

ZHOU Yang

Department of Cultural Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Media and Communications, October 2020
 The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
M.A. Communication Theory, 2015, Renmin University of China
B.A. Journalism, 2013, Nanjing Normal University

EMPLOYMENT & APPOINTMENTS

Research Assistant Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University
Professor June 2022- present
Core centre fellow Institute of Policy Studies, Lingnan University
 June 2023 – present
Postdoctoral fellow Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong
 Mar 2021 - Mar 2022

AREAS OF INTEREST

digital platforms and AI, mediated participation/cultural politics, migrant labour, class formation, China

Publications

Referred journal articles

1. **Zhou Y** (2024). Toward a new progressive labour culture? Industry-oriented channels, bitter and precarious structure of feeling and worker solidarity in China, *Media, Culture and Society*
2. **Zhou Y** and Pun N (2023). Affording Worker Solidarity in Motion: Theorizing the intersection between social media and agential practices in the platform economy. *New Media and Society*
3. **Zhou Y** (2022). Trapped in the platform: migration and precarity in China's platform-based gig economy. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*
4. Liu R and **Zhou Y** (2025) Limited standardization: a case study on on-demand logistics platforms. *Sociological Review of China* (CSSCI, in Chinese)
5. Tang X and **Zhou Y** (2019). Social media use and political participation in rural China: A case study. *China Journalism and Communication Journal* (CSSCI, in English)

Journal articles under review

6. **Zhou Y** and Chau L (50/50). *The war against precarity: cultural politics of class containment in China's platform economy* (**under review** in *International Journal of Communication*)

7. **Zhou Y.** *Return migration and worker solidarity among platform-based food couriers in China* (**under review** in *Journal of Contemporary Asia*)
8. Chau L and **Zhou Y** (50/50). *The hidden injuries of platform capitalism: alienation and overwork to death in China's platform economy* (**under review** in *European Journal of Cultural Studies*)

Book Chapters

1. Eric Florence and **Zhou Y** (forthcoming). *The Cultural Politics of Labour in China: the case of rural-to-urban migrants*. in Chris K. C. Chan and Eric Florence (Eds.). Edward Elgar Handbook on Chinese Labour. Edward Elgar
2. **Zhou Y (2025)**, *Migration, precarity and solidarity among migrant gig workers in China's food delivery and ride-hailing sectors*. In Della Puppa, Dhar and Montagna(ed). *Migrant Labour in the Gig Economy: The intersection of labour digitization, platform capitalism, and migration, and resistance*. Springer Nature.
3. **Zhou Y** and Na Y (2021). *The subsumption of racial discrimination: the representation of Chinese mainstream media of the maltreatment of African nationals in Guangzhou during the Covid-19 Pandemic*. in Price and Harbisher (Ed.) (2021) *Power, Media and the Covid-19 Pandemic: Framing Public Discourse*. Routledge. London

Book Reviews

1. Zhou Y and Tian M (forthcoming). Book review for "Contesting Inequalities: Mediated Labor Activism and Rural Migrant Workers in China". Siyuan Yin. (Stanford University Press, 2025), *Pacific Affairs*
2. **Zhou Y** (2025). Book review for "The Gilded Cage: Technology, Development and State Capitalism in China, Ya-wen Lei (Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press, 2023), *Political Science Quarterly*
3. **Zhou Y** (2021). "Dying for an iPhone". Book Review of *Dying For an iPhone* by Chan, Selden and Pun. (London: Pluto Press, 2020), *Global Media and Communication*

Research Reports

1. *Seasonal report of Big Data Analysis of Hong Kong Online Job Market*, team project, Institute of Policy Studies, Lingnan University, *first report released on May 1, 2025*
**findings widely circulated in mainstream media in Hong Kong like the Ming Po Daily
2. *Analysis of Public Policies for New Citizens in the Greater Bay Area*, for Oxfam Hong Kong and Institute of Policy Studies, Lingnan University

GRANTS

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|-------|---|
| PI | HKD 576,094, 2025-2027
General Research Fund , Research Grants Council (RGC), Hong Kong
<i>Whither worker media? Migrant labour, platformized media/cultural production and working-class formation in China</i> |
| Co-PI | HKD 436,300, 2026-2028
General Research Fund , Research Grants Council (RGC), Hong Kong
<i>Exploring 'Active NEET' as a Cultural Phenomenon: Youth Unemployment and Anti-work Politics in Contemporary China</i> |

- Co-PI HKD 728,000, 2024-2026
General Research Fund, Research Grants Council (RGC), Hong Kong
Cultivating worker communities among themselves: digital technologies, platform workers, and participatory culture in China
- PI HKD 93, 000, 2025-2026
Faculty Research Grant, Lingnan University
Worker-led labour platforms in China: practices, opportunities and challenges
- PI HKD 473,000, 2023-2024 (policy research)
Oxfam Hong Kong, with a matching fund of HKD 236,500 by the RGC
Analysis of Public Policies for New Citizens in the Greater Bay Area
- PI Contract research (policy research)
invited by The Habibie Centre of Jakarta, Indonesia, 2024 (rejected)
The Dynamics of Gig Economy, Rural-Urban Mobility, and Poverty in ASEAN, Trend Report for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Research and Development Platform on Poverty Action
- PI HKD 40,000, 2023-2024, Lingnan University **Seed Fund**
- PI GBP 2000, 2017-2018, **Great Britain China Centre (London) grant**, for fieldwork

