

**Liwei Zhang**  
 279 Williams St, Athens, GA 30602  
[liwei.zhang@uga.edu](mailto:liwei.zhang@uga.edu)

### **Faculty Appointments**

---

2023- Present	<b>Assistant Professor</b> School of Social Work, University of Georgia
2021-2023	<b>Research Assistant Professor</b> Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

### **Education & Training**

---

2019-2021	<b>Post-Doctoral Research Associate</b> Child Welfare and Well-Being Research Unit School of Social Work, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
2019	<b>Ph.D., Social Work</b> Silver School of Social Work, New York University
2015	<b>M.S.W., Social Welfare Policy</b> Peking University, China
2011	<b>B.A., Japanese</b> Minor: International Business and Economics University of International Business and Economics, China

### **Fellowships & Awards**

---

2025	<b>Prominent Contributions in Research Award</b> by UGA School of Social Work
2024	<b>Excellence in Research Award Honorable Mention</b> by Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
2022	<b>National Research Center on Poverty &amp; Economic Mobility Early-Career Institute Scholar</b> Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
2021	<b>NIH/NICHD R25 Training Institute for Early Career Child Abuse &amp; Neglect Scholar</b> Funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
2020	<b>Research-to-Policy Collaboration Fellow</b> Funded by the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Pennsylvania State University

- 2019      **Diane Greenstein Memorial Award** to an exemplary dissertation proposal (\$5,000)  
New York University
- 2018      **Inequality by the Numbers Fellow**  
Funded by the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, City University of New York
- 2018      **New Writers Fellow**  
Funded by the Family Process Institute

### **Funded Research Projects**

---

#### External Grants

- 2025-2026      Role: Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Dr. Yingying Zeng)  
Source: William T. Grant Foundation  
Title: *The effects of state-level SNAP expansions during COVID-19 on food insecurity inequalities among children of immigrants*  
\$50,000
- 2023-2028      Role: Principal Investigator  
Source: K01 mentored research scientist career development award funded by NIH/NICHD.  
Title: *State economic support policies on the prevention of child abuse and neglect during and post the COVID-10 pandemic: Bridging evidence with policy implementation*  
\$661,905
- 2023-2025      Role: Principal Investigator  
Source: Pipeline research grant funded by Russell Sage Foundation.  
Title: *The effects of eviction moratoria and renter-supportive measures on the prevention of child maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.*  
\$30,000
- 2022-2025      Role: Principal Investigator  
Source: Institute for Research on Poverty Early Career Mentoring Institute Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
Title: *Child welfare responses during and post COVID-19 in Missouri: Trends in administrative data and perspectives from agencies and families.*  
\$24,981

#### Internal Grants

- 2024-2025      Role: Member (PI: Dr. Orion Mowbray)  
Source: Interdisciplinary Research Pre-Seed Program by the Office of Research at UGA  
Title: *Data Science and AI for Social Impact*  
\$ 4,500.

2018-2019      Principal Investigator  
 Source: Dissertation grant funded by New York University Silver School of Social Work.  
 Title: *Multi-dimensional poverty and children's socioemotional well-being*.  
 \$1,700.

