

Youbin Kang

Department of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1393  
youbin.kang@wisc.edu

## APPOINTMENTS

Cornell University (Postdoctoral Fellow, Industrial and Labor Relations School, 2024-2025)

## EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin – Madison (Ph.D., Sociology, 2023)

University of Cambridge (MPhil, Innovation, Strategy, Organisations, 2016)

Brown University (B.A., International Relations, 2014)

Rhode Island School of Design (B.F.A., Textiles, 2014)

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative & Historical Sociology; Labor and Labor movements; Race, Class, Gender; Community & Urban Sociology; Sociological Theory; Socio-Legal Studies; East and Southeast Asia

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kang, Youbin (2021) “The Rise, Demise, and Replacement of the Bangladesh Experiment in Transnational Labour Regulation” *International Labour Review* 160(3). [\[link\]](#)  
*2018 Early Career Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*

Kang, Youbin (2021) “Access to justice after Rana Plaza: A preliminary assessment of grievance procedures and the legal system in the apparel global supply chain” in: Delautre, G., Echeverria Manrique E., Fenwick, C. (eds). *Decent Work in a Globalized World: Lessons from Public and Private Initiatives*. ILO: Geneva. p.265-300. [\[link\]](#)

Kang, Youbin (2019) “Freedom of association and collective bargaining in minority trade unions” *International Labor Rights Case Law Journal* 5(2): 158-163. [\[link\]](#)

Davis, Mike, Abigail Escatel, Youbin Kang, Ethen Pollard, Bakari A. Wallace, Pascale Ife Williams, Troy Williams, & Shereen Yousuf. “The Thought Plantation: The Struggle for Community Oriented Praxis” forthcoming in: Garcia & Calvente (eds.) *Gorgons in the Ivory Tower: Racism and White Supremacy in the American University*.

## UNDER REVIEW

Kang, Youbin & Jungmyung Kim. “The Spectacle of Automation and Status Aspirations: The Incorporation of Driverless Metro Systems Around the World, 2008-2020” *R&R at Socio-Economic Review*

Kang, Youbin. “The Meritocracy Habitus and the Classificatory Politics of Skills in the Seoul Metro” *Under Review*  
*2023 ASA Labor and Labor Movements Best Student Paper Award Honorable Mention*

## WORKING PAPERS / UNDER PREPARATION

Kang, Youbin. “Barricades and Boardrooms: Legitimation strategies of collective action in subway strikes, New York City and Seoul” *Draft in revision*

Kang, Youbin. “Varieties of Solidarity in the Underground Metros of New York and Seoul, 1970-2020” *Draft Underway*

Clark, Jaylexia & Youbin Kang. “Racial Capitalism to Study Labor and Labor Movements: A Critical Analysis” *Draft Underway*

## OTHER WRITING

Kang, Youbin (2023) “The power of the uncanny in contemporary political art” Oct 2. *The Amp*. [\[link\]](#)

Kang, Youbin (2023) “Infrastructure Aunties” in: Truelove Y. & Annavarapu S. (eds.) *Roadsides 9* Gendering Infrastructure: 30-35 [\[link\]](#)

Kang, Youbin (2023) “South Korean Truckers Provide a Model for Labor Organizing Among Independent Contractors” Feb 21. *Jacobin Magazine*. [\[link\]](#)

Kang, Youbin & Taslima Akhter (2023) “Activism, Photography and Workers’ Collective Leadership: A Conversation with Taslima Akhter” April 24. *Asian Labour Review* [\[link\]](#)

Kang, Youbin (2023) “Exorcising the haunted desire for legibility in Dictée” forthcoming in: *The Quick and the Dead: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha Edition*. New York: Wendy’s Subway.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Kang, Youbin (2022). “Book Review: Private Regulation of labour standards in GVCs By Sarosh Kuruvilla.” *ILR Review* 75(1) [\[link\]](#)

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (EXTERNAL)**

ASA (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2023-24  
Labor Action Research Network New Scholars Research Grant, Jobs with Justice, 2023  
Social Science History Association Student Travel Grant, 2022  
International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), 2020-21  
International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) Scholarship, 2018  
Craig Cambridge Scholarship, University of Cambridge, (Full Scholarship), 2015-16

