing Yang, **Sha Jiang**, Shripad Tuljapurkar, and Zhen Guo. "The changing trend of life expectancy for the Chinese elderly and its rural-urban disparity.", *China Population and Development Studies* 5, no. 1: 25-40.
- 2018 Wenyun Zuo*, **Sha Jiang***, Zhen Guo, Marcus W. Feldman, and Shripad Tuljapurkar. (2018). "An advancing front of old age human survival", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 115(44): 11209-11214.
- o * The first two authors contributed equally to this paper.
- 2017 Zhen Guo, **Sha Jiang**. "Research on the dispersion of the age pattern of fertility in China", *Chinese Journal of Population Science*, (06):32-42+126. In Chinese.
- o Summary reprinted by the Chinese Journal "Chinese Social Science Digest" (Volume 4 in 2018); full-text reprinted by Information Center for Social Science of Renmin University of China (Volume 2 in 2018).
 - o Won the Third-Class Prize of the 7th Population Science Outstanding Achievement Award, Organized by China Population Association in 2018.

Under Review / Preprint

Sha Jiang, Haili Liang, Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, Emilio Zagheni. "Human capital investment helps mitigate family caregiving challenges in aging China", Available as MPIDR Working Paper.

Sha Jiang, Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, Pil H. Chung, and Monica Alexander. "Measuring kinship dependency: A cross-national comparison across care regimes", Available as MPIDR Working Paper.

- o Revise & Resubmit at Demography

Leah Abrams*, **Sha Jiang***, Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, Enrique Acosta, Emilio Zagheni. "Adverse mortality trends have increased the number bereaved in the United States", Available on SocArXiv.

- o * The first two authors contributed equally to this paper.

In Progress

Sha Jiang, Songyun Shi. "Can friends substitute for kin? Health effects of close networks in older adults".

Sha Jiang. "The unequal years we share: Skewed distributions of lifetime kin overlap in the United States".

Sha Jiang, Wenyun Zuo, and Shripad Tuljapurkar. "Lifetime reproductive success provides a novel perspective on human fertility change".

Sha Jiang, Joshua Goldstein. "Understanding mortality convergence: A comparative study on different mortality selection models".

Zhiwen Zheng, Xiangyun Pang, **Sha Jiang**, Zhen Guo. "Application of kinship network on Chinese family care for the elderly: kin-based dependency ratio and household saving rates".

Presentations

Invited

- 2026 "Adverse mortality trends have increased the number bereaved in the United States", Oral presentation: Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research, Germany, Feb 1.
- 2026 "Adverse mortality trends have increased the number bereaved in the United States", Oral presentation: ESRC Centre for Population Change and Connecting Generations Webinar, Jan 22.
- 2025 "Measuring kinship dependency: A cross-national comparison across care regimes", Oral presentation: Workshop of "Socio-demographic perspectives of kinship", University of Padova, Oct 10.
- 2025 "Navigating aging with limited kin in China: The role of education in family support networks", Oral presentation: Demography Working Group in the Office of Population Research, Princeton University, April 15.

- 2025 *"Navigating aging with limited kin in China: The role of education in family support networks"*, Oral presentation: Workshop of "Navigating Aging and Health with Limited Family Ties: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Responses", National University of Singapore, Feb 6.
- 2024 *"Early-life conditions and survival: Results from humans and comparison across species"*, Oral presentation: Ecological Association of 2024 America Annual Meeting (special symposium), Aug 8.
- 2023 *"Changing demographic rates reshape kinship networks"*, Oral presentation: Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research, Germany, Mar 22.
- 2022 *"How do changing vital rates influence kinship networks?"*, Oral presentation: Berkeley Demography Brown Bag Talks, Sept 14.

Contributed

- 2026 *"Unequal years with Kin: Skewed distributions of lifetime kin overlap"*, Oral presentation: European Population Conference 2026, Bologna, Italy, June 5.
- 2026 *"Can friends substitute for kin? Health effects of close networks in older adults"*, Flash session: Population Association of America 2026 Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, May 8.
- 2026 *"Adverse mortality trends have increased the number bereaved in the United States"*, Oral presentation: Population Association of America 2026 Annual Meeting, Washington DC, Apr 7.
- 2025 *"Navigating aging with limited kin in China: The role of education in family support networks"*, Flash session: Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington DC, Apr 11.
- 2025 *"Lifetime reproductive success provides a novel perspective on human fertility change"*, Poster: Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington DC, Apr 13.
- 2025 *"Navigating aging with limited kin in China: The role of education in family support networks"*, Oral presentation: The Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Milan, Italy, Mar 25.
- 2024 *"Understanding mortality convergence: A comparative study on different mortality selection models"*, Poster: Population Association of America 2024 Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, Apr 18.
- 2024 *"Family-centered insights into demographic change: The kin-based dependency ratio"*, Poster: Population Association of America 2024 Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, Apr 19.
- 2023 *"Lifetime reproductive success provides a novel perspective on human fertility change"*, Lighting talk: 8th meeting of the Evolutionary Demography Society, Paris, France, Mar 31.
- 2023 *"Changes in kinship in response to time-varying demographic rates"*, Poster: 8th meeting of the Evolutionary Demography Society, Paris, France, Mar 30.
- 2022 *"How do changing vital rates influence kinship networks?"*, Oral presentation: European Population Conference (EPC2022).
- 2022 *"When to claim your pension: the effect of uncertainty in ages at death"*, Oral presentation: Grad Seminar, Biology Department, Stanford University.
- 2021 *"When to claim your pension: the effect of uncertainty in ages at death"*, Oral presentation: XXIX International Population Conference (IPC2021).
- 2021 *"The changing process of China's fertility level from an international perspective: based on research of fertility age pattern"*, Oral presentation: XXIX International Population Conference (IPC2021).