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

---

1. **Zhang, L.**, Wang, Y., & Berger, L. M. (in press). State-Based Eviction Moratoria and Child Maltreatment During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Pediatrics*, e2024068174. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2024-068174>
2. **Zhang, L.**, Liu, Y., & Jonson-Reid, M. (in press). Early Childhood Income Instability and Mental Health in Adolescence: Parenting Stress and Child Maltreatment as Mediators. *Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595241236389>
3. Jonson-Reid, M., Ballard, E., Wang, S., **Zhang, L.**, Ahn, E., Allen, K., ... & Dvalishvili, D. (in press). Creating a public facing dynamic literature map to advance the science in child maltreatment. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 108271. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2025.108271>
4. Diaz, B. A., Pugel, J., Phutane, A., **Zhang, L.**, Green, L., Hoffman, J., Long, E. C., Crowley, M., & Taylor Scott, J. (in press). Use of research evidence in U.S. federal policymaking: A reflexive report on intra-stage mixed methods. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 106, 102469. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2024.102469>
5. Graaf, G., **Zhang, L.** & Simmel, C. (in press). States' Use of Medicaid Waivers for Children with Behavioral Health Needs is Associated with Lower Rates of Voluntary Child Welfare Placements. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-024-00998-5>
6. Wang, Y., Ehrental, D. B., & **Zhang, L.** (in press). Distinct Trajectories of Prescription Opioid Exposure in Pregnancy and Risk of Adverse Birth Outcomes. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 10-1097. <https://doi.org/10.1097/adm.0000000000001374>
7. Golden, K. E., **Zhang, L.**, & Simmel C. (2023). Examining the roles of rurality and Latine ethnic density on child maltreatment report and substantiation rates among Latine families: A county-level analysis. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 18(2), 309–337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2023.2193555>
8. Helton, J. J., Ju, S., Iwinski, S. J., & **Zhang, L.** (2023). The effect of adverse childhood experiences on family mealtime frequency: Examining racial and ethnic differences. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 37(6), 796–805. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001107>
9. Wang, Y., **Zhang, L.**, & Zhai, F. (2023). Spanking and parental verbal aggression during early childhood: Association with later cognitive development and the mediating role of executive functions. *Infant and Child Development*, 32(5), e2446. <https://doi.org/10.1002/icd.2446>

10. **Zhang, L.**, Shimizu, R., Zhang, Y., & Simmel, C. (2023). Early childhood income instability, food insecurity, and adolescents' behavioral health. *Family Relations*, 72(3), 1186–1200.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12727>
11. Han, W.-J., & **Zhang, L.** (2022). Precarious parental employment conditions and family poverty experiences in the first six years of a child's life. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 31, 1106–1120. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-021-02154-4>
12. **Zhang, L.**, Simmel, C., & Nepomnyaschy, L. (2022). Income inequality and child maltreatment rates in US counties, 2009–2018. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 130, 105328.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105328>
13. **Zhang, L.**, Nepomnyaschy, L., & Simmel, C. (2022). So close yet so different: Neighborhood inequality and child maltreatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 130, 104988.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.104988>
14. **Zhang, L.**, & Han, W. J. (2022). Multidimensional poverty and children's behavioral trajectories in immigrant families: Beating the odds? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 139, 106534.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106534>
15. Zhang, L., **Zhang, L.**, & Testa, A. (2022). Childhood adversity and risky behaviors among Chinese rural young adults: the mediation effect of perceived stress and moderation effect of social support. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(20), 13194.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192013194>
16. Greenfield, B., **Zhang, L.**, & Simmel, C. (2022). Exploring State Level Factors Associated with Short-Stays in Child Welfare: The Role of Systemic Risk and Surveillance. *Child Maltreatment*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595221104826>
17. Getz, Z., Simmel, C., **Zhang, L.**, & Greenfield, B. (2022). “Short-stayers” in child welfare: Characteristics and system experiences. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 138, 106531.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106531>
18. **Zhang, L.**, & Han, W.-J. (2021). Childhood deprivation experience, family pathways, and socioemotional functioning. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(2), 213–224.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000811>
19. **Zhang, L.**, Bo, A., & Lu, W. (2021). To unfold the immigrant paradox: Maltreatment risk and mental health of racial-ethnic minority children. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 103.  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.619164>
20. Bo, A., **Zhang, L.**, Lu, W., & Chen, D. (2021). Moderating effects of positive parenting on the perceived peer alcohol use and adolescent alcohol use relationship: Racial, ethnic, and gender differences. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-021-00780-x>
21. Tsai, W., **Zhang, L.**, Park, J. S., Tan, Y. L., & Kwon, S. C. (2021). The importance of community and culture for the recruitment, engagement, and retention of Chinese American immigrants in

health interventions. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 11(9), 1682-1690.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibab053>