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS (INTERNAL)**

Graduate School Fellowship, UW-Madison, 2016-17, 2022-23  
Graduate Student Small Grants, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2017  
Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Graduate Fellow, UW-Madison, 2020-21  
Crowe Scholarship for Grad Student Dissertation Research, C&E Sociology, UW-Madison, 2021, 2017  
Holtz Center of Science & Technology Studies Research Grant, UW-Madison, 2021  
Center for South Asia Travel Award, UW-Madison, 2019  
Institute for Legal Studies Law and Society Graduate Fellow, UW-Madison, 2018-20  
Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee Research Grant, UW-Madison, 2017  
Scott-Kloeck Jensen International Travel Grant, UW-Madison, 2017  
Graduate Dissertation Grant, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, 2016

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Honorable Mention, Best Student Paper Award, ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section, 2023  
Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Lecturer, UW-Madison, 2023  
Excellence in Teaching and Collegiality Fellowship, UW-Madison, 2022  
Early Career Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2018  
Watson Institute for International Studies, Outstanding Thesis Award, Brown University, 2014

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Industrial Unionism, Habutis, and the Contestation over Regularization Policies in the Seoul and Busan Subways”  
Labor in East Asia Conference, National Taiwan University, September 2023 (Invited)  
“Unionizing Against Solidarity: The Meritocracy Habitus and the Politics of Skills in the Seoul Metro”  
Korean Political Studies Colloquium, February 2023  
American Sociological Association, Labor and Labor Movements Panel, Aug 2023  
Society for the Study of Social Problems, Aug 2023  
“Varieties of Solidarity in the Underground Metros of New York and Seoul 1970-2020”  
Regulating for Decent Work Conference, ILO, July 2023  
Social Science History Association, November 2023  
“Racial Capitalism to Study Labor and Labor Movements: A Critical Analysis” with Jaylexia Clark  
Social Science History Association, November 2023

American Sociological Association, PEWS Roundtable, Aug 2023  
 “Workers in Barricades and Mayors on Bicycles: The Charisma Behind Collective Action In Subway Strikes, New York City and Seoul”  
 Labor and Employment Relations Association, June 2023  
 Labor Research Action Network Conference, June 2023  
 “Workers in Barricades and Mayors on Bicycles: Race, Class, and Subway Strikes after financial crises in New York City and Seoul”  
 American Political Science Association, Comparative Labor Politics Workshop, March 2022  
 American Sociological Association, Labor in Crisis Mini Conference, August 2022  
 Social Science History Association, November 2022  
 “Responding to Austerity: Subway Worker Movements in New York City and Seoul”  
 Social Science History Association, November 2021  
 “Cities, Labor, and the Politics of Innovation: Automation of Metro Systems Around the World, 1981-2020” with Jungmyung Kim  
 American Sociological Association, Economic Sociology Roundtable, August 2021  
 European Sociological Association, August 2021  
 “The Spectacle of Automation” with Jungmyung Kim  
 American Sociological Association, Labor and Labor Movements Roundtable, August 2020  
 “The Life-course of Transnational Regulation in Bangladesh”  
 Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Madison-Wisconsin, Oct 2019  
 Development in Dialogue, University of Notre Dame, Oct 2019  
 “Access to Justice after Rana Plaza”  
 Regulating for Decent Work Conference, ILO, July 2019  
 “From Geneva to Dhaka: Strategizing workers; rights in the ready-made-garment industry”  
 Global Capitalism and Law Regional Colloquium, American Bar Foundation, May 2018  
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, June 2018  
 International Labour and Employment Relations Association, July 2018  
 “The Regulatory Experiment in Bangladesh: Legitimacy and worker safety in the garment industry”  
 American Sociological Association, Labor and Labor Movements Roundtable, August 2017  
 “Automation and Social Dialogue in Public Passenger Transport”  
 Law Academy International Congress, Labour 2030 “Rethinking the Future of Work”, July 2017  
 “Workplace Compliance in Global Supply Chains: Case Studies of Synergistic Governance” with Julia Lear  
 Regulating for Decent Work Conference, ILO, July 2017

## **TEACHING AND ADVISING**

### **University of Wisconsin - Madison**

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity in the United States, Lecturer, (Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023)  
*Awarded a Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching*

