

## ZHAO He

flaneurzh@gmail.com | Beijing, China

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Interests:** Historical Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Political Sociology, Sociology of the Arts, Rural Sociology, Sociology of Knowledge, Memory, Social Movement, Development, Organizations, Professions and Work, Political Economy, Social Theory, Methodology, Computational Social Science

**Core Concern:** The Relationship Between the Mental Structure of Individuals and Social Structure; Social Inequality & Social Change in Modern & Contemporary China

**Concrete Research:** (1) How did the history of “self-representation” among and within groups in the cultural-artistic field during the 1950s, along with the emergence and stabilization of “sociotechnical assemblages”—the mix of elements such as individuals, organizations, institutions, ideologies, and technologies—contribute to the formation of certain substantive cognitive and organizational resources during China’s Cultural Revolution? (2) From the perspective of cultural-artistic practice, re-examine the transnational (China-Soviet) origins and local transformations of China’s socialist culture. (3) There is a continuous process of negotiation, friction, and unexpected consequences between modernity and actors’ existing knowledge system, emotional structure, and strategic approaches within fields. How do actors—we ourselves—perceive, interpret, and act within “complex situations under complex structures?” (4) Do individual or collective life histories record historical or national events, and if so, how? What “new” forms have emerged in the relationship between individuals or groups and the process of history during the social transition and revolution, and what are the mechanisms behind their formation?

**Areas of Methodological Expertise:** Comparative Historical Methods, Ethnography, Oral History, Machine Learning, Computational Text Analysis, Bibliometric Analysis

### EDUCATION

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Minzu University of China (MUC, Project 985)<sup>1</sup> 09. 2024 - 06.2027  
Master of Laws in Ethnology | GPA: 4.17/5 Beijing, China

Minzu University of China (MUC, Project 985) 10. 2020 - 06. 2024  
Bachelor of Laws in Sociology | GPA: 3.96/5 Minor: Anthropology, Archeology Beijing, China

### PUBLICATIONS

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[1] ZHAO He. 2026. “The Fluctuation of ‘Artistic Persona’ and the Reconstruction of Historical Imagination: The Adaptation of the Peking Opera The Lucky Purse During the ‘Xiqu Reform’ in the 1950s” [“艺格”的震荡与历史想象的重构——20世纪50年代“戏改”期间京剧《锁麟囊》的改编](in Chinese). *Open Times*(《开放时代》) 45(4): -. DOI: .

[2] ZHAO He. 2025. “Peasant Action and Agency-Social Structure and the Construction of Specialty Industries: A Case Study of the Developmental Process of ‘Wuchang Rice’” [农民行动、能动性—社会结构与特色产业建构——“五常大米”发展过程的个案研究]. *Rural China: An International Journal of History and Social Science* 22(1): 93-130. DOI: [10.1163/22136746-12341327](https://doi.org/10.1163/22136746-12341327).  
Leiden·Boston: Brill.

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<sup>1</sup> formerly known as the Central University for Nationalities

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- ZHAO, He. “The Turmoil of ‘Artistic Persona’ and the Reconstruction of Historical Imagination: The Adaptation of the Peking Opera *The Lucky Purse* During the ‘Xiqu Reform’ in the 1950s,” Paper presented at the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association Conference *Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures* (sub forum: Sociology of the Arts), August 2026, Warsaw, Poland.
- ZHAO, He. “The Turmoil of ‘Artistic Persona’ and the Reconstruction of Historical Imagination: The Adaptation of the Peking Opera *The Lucky Purse* During the ‘Xiqu Reform’ in the 1950s,” Paper presented at the 10th World Association for Chinese Studies (WACS) Conference (sub forum: Crisis and Renewal: Rethinking Tradition and Pathways of Practice in Contemporary *Xiqu*), School of Chinese, The University of Hong Kong, August 2026, Hong Kong.
- ZHAO, He. “The Turmoil of ‘Artistic Persona’ and the Reconstruction of Historical Imagination: The Adaptation of the Peking Opera *The Lucky Purse* During the ‘Xiqu Reform’ in the 1950s (In Chinese),” Paper presented at The 1<sup>st</sup> Doctoral Forum (sub forum: Culture, Theory and Modernity), Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, April 2026, Beijing, China.
- ZHAO, He. “The Mental Structures and the ‘Class’ Tastes Behind the Reinventing Historical Imagination: The Adaptation of the Peking Opera *The Lucky Purse* During the ‘Xiqu Reform’ in the 1950s (In Chinese),” Paper presented at The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Social Research (sub forum: Sociology of the Arts), Department of Sociology, Zhejiang University, November 2025, Hangzhou, China.
- ZHAO, He. “Moving Beyond Methodological Localism: A Sequential Comparative Ethnography Approach Based on ‘Anthropology at Home’ (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the Academic Workshop of the Rise of ‘As Method’ and the Construction of an Independent Chinese Knowledge System, November 2024, Beijing, China.
- ZHAO, He. “Farmers’ action, Agency-Social Structure, and the Construction of the Characteristic Industry: A Case Study of the Development Process of ‘Wuchang Rice’ (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Chinese Rural Sociology Committee of the Chinese Sociological Association, November 2024, Wuxi, China.
- ZHAO, He. “The Irreconcilable ‘Class’ Tastes Behind Reinventing the Historical Imagination: Political Criticism and Adaptation of the Peking Opera *The Lucky Purse* During the ‘Reconstructions of Opera’ in the 1950s (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Chinese Sociological Association (sub forum: Historical Sociology), July 2024, Harbin, China.
- ZHAO, He. “The Interaction of Multiple Subjects has been Shaping the Development of Characteristic Industries: Taking ‘Wuchang Rice’ as an Example (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the New Journey of Chinese Path to Modernization: Seminar to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the publication of Mr. Fei Xiaotong’s “Small Towns, Big Problems”, September 2023, Suzhou, China.
- ZHAO, He. “The Interaction of Multiple Subjects has been Shaping the Development of Characteristic Industries: Taking ‘Wuchang Rice’ as an Example (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the 2023 (20<sup>th</sup>) Empirical Research Methodology in Organizational Sociology Workshop, August 2023, Shanghai, China.
- ZHAO, He. “Rice’s Wisdom: Multiple Social Interactions, Farmers’ Subjectivity and Construction of Characteristic Industries in Wuchang Area of Harbin Region (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sociological Youth Scholars Forum with Doctoral Graduate Academic Forum,