Academic Service

Academic Journal Review

Till 2026 Occasional reviewer for: Nature; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS); Demography; Theoretical Population Biology; Demographic Research; European Journal of Population; Scientific Reports; Human Ecology; Genus; Journal of Gerontology; Biological Sciences.

Workshop and Conference Organizing

2026 Co-organizer of the conference "Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities" at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. [\[Link\]](#).

2025 Organizer and chair of the session "Family Caregiving", Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting.

2025 Co-organizer of the workshop "Kinship Dynamics: Concept, Modelling, and Applications" at the National University of Singapore. [\[Handout\]](#).

2023 Co-organizer of the workshop "Kinship networks, genealogies and relatedness in structured populations" at the 8th Meeting of the Evolutionary Demography Society. [\[Handout\]](#).

2021 Co-organizer of the ecoevo lunch seminar in the department of Biology at Stanford University.

Mentorship and Others

Since 2024 Co-supervisor of one PhD student in International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science.

2025 Contributor of the R package [DEMOKIN](#) for analyzing kinship dynamics using matrix-based models.

2025 Search Committee for Postdoctoral Position in Kinship Inequalities Research Group at MPIDR.

Academic Training

06/2025 [Annual Workshop on Formal Demography](#), University of California, Berkeley.

11/2022 [Topics in Digital and Computational Demography](#), Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.

06/2021 [Annual Workshop on Formal Demography](#), University of California, Berkeley.

Honors and Awards

2023 Travel Award, The Office of Graduate Education (OGE), Stanford University. **\$1000**.

2022 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad, **\$6000**.

2019-23 Full Assistantship for Ph.D. Studies, Department of Biology, Stanford University.

Selected Research & Policy Experience

2014– **Research Assistant, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China.**

- 2019
 - Contributed to projects funded by the National Office for Philosophy and Social Science Planning, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Health and Family Planning Commission of Hubei Province.
 - Conducted demographic projections on education-specific population forecasts, fertility projections under policy adjustments, and marriage patterns under sex ratio imbalance. Designed and implemented surveys, including data collection and analysis on the health status of unmarried rural men.
 - Authored reports on fertility policy reform, population development strategy, and the health status of rural male bachelors, which informed local and national policy discussions.

Teaching Assistantship

- Fall, 2020 & 2021 **BIO 81 "Introduction to Ecology" (4 Units)**, *Department of Biology, Stanford University*.
- Duties include: Attend classes/lectures; Conduct sections; Hold office hours; Grade homework; Maintain attendance records and/or grades; Attend meetings with TAs and/or course instructors; Create course materials (homework, handouts, exam questions, answer keys and/or rubrics).
- Fall, 2016 **Course "Regression Analysis" (32 School Hours)**, *Department of Sociology, Huazhong University of Science and Technology*.
- Responsible for the teaching of part of the course (10 school hours), including the basic operation of software STATA and doing statistical analysis by using STATA.
 - Assisted in preparation and distribution of course handouts and provided student course feedback to instructor.

Technical Skills

Software: L^AT_EX, R (main), Python, Stata, Matlab

Analysis Method: Statistical Methods (Regression Modeling, Clustering, PCA); Demographic Methods (Population Projection, Decomposition, Survival Analysis, Formal Kinship Models, Microsimulation); Mathematical Methods (Matrix Decomposition, Stochastic Processes, Convolution)

Selected Media

- 2024 ["Shrinking Family Sizes May Change Our Experience with Aging"](#), Scientific American. Retrieved Jan 10, 2024. Published Jan 30, 2024.
- 2023 ["The Great Cousin Decline"](#), The Atlantic. Retrieved Nov 27, 2023. Published Dec 19, 2023.
- 2018 ["Lifespan is continuing to increase regardless of socioeconomic factors, Stanford researchers find"](#), Stanford News. Published Nov 6, 2018.