Research Practicum: Why do public transit jobs get automated?, Research Supervision, with Jungmyung Kim, (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

Knowledge, P.O.W.E.R. & Liberation Learning: Collective Learning, Radical Pedagogies, and Education for “Destroying the World” (graduate course), Curriculum Development, Guest Lecture, with Prof. Carolee Dodge Francis, (Fall 2020)

Methods of Social Inquiry, Teaching Assistant, with Prof. Jordan Conwell, (Spring 2019, Fall 2019), and Prof. Pam Oliver, (Spring 2018, Fall 2018)

Introduction to Statistics, Teaching Assistant, with Prof. Eric Grodsky (Fall 2017)

## RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Assistant for Prof. Tonya Brito, *UW-Madison Law School*, 2019-2023

External Collaborator, *International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations*, 2016-2022

Junior Technical Officer, Sectoral Policies Dept. *ILO, United Nations*, 2014-2015

Librarian, *Brown University*, 2010-2014

English Tutor, 2009-2023

Odd Jobs, 2009-2023

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLICY & POLICY REPORTS

International Labour Office (2019). *Guidelines on the promotion of decent work and road safety in the transport sector*, Meeting of Experts to Adopt Guidelines on the Promotion of Decent Work and Road Safety in the Transport Sector (Geneva, 23–27 September 2019), Sectoral Policies Department, Geneva: ILO. [\[link\]](#)

International Labour Office (2017). *Workplace Compliance in Global Supply Chains*. Sectoral Policies Department, Geneva :ILO. [\[link\]](#)

International Labour Office (2016). *Report IV: Decent work in global supply chains*. International Labour Conference 105<sup>th</sup> session (Geneva), International Labour Office, Geneva: ILO. [\[link\]](#)

## SERVICE

### Academic

Reviewer: *Work & Occupations; Business Ethics Quarterly, Journal of International Business Studies*  
ASA Race, Gender and Class Section, Panel Organizer, “Gendered Glitches: Race, Class, Gender, and Technology” 2024

ASA Theory Section Newsletter editor, 2023-25

ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section, Programming Committee, 2022-23

ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section, Jane Addams Article Award Committee 2020-21

Society for the Study of Social Problems, Global Student Paper Award Committee, 2021

Social Science History Association, Panel Organizer, “Labor Movements and Configurations of Racial Capitalism: Theorizing Race, Class, Gender in historical change”, 2022

ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section, Panel Organizer, “Urban Futures: Cities after COVID-19” 2022

Association of Korean Sociologists in America, ASA Meeting, Panel Speaker, “Working through the COVID Pandemic: Reflections on Our Research, Teaching and (Academic) Citizenship”, 2022

Sociologists for Women in Society, Panel Speaker, “Organizing Us: Lessons Learned in Building an Anti-Racist, Trans-Institutional Movement in the University”, 2021

### **University**

Joint Racial Equity Taskforce, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2020

South Asia Research Collective, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2018-2020

South Asia Legal Studies Working Group, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2018-2020

Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee, Department of Sociology, 2017-2018

### **Public**

P.O.W.E.R. Collective, Panel Organizer, “Political Education Cypher: Ballot, Bullet or Burn?”, 2020

P.O.W.E.R. Collective, Panel Organizer, “Culture Cypher: Resisting Surveillance”, 2019

Teaching Assistant’s Association, Panel Speaker, “Unionism Outside the Law: The Relationship Between Unions and Union Power”, 2018

Teaching Assistant’s Association, Contract Enforcement Committee, 2018-19, Steward, 2017-2020

P.O.W.E.R. Collective – Co-Chair for Logistics & Curriculum Development, 2017-2022

Rochdale International Cooperative Housing – President, 2017-2018

Zero Carbon Cambridge, Campaigns Officer, University of Cambridge, 2016-2017

Worker’s Rights Consortium – Student Board Representative, 2013-2014

Student Labor Alliance, United Students Against Sweatshops, Brown University, 2012-2014

### **LANGUAGES**

English (Fluent), Korean (Native Speaker), French (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate), Bangla/Bengali (Elementary), Arabic (Elementary)

### **PROGRAMS**

STATA, MAXQDA