

# RUO-FAN LIU

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## EDUCATION

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- 2024 PhD, Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison (expected)
- Accidental Tactics: How Social Classes Negotiate Opportunities in a Changing Society  
Committee: Mustafa Emirbayer, Eric Grodsky, Jessica Calarco, Robert Freeland, Eunsil Oh, Lesley Bartlett
  - Minor in Education Policy Studies
- 2017 MS, Sociology, University of Wisconsin at Madison
- 2008 BA, Sociology, National Taiwan University

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Higher Education, Social Stratification, Culture and Inequality, Children & Youth, Digital Technology, Organization Theory, Ethnography, East Asia

## ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- 2022 **Ruo-Fan Liu.** Hybrid ethnography: Access, positioning, and data assembly. *Ethnography*, (Online First). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381221145451>
- 2020 **Ruo-Fan Liu.** Pathways to College Admissions: Student Strategies and Class Variations in Activating Cultural Knowledge in Taiwan, *International Studies in Sociology of Education*, 31:3, 284-304, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09620214.2020.1852882>

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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**Ruo-Fan Liu**, “Envisioning Opportunities to College Admissions: Social Capital in the Development of Students’ College Plans.”

- 2023 Best Graduate Student Paper, Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division, SSSP.

**Ruo-Fan Liu**, “Well, You Never Know!: Strategic Cultural Coaching and Uncertain Transmission to Educational Attainment.”

- 2023 Best Graduate Student Paper, Poverty, Class, and Inequality, SSSP (Declined).
- 2023 Best Graduate Student Paper, East Asia SIG, Comparative Educational and International Society.
- 2023 Third-place Graduate Student Paper, Midwest Sociological Society.

**Ruo-Fan Liu**, “Behind the Screen: The Role of Anonymity in Online Status Negotiation among College Students”

- 2021 Second-prize Graduate Student Paper, Midwest Sociological Society.
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Educational Problems Division, SSSP.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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**Ruo-Fan Liu** & Eric Hsienchen Chu, “Inside the Black Box of College Admissions: How Universities Screen and Why Variation Matters.”

## BOOK IN MANDARIN

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2015     **Ruo-Fan Liu.** *“Let the Timber Creek: An Alternative School’s Utopia for Coming Generations.”*  
New Taipei City, Taiwan: Acropolis. (See [Book Content](#) in English Translation)

- 2016 China Times Open Book Award, selected as the top tenth non-fiction books.
- 2012 Best Ethnographic Thesis, Taiwanese Sociology Association.
- 2012 Best Master Thesis, Taiwanese Alternative Education Association.
- 2012 Best Critical and Practice Thesis, Taiwanese Critical Social Studies Association.
- Related media coverage: China Times; Commonwealth Parenting; Initium Media; Central News Agency.

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

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Accidental Tactics: How Social Classes Negotiate Opportunities in a Changing Society (In discussion with UC Press)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### *External*

2023	Semi-finalist, Dana Allen Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities
2022	Research Grant Award, Midwest Sociological Society.
2022	East and Inner Asian Council Research Grant, Association for Asian Studies
2022	Student Paper Travel Award, RC28 on Social Stratification and Mobility, ISA
2021-2022	Dissertation Fellowship, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (\$20,000)
2021-2022	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, China Times Cultural Foundation (\$6,000)
2021	Student Travel Award, American Sociological Association
2021	Publication Award, European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan
2021	Transnational Initiative Fund, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2019	Young Scholar Award, European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan
2019	Social Science Research Council Fellow, Publication Writing Workshop
2019	Liao Shutsung Research Award, National America Taiwanese Professor Association (\$5,000)
2017-2019	Fellowship, Education Bureau of Taiwan (\$32,000)
2016-2018	Fulbright Fellowship (\$34,000)

### *Internal*

2022	Vilas Travel Award, Graduate School, UW-Madison
2019	Fieldwork Award, Institute for Regional and International Studies, UW-Madison
2019	Research Grant, Graduate School, UW-Madison
2018	Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee Research Grant, UW-Madison

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2021 “What Do Numbers Tell? Real and Imagined Opportunities to College Entry,” Princeton University, East Asia Demography and Inequality Workshop (READI), USA.
- 2021 “Farsighted Habitus: Theorizing Temporality in Cultural Reproduction,” University of California Santa Barbara, Grad Seminar, Cultural Workshop, USA.
- 2021 “Do Admission Reforms Level the Playing Field?” National Cheng-Ching University, Undergrad Course, Comparative Education in East Asia, Taiwan.
- 2021 “Four Scripts to Turn Thesis into Book: Event, Interpretation, Role, and Scene,” Ethnography Summer Training Program, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.
- 2021 “Hybrid Ethnography: Studying Teens in Digital and Physical Sites,” Colgate University, Sociological Research and Methods, Undergrad Course, USA.
- 2020 “Conducting Ethnography in Uncertain Times,” National Taiwan University, Sociological Research and Methods, Graduate Seminar, Taiwan.

