

Steve Liming Meng

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EDUCATION

Fudan University, China (FDU) 2022.09 - 2027.06 (expected)

B.A. in English Language and Literature (Specialized Certificate in Social Theory and Social Analysis)

GPA(overall): **3.65/4.0**; GPA(sociology): **4.0/4.0**

- Core Courses: Social Statistics, Methodology of Social Science, Classical Sociological Theory, Contemporary Sociological Theory, Sociology of Religion, Applied Linguistics

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) 2024.08 - 2025.05 (expected)

Global Visiting Student in Sociology

GPA: **4.0/4.0**

- Core Courses: Analysis of Categorical Data (graduate level), Linear Regression (graduate level), Seminar on Social Networks (graduate level, auditing at Duke), Social Stratification, Formal Organization & Bureaucracy, Quantitative Methods for Public Policy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Research on Microsimulation and LLM Data Analysis | Independent Researcher 2024.12 - Present

Advisor: **Guang Guo** (Dr. George and Alice Welsh Distinguished Professor of Sociology, UNC-CH)

- Conducting a comprehensive literature review on interpretation of categorical data regression models
- Conceptualizing framework for **microsimulation** to calculate predicted probabilities across various categorical regression models, enhancing their interpretative utility
- Using microsimulation and logit models as cases to assess the performance of LLMs in data analysis
- Working Paper: "Microsimulation Interpretation for Binary, Multinomial, Ordered and Continuation Logit Models: A Test Case for AI"

Research on Work Value and Upward Mobility | Independent Researcher 2024.11 - Present

Advisor: **Arne L. Kalleberg** (Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology, UNC-CH)

- Conducted a study using network analysis and regression methods to examine class differences in work values and the relationship between cultural proximity to upper-class values and upward mobility, leveraging GSS 2016 and 2020 panel data
- Constructed respondents' work value/cultural similarity networks, applying **Exponential Random Graph Models (ERGMs)** to explore value homogeneity and tendencies toward upward similarity, and to examine the situation of work value stratification
- **Proposed a modified proximity metric** based on closeness centrality to measure cultural capital repertoire of working-class and middle-class workers at workplace
- Calculated the proximity of working and middle-class samples to upper-class values and utilized **lagged ordinal logistic regression** to investigate its association with upward mobility
- Working Paper: "The Moon, Sixpence, and Mobility: Work Value as Cultural Capital at the Workplace," accepted by the **2025 ASA Annual Meeting Culture Section Roundtable**

Comparative Study on the Constitution of Subjective Class | Independent Researcher 2024.09 - Present

Advisor: **Felicia F. Tian** (Prof. of Department of Sociology, Fudan University)

- Conducted a comparative analysis of how subjective class is differently constituted across 64 countries using **Belief Network Analysis** with data from the World Values Survey (WVS)
- Constructed exogenous dyad covariate matrices to identify the connections between subjective class and specific types of belief variables within national belief networks
- Applied **ERGMs**, with dyadic covariates, to examine the likelihood of belief network connections forming between subjective class and specific categories of value variables
- Utilized **random-effects meta-analysis and meta-regression** to synthesize cross-national ERGM results, exploring how economic development impacts edge formation to explain the heterogeneity
- Employed **Correlational Class Analysis (CCA)** to categorize countries based on network patterns and identify differences in these patterns through visualization
- **Outcome:** A paper titled "What Constitutes a Subjective Class? A Comparative Study of 64 Countries," under preparation for presentation at the ISA Annual Meeting RC28 Social Stratification, 2025

Research on Opinion Polarization Across Various Societies | Independent Researcher 2024.03 - 2025.02
Advisor: **Felicia F. Tian** (Prof. of Department of Sociology, Fudan University)

- Explored the relationship between public opinion polarization and national political environment
- Used data mainly from World Value Survey (WVS) and European Value Study (EVS) to conduct a **Belief Network Analysis** on mass opinion polarization and belief structures across 89 countries
- Constructed belief networks for 89 countries using belief variables as nodes, and correlations between them as edges, with the absolute values of Pearson correlation coefficients as edge weights; extracted nine network metrics that reflect degrees of polarization
- Applied **Principal Component Analysis (PCA)** to reduce various belief network metrics into two dimensions, innovatively conceptualizing four categories of opinion polarization
- Contributed to current theories by extending the dimensionality of opinion polarization both from the internal mechanisms and the comparative perspectives
- Employed **multinomial logit models** to explore the relationship between public opinion polarization types and political factors like party competition and civic engagement
- Independently handled the majority of the whole research process, including conceptualization, data cleaning, processing, coding, analysis, interpretation of results, and literature review
- **Outcome:** A paper titled "Mapping Opinion Polarization: Belief Networks and Political Environment across 89 Countries in 2017-2022," presented at the ESS Annual Meeting Mini Conference, 2025

Research on American Attitudes on Homosexual Marriage | Independent Researcher 2024.02 -2024.03
Advisor: **Qin Huang** (Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, Northwestern University)

- Analyzed and predicted American attitudes toward homosexual marriage using regression, machine learning (Random Forest algorithm), and introductory causal inference methods through R
- Conducted literature reviews on demographic factors shaping attitudes on homosexual marriage
- Independently completed a quantitative research report based on the study using **ordinal logit models**

Research on Pain Management in Cancer Patients | Research Assistant 2023.10 - 2024.03
Advisor: **Xiao Mei** (Associate Prof. of Department of Sociology, Fudan University)

- Reviewed literature on opioid addiction and related policy from the perspective of qualitative sociology
- Transcribed and reviewed recorded interviews with cancer patients, delivering accurate transcript

MANUSCRIPTS

[1] **Meng, Steve L.**, Yizhao Song, and Felicia F. Tian. 2024. "Mapping Opinion Polarization: Belief Networks and Political Environment across 89 Countries in 2017-2022." Presented on the *Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting Mini Conference, 2025, Boston, MA*.

[2] Tian, Felicia F., **Steve L. Meng**, Yizhao Song, and Xiaoguang Fan. 2024. "What Constitutes a Subjective Class? A Comparative Study of 64 Countries." Paper to be presented on the *International Sociological Association (ISA) Annual Meeting RC28 Social Stratification, 2025, Rabat, Morocco*.

[3] **Meng, Steve L.** 2025. "The Moon, Sixpence, and Mobility: Work Value as Cultural Capital at the Workplace." Extended abstract accepted by the *ASA Annual Meeting, 2025, Chicago*.

[3] **Meng, Steve L.**, and Guang Guo. 2025. "Microsimulation Interpretation for Binary, Multinomial, Ordered and Continuation Logit Models: A Test Case for AI." Abstract submitted to the *ISA RC33 International Conference on Social Science Methodology, 2025, Naples, Italy*.

ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

Member of Student Self-Management Association, Fudan University Sep 2022 - Sep 2024

- Organized three academic lectures, respectively on international politics, nomology and lexicography
- Managed social media account, including writing and formatting 5 articles

Participated in the Top Ten Vocalists Competition at Fudan University Mar 2023 - May 2023

- Rewarded as one of the 2023 Top Ten Vocalists at Fudan University after four rounds of selection
- Performed as a campus vocal artist at several large-scale activities at FDU after the competition, including the Opening Ceremony (15,000+ audiences) and the welcome party for freshmen in Sep 2023

SKILLS & OTHERS

Technical Skills: R, STATA, Gephi

Language: Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), French (Beginner)

Interests: Singing, Travel, Chorus, and Badminton