22. Mao, X., **Zhang, L.**, & Liu, Y. (2021). Stressors and subjective well-being among Chinese older adults: Uncovering the buffering roles of social support patterns. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 52(10), 78-98. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022022120977042>
23. **Zhang, L.**, & Han, W. J. (2020). Uncovering multidimensional poverty experiences in shaping children's socioemotional trajectories during the first 6 years of schooling. *Family Process*, 59(4), 1837-1855. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12530>
24. **Zhang, L.** (2020). A latent class analysis of multifaceted economic experience and socioemotional well-being of children of immigrants. *Developmental Psychology*, 56(9), 1736-1749.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001075>
25. **Zhang, L.**, & Han, W. J. (2017). Poverty dynamics and academic trajectories of children of immigrants. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 14(9), 1076.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14091076>
26. Han, W. J., Siegel, J., & **Zhang, L.** (2017). The response to rural-to-urban migration and other life stressors in Shanghai: Effects on physical and psychological well-being among parents of young children. *Asian American Journal of Psychology*, 8(3), 248-258. <https://doi.org/10.1037/aap0000083>

## Policy Briefs & Technical Reports

---

- Zhang, L.** (2023). *The intersection of income inequality and child maltreatment*. Public Health Post.  
<https://publichealthpost.org/health-equity/the-intersection-of-income-inequality-and-child-maltreatment/>
- Zhang, L.** (2020). *COVID-19: Migrant families and children*. Research to Policy Collaboration, Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Pennsylvania State University.  
<https://evidence2impact.psu.edu/resources/covid-19-migrant-families-and-children/>
- Zhang, L.**, Marks, A. K., Roberg, R., Murry, M., Ramos, Z., Giray, C., Gay, B., Jaffe, G., Garcia-Rodriguez, I., & the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice Migrants and Displaced Persons Task Force (2020). *COVID-19, immigration status, and child and family wellbeing*. Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice.  
<https://www.bhjustice.org/blog/position-statement-on-covid-19-immigration-status-and-child-and-family-well-being/>
- Roberg, R., **Zhang, L.**, Marks, A. K., Murry, M., Ramos, Z., Giray, C., Gay, B., Jaffe, G., Garcia-Rodriguez, I., & the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice Migrants and Displaced Persons Task Force (2020). *COVID-19's Impact on immigrant communities: Facts at a glance*. Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice.  
<https://www.bhjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GA-FactSheet-COVID-19-ImpactonImmigrantCommunity-2020.pdf>
- Zhang, L.**, Han, W. J. & Wen, J. (2016). *Children's socioemotional development in current Shanghai*. NYU-ECNU Institute for Social Development, NYU Shanghai.

**Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2016).** *Parenting and child well-being in families with traumatic experiences in China.* NYU-ECNU Institute for Social Development, NYU Shanghai.

### **Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations**

---

- Wang, Y., & **Zhang, L. (2025).** The Impact of Eviction Moratoria during COVID-19 Pandemic on Foster Care Entries and Discharges. Paper presented at the 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Ma, R., & **Zhang, L. (2025).** State Variations in SNAP Flexibilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at the 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Zhang, L., & Wang, Y. (2024).** The Impact of State-Based Eviction Moratoria on Child Maltreatment Report Rates during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Simmel, C. Greenfield, B., Getz, Z., **Zhang, L. (2023).** Short Stays in Foster Care: Exploring why Some Children Undergo Relatively Short Removals from Caregivers. Paper presented at the Congress for the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Simmel, C., Graaf, G., **Zhang, L. (2023).** The relationship between children's behavioral health and foster care: Addressing the role of voluntary placements into foster care. Paper presented at the Congress for the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Simmel, C., **Zhang, L., Graaf, G., (2023).** Children's behavioral health and foster care: Examining why children are "voluntarily" placed into foster care. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting.
- Zhang, L., Shimizu, R., Zhang, Y., & Simmel, C. (2022).** Food Insecurity Mediates the Association between Early Childhood Income Instability and Adolescents' Behavioral Health. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Zhang, L., & Liu, Y. (2022).** Parent-to-Child Maltreatment Mediates the Association between Income Instability and Children's Externalizing and Internalizing Behaviors. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Zhang, L., Nepomnyaschy, L., & Simmel, C. (2021).** Uncovering the role of neighborhood inequality in shaping child maltreatment risk. Paper presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Zhang, L., Simmel, C., & Nepomnyaschy, L. (2021).** Neighborhood economic inequality and child maltreatment rates in the US, 2013-2017. Paper presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research.
- Greenfield, B., Getz, Z., **Zhang, L., Simmel, C. (2021, April).** "Short-stayers" in child welfare: Exploring characteristics and experiences. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD): Virtual. Received special designation as a 2021 SRCD Strategic Plan Poster.