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2023 “Inside the Black Box of College Admissions: How Universities Screen and Why Variation Matters,” With Eric Hsienchen Chu, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Forthcoming, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Well, You Never Know!: Strategic Cultural Coaching and Uncertain Transmission to Educational Attainment,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Forthcoming, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Envisioning Opportunities to College Admissions: Social Capital in the Development of Students’ College Plans,” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Forthcoming, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Well, You Never Know!: Strategic Cultural Coaching and Uncertain Transmission to Educational Attainment,” Sociology of Education Annual Meeting, Monterey, CA.
- 2022 “The Road (Not) Taken: How Teens Choose Parallel Paths and How Future Involves,” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 “Retrospective Cultural Matching: How Cultural Fit is Renegotiated in Admission Screenings,” Social Science and History Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 “Envisioning Opportunity: Chartering the Desired and Selling the Unwanted,” RC28 on Social Stratification and Social Mobility Annual Meeting, London, England.
- 2022 “Hybrid Ethnography: Positioning, Access, and Data Assembly,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- 2021 “Farsighted Habitus: Theorizing Temporality in Cultural Reproduction,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.

- 2019 “Status Competitions in the Digital Era: Degree-Seeking, Public Credentialism, and Informal Counseling in Taiwanese Social Media,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems & Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 2018 “Pathways to College Admissions: Student Strategies and Class Variations in Activating Cultural Knowledge in Taiwan,” Annual Meeting of the Comparative International Education Society, Atlanta.
- 2018 “Bounded Dreams: Social Stratification in Higher Education in Taiwan,” North American Taiwan Studies Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
- 2017 “Revisiting Adolescent Society in East Asia: Student Autonomy, Peer Strategy, and Teacher Control,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

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### *Instructor*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

2022 Fall Sociological Research, UW-Madison (1; undergrad)

2021 Spring Sociological Research, UW-Madison (2; undergrad)

National Yang-Ming Chia Tung University, Taiwan

2020 Spring Sociology of Education Mini-Seminar (16; undergrad)

### *Teaching Fellow*

2023 Fall The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (80; undergrad)

2022 Spring Social Psychology (40; undergrad)

2021 Fall Ethnic Movements in the United States (30; undergrad)

2021 Spring Ethnic Movements in the United States (30; undergrad)

2019 Spring Method of Sociological Inquiry (30; undergrad)

2016 Spring The Sociological Enterprise (grader)

2016 Fall The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (100; undergrad)

### *Guest Lecturer*

2022 Spring Social Psychology, “College Admissions as Cultural Matching.”

2016 Spring The Sociological Enterprise, “Classical Themes in Sociology of Education.”

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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- 2022 Student Paper Award Committee, Youth, Aging, and Life Course Division, The Association of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2022 Panel Organizer & Discussant, Reconceptualizing Educational Opportunities: Challenging Inequality, Creating Equity, Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2021-2022 Diversity and Inclusion Committee, ASA Culture Section (with Ann Mische & Jean Beaman)
- 2021-2022 Planning Committee, Chicago Ethnography Annual Conference

2019-2020 Roundtable Organizer, ASA Culture Section, American Sociology Association  
2018-2019 Student Chair, Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee, UW-Madison  
2017- 2018 Program Committee, North America Taiwan Studies Association Annual  
Conference, Sociology and Education Discipline, University of Texas at Austin.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Sociology Association; Education; Culture; Children & Young; Social Psychology;  
Sociological Theory; Life Course; Midwest Sociology Association; Taiwanese Sociology  
Association

## LANGUAGES & SKILLS

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Languages: Mandarin (native); Hakka (native); English (fluent); Japanese (proficiency in reading)  
Software: MAXQDA, STATA

## REFERENCES

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Mustafa Emirbayer (co-chair)  
Conway-Bascom Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin at Madison  
[emirbayer@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:emirbayer@ssc.wisc.edu)

Eric Grodsky (co-chair)  
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Sociology and East Asian Languages and  
Cultures  
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