July 2023, Xiamen, China.

- ZHAO, He. “The Interaction of Multiple Subjects has been Shaping the Development of Characteristic Industries: Taking ‘Wuchang Rice’ as an Example (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Chinese Sociological Association (sub forum: Social Anthropology), July 2023, Tianjin, China.
- ZHAO, He. “Rice’s Wisdom: Multiple Social Interactions, Farmers’ Subjectivity and Construction of Characteristic Industries in Wuchang Area of Harbin Region (In Chinese),” Paper presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Beijing-Tianjin University Sociology Culture Festival with Beijing-Tianjin University Sociology Student Forum, May 2023, Beijing, China.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Assistant

The School of Ethnology and Sociology, Minzu University of China, Beijing, China

- Urban and Rural Sociology: Fall 2024
- Global China Studies: Spring 2025
- Data Analysis Software STATA Application: Spring 2025

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES & FIELDWORKS

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**Graduate Research Projects of Minzu University of China: *Examining Livelihood Practices, Relational Structures, and the Localization of Political Culture: A Social History of a Northeast Chinese Village, 1930-2012*** 11. 2025 - 05. 2027

Supervisor: ZHANG Liang, Associate Professor. & LI Kang, Professor.

- This independent project will be funded to complete a master's thesis. It will conduct a social history study using theories from cultural sociology and anthropological methodologies, aiming to advance sociological theory, cultural sociology, historical sociology, and China studies.

***A Study on the Occupational Structure of China’s Population from the 18th to 19th Century***

Supervisor: YANG Cheng, Lecturer.

06. 2023 - 09. 2023

- Went to The First Historical Archives of China to collect the Qing Dynasty Criminal Examination Textbook;
- Conducted a longitudinal examination of the long-term occupational structure of the population based on the penalty documents of the Qing Dynasty and became proficient in using Access.

**Special Research Project at Minzu University of China as a Research Base about “Consolidating the Sense of Community for the Chinese Nation”: *Rice’s Wisdom: Multiple Social Interactions, Farmers’ Subjectivity and Construction of Characteristic Industries in Wuchang Area of Harbin Region*** 07. 2022 - 08. 2023

Supervisor: LI Kang, Professor. & ZHANG Liang, Associate Professor.

- Finished the research design and applied specific methods combining archive analysis, oral history research, and ethnographic writing;
- Concluded that the rise of Wuchang Rice indicates that many social factors such as national politics, economic environment, grass-roots government, agricultural science, and technology, stimulate the anti-structural endowment of rice farmers and shape the local horizontal and vertical social structure in the interaction process.

***The Construction of the Working Class’ view of the Good Life and the Ways of its Practice: the Case of Construction Workers at a Construction Site in Xi’an*** 07. 2022 - 05. 2023

Supervisor: LI Kang, Professor. & ZHANG Liang, Associate Professor.

- Completed the research design and applied research methods including participatory observation and in-depth interviews;
- Became proficient in mastering the theoretical framework of labor research.

**Tsinghua University 2022 Independent Research Program Liberal Arts Special Project (Project No. 2022THZWJC27): *Research on the Diversity of China's Hospice Care Models***

Supervisor: JING Jun, Professor. & SUN Weiwei, Professor. 07. 2022 - 03. 2023

- Took household interviews and wrote three narrative studies related to death.

**Project of the Key Research Base for Humanities and Social Sciences of the Ministry of Education, Center for the Study of Chinese Ethnic Minorities (MUC) (Project No. 16JJD840016): *Research on Key Issues in the Construction of Comprehensive Social Survey Database in Ethnic Minority Areas***

Supervisor: BAO Zhiming, Professor. & JIAO Kaishan, Professor. 07. 2022 - 10. 2022

- Participated in writing the project conclusion report;
- Responsible for writing and integrating the literature review section on factors affecting elderly health;
- Translated multiple relevant high-citation English literature.

***Involution and Fired-up Kids Coerced by the Winter of Education and Training Industry: Based on the Analysis of Coping Strategies of Several Groups of Families in the "Double Reduction" Policy***

Supervisor: ZHANG Min, Associate Professor. 07. 2021 - 05. 2022

- Conducted the research design and finished an interview, and completed data analysis by qualitative coding;
- Made a brief conclusion that the prevalence of tutoring under the exam-oriented system, the selection of tutoring shows heterogeneity in class, and there are regional differences in policy interpretation.

***Digital Divide or Subtle Harmony: The Ups and Downs of Family Intergenerational Relations and Emotional Space in the Mobile Phone Era***

09. 2021 - 01. 2022

Supervisor: YANG Lei, Associate Professor. & YANG Juhua, Professor. & ZHAO Mi, Associate Professor.

- Conducted the research design and finished data analysis by Stata;
- Concluded that the psychological space of the members of the nuclear family (especially the nuclear family scattered due to economic factors) is "broken" with the enlargement of the physical distance.

***Harvard Social Technology for Global Aging Initiative***

Supervisor: ZHANG Min, Associate Professor. 06. 2021 - 10. 2021

- Undertook some field investigation and interview work in Northeast China;
- Conducted anthropological interviews and organized relevant literature, with a high degree of completion;
- Combined cultural interviews with thematic interviews for the qualitative interview methods, focusing more on thematic interviews;
- Participated in observing the specific daily lives of disabled elderly people in Northeast China and tried to enter the spiritual world as much as possible;
- Found that caring for disabled elderly people can bring emotional support to those who are desperate and anxious in addition to the ethical starting point of care and practical assistance;
- Concluded that care is related to moral unity, the fulfillment of responsibilities, and the formation

of reciprocity, which means treating the caregivers as human beings and wanting them to live better or at least survive, to support them;

- Proposed that caregivers need to negotiate and coordinate with financial, legal, religious, medical, and other fields, especially for the care of those at the end of their lives.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

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**Research Assistant | A Study on the Occupational Structure of China's Population from the 18th to 19th Century - Collaborative research project between Cambridge University and Renmin University | Beijing** 06. 2023 - 09. 2023

- Collected information about occupation structure in the subject book of criminal science in the Qing Dynasty;
- Checked files fluently in the historical archives and skillfully read the classical Chinese criminal subject book;
- Manipulated long historical archives into relevant data variables.

**Excellent Intern & Supervision of Beijing Project Team | National Survey Research Center at Renmin University of China (NSRC) | Beijing** 06. 2021 - 08. 2021

- Conducted household interviews in the Beijing area using the method of social statistical science sampling;
- Acquired extensive knowledge and expertise in the process of designing questionnaires and understanding the underlying logic of the CGSS (China Comprehensive Social Survey) database;
- Comprehended quantitative research literature in both Chinese and English and utilized secondary data for conducting relevant research independently.

## **HONORS**

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2025

National Scholarship for Graduate Students

Awarding Unit: Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China;

Special-Class Academic Honors for Graduate Students

Awarding Unit: Minzu University of China;

Yan Bao Special-Class Honors for Graduate Students

Awarding Unit: Ningxia Yan Bao Charity Foundation.

2024

First-Class Academic Honors for Graduate Students

Awarding Unit: Minzu University of China.

2024

[The First Lu Xueyi "Agriculture, Rural Areas and Farmers" Social Investigation Award](#)

[Awarding Unit: Chinese Sociological Association; Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University; Department of Sociology, Peking University, etc.](#)

2023

Excellent Award in the 10th "Fei Xiaotong Cup" Extracurricular Academic and Technological Works Competition

Awarding Unit: Minzu University of China.

Second Prize in the 13th "Zhengda Cup" National College Student Market Survey and Analysis Competition

Awarding Unit: Commerce Statistical Society of China.

Second Prize in the 1st Sociology Undergraduate Academic Forum of the School of Sociology and Population Studies

Awarding Unit: School of Social Research, Renmin University of China.

2022

First Prize in Beijing College Humanities Knowledge Competition

Awarding Unit: Beijing Municipal Education Commission.

## **EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

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Editor, *Graduate Student Research Journal of the Minzu University of China*, 2026-

## **SKILLS**

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Data Analysis: Advanced in STATA; Intermediate in Python, R, and LaTeX