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Organized panels

1. Hope from below: Platformized Mediated Politics of Post-crisis China, East Asian Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Zhejiang, China, 202511 (accepted)
2. Towards a Post-Socialist Theory of Platform Labor: Historical Continuities and Cultural Reconfigurations in Contemporary China, AAS 2025, Columbus, the US, 202503
3. De-urbanising digital tech/media studies in China. IAMCR 2020, Tampere, Finland, 202007

Conference Papers

1. Worker-led platform co-operatives in China: the case of food delivery riders, Platform Cooperativism Consortium Annual Conference 2025: Co-operative AI, Istanbul, Turkey, 202511
2. *Cultures of Solidarity among Platform Workers at China's Industrial Periphery*, Association of Asian Studies Conference, Columbus, the US, 2025.03
3. *Toward a new progressive labour aesthetics? Digital media platforms, industry-oriented channels and worker solidarity in China*, IAMCR 2023, Lyon, France, 2023.07
4. *Platform non-standardization and workers' resistance: the case of a haulage platform in China*, presented at *Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor & Social Reproduction* Conference, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2023.06
5. *Cultivating worker communities among themselves: digital technologies, platform workers, and participatory culture in China*. presented at *Doing Cultural Studies in Hong Kong* Workshop, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2022
6. *Nongmingong, ICTs and work: Platform-based labour, technological despotism and heightened control*, presented at *Industry and Labour Division*, Chinese Sociological Association Conference, 2020

Invited workshops

1. Invited Panelist, *Amateur Culture, Platform Economy, Precarious Life* Workshop, The University of Chicago Center in Beijing, June 26-28, 2025
2. Invited panelist, *Platforms without Borders: Analyzing the Global Digital Economy* Workshop, University of Essex, the U.K., May 15-16, 2025
3. Invited panelist, *Research on the promotion of ethical production in digital technologies* Workshop, Centre of Governance and Human Rights, University of Cambridge, the U.K., 2023.04
4. *Echoes of the Eternal Rest: Unveiling the Discourse of Death Among China's Overworked Car-Hailing Drivers*, presented at *Radical Culture in a Post-Revolutionary Age* workshop, with Professor Tani Barlow, Hong Kong, 2023
5. *How gig workers perceive freedom? Flexibility, precarity and agency of gig economy in China*, presented at *Labour in the digital age in China* Workshop, Royal Holloway, University of London, the U.K., 2021

TEACHING

<i>Platform Future and Open Cooperativism**</i>	UG level, Lingnan University Spring 2024 (CTLE – 5.75/6), Fall 2024 (CTLE- 5.09/6)
<i>Cultural Politics of Labour</i>	PG level, Lingnan University, Fall 2023 (CTLE – 5.88/6), Spring 2025
<i>Capstone Project</i>	UG level, Lingnan University, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
<i>Independent Study</i>	PG level, Lingnan University, Spring 2023 (CTLE – 6/6)
<i>Techno-culture</i>	UG level, Lingnan University, Spring 2023 (CTLE – 5.43/6)
<i>Media Creativity</i>	UG level, Lingnan University, Fall 2022 (CTLE – 5.2/6)

*** this course is renamed "The Platform Society: Power, Politics and Resistance" from Spring 2025*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Talk Series curator (2024 – present)	on <i>Digital platforms, AI and the Future of Labour/Work</i> in collaboration with the Acadamus Book Club, a Guangzhou-based Youth Culture group
Editor, member of the co-ordinator group (2023-)	<i>Labournet</i> , a volunteer-supported, democratically managed migrant labour rights advocacy media outlet
Affiliated researcher	Tonggeng Service Centre for workers with occupational injuries, Dongguan, 2021-2023

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

1. Lingnan Research & Knowledge Transfer Excellence Award, 2024
2. Faculty Pioneers Scheme, Teaching and Learning Centre, Lingnan University, 2023-2024
3. Research Grants Council Postdoctoral Fellowship, Hong Kong, 2023 – 2026

4. Platform Co-op School Certificate of Participation, Platform Co-operativism Consortium, Institute for the Co-operative Digital Economy, the New School, New York, 2023/07
5. China Scholarship Council full scholarship (80/nationwide), 2015-2020
6. Band 2 in C++, National Computer Rank Exam, 2015

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY

Deputy director	Master of Cultural Studies (MCS) Programme, Lingnan University, 2023 – present, responsible for curriculum creation and enrolment
Concentration leader	MCS (digital and cultural innovation), Lingnan University, 2023 - present
Member	Programme Curriculum Review Committee, BA (Cultural Studies) programme, Lingnan University, 2024-2025
Member	Admission panels for HKPFS & DA, research postgrad programme, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, 2024-2025
Member	Committee for International Conferences and Seminars for visitors

REVIEW FOR JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

Media and Cultural Studies	<i>New Media and Society; Social Media + Society; Review of Communication; European Journal of Cultural Studies; Information, Communication and Society; The Chinese Journal of Communication</i>
Sociology	<i>Critical Sociology; Social Forces; Social Problems; Environment and Planning A; Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers; Work and Occupation, Journal of Industrial Relations; Capital & Class; Journal of Chinese Sociology</i>
Area Studies	<i>Journal of Contemporary Asia, China Quarterly</i>
Book manuscript	Palgrave Macmillan

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS/SOCIETIES

- Association for Asian Studies, 2024-2025
- International Association for Media and Communication Research, 2022-2023
- International Communication Association, 2021-2022
- Labour Tech Research Network, from 2024
- Platforms Without Borders Research Network, from 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-19 part-time project co-ordinator (for the IKEA project), Family, Kids and Youth, the U.K.
2014-15 Communications, Innovation & Partnerships and PEG teams, UNDP China, Intern
2014 iResearch Consulting Group, Research Assistant