

Lei Lei

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26 Nichol Avenue,
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
llel@sociology.rutgers.edu

EMPLOYMENT

- 2018 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University
Affiliate faculty, Institute for Health, Rutgers University
- 2016 – 2018 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Maryland Population Research Center,
University of Maryland-College Park

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Sociology, University at Albany-SUNY, 2016
M.S. in Biostatistics, University at Albany-SUNY, 2016
M.A. in Applied Sociology, University of Central Florida, 2011
M.Sc. *Cum Laude* in Human Resource Studies, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, 2009
B.A. in Sociology, Chu Kochen Honors College, Zhejiang University, China, 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health, Family, Child Development, Community Effects, Social Inequality

REFEREED ARTICLES (❖ Indicates graduate student co-author)

- Lei, Lei and Quan Mai. 2024. “Precarious Transitions: How Precarious Employment Shapes Parental Coresidence Among Young Adults.” *Social Forces*: soae050.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. 2024. “The COVID-19 Pandemic and Sexual Activity Among Young Adults.” *Population Research and Policy Review*.
- Lei, Lei and Youngjin Chae❖. 2024. “Parental Absence During Childhood and Intergenerational Solidarity in Adulthood in China” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 86(3):655-676.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. 2023. “Who Returned Home? The COVID-19 Pandemic and Young Adults’ Residential Transitions.” *Advances in Life Course Research* 58:100582.
- Lei, Lei and Frederic Traylor❖. 2023. “How Does Religion Influence Parental Support of Young Adult Children in the U.S.?” *Journal of Family Issues*