- Zhang, L., Nepomnyaschy, L., & Simmel, C. (2020).** So close yet so different: Neighborhood inequality and child maltreatment. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 2020 Fall Research Conference.
- Zhang, L., & Simmel, C. (2020).** Patterns of poverty exposure and trajectories of parent-to-child maltreatment. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Inequality Workshop.
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2020).** Family pathways between childhood economic experiences and socioemotional well-being: A multidimensional approach to conceptualizing deprivation. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Population Association of America.
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2020).** A latent class analysis of economic experience among children of immigrants and their socioemotional well-being. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Han, W. J., & **Zhang, L. (2019).** The association between parental work and family poverty experience in the first six years of a child's life. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Population Association of America, Austin, TX.
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2019).** Multidimensional poverty and children's socioemotional trajectories. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- \* Winner of the SRCD Best Poster Award*
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2019).** Multi-dimensional poverty and child socioemotional trajectories: A latent class analysis. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2018).** Poverty dynamics and children's developmental trajectories in immigrant families. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- Zhang, L., & Han, W. J. (2017).** Poverty dynamics for children's socioemotional trajectories among immigrant families. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL.
- Han, W. J., & **Zhang, L. (2017).** Poverty dynamics and children's academic and socioemotional trajectories in immigrant families. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA.

#### **Invited Presentations:**

- Zhang, L., Nepomnyaschy, L., & Simmel, C. (2022).** Disparities, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Child Maltreatment Data. Paper presented at the Congress for the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Pre-Conference Working Group on Child Maltreatment Data.
- Zhang, L., & Wang, Y. (2024).** The Impact of State-Based Eviction Moratoria on Child Maltreatment Report Rates during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at the Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Capstone annual conference.

## Teaching Activities

---

### University of Georgia

Instructor, Poverty in the United States, BSW Program  
 Instructor, Social Welfare Policies, Programs, & Issues, MSW Program  
 Faculty Liaison, Advanced Social Work Field Education, MSW Program

### Washington University in St. Louis

Guest Lecturer, Transdisciplinary Problem Solving: Child Maltreatment, MSW Program

### Rutgers University

Instructor, Policies and Programs for Children and Youth, MSW Program  
 Instructor, Methods for Social Work Research I & II, MSW Program

### New York University

Guest Lecturer, Methods for Social Work Research II, MSW Program  
 Teaching Assistant, Statistics Practicum, PhD Program  
 Teaching Assistant, Social Policy History and Analysis, PhD Program

## Practice Experience

---

2015 – 2016	Volunteer The GO Project for under-resourced families with children, New York, NY
2014 – 2015	Social Work Intern Urban Social Service Center for Migrant Families, Beijing, China
2014 – 2015	Social Work Intern Mental Health Care Center, Beijing, China
2013 – 2014	Social Work Intern Urban Community Development Center, Beijing, China

## Service to the Profession

---

2024 – present	Faculty Search Committee, School of Social Work, University of Georgia
2024 – present	PhD Program Committee, School of Social Work, University of Georgia
2023 – present	MSW Program Committee, School of Social Work, University of Georgia
2018 – 2019	PhD Program Committee Student Representative Silver School of Social Work, New York University
2017 – present	Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer Child Abuse & Neglect; Child Development; Child Welfare; Child and Family Social Work; Children and Youth Services Review; Family Process; International Journal of Social Welfare; Journal of Marriage and Family; Preventive Medicine

## Professional Affiliations

---



Society for Social Work and Research

**Certificates**

---

2024	Modern Difference in Difference Designs, ICPSR Summer Program
2022	Artificial Intelligence Applications for Health Data, Washington University in St. Louis
2019	Mixed Methods Research, ICPSR Summer Program
2019	Teaching Online, Rutgers University

**Languages**

---

Professional fluency in Chinese; Conversational written and spoken fluency in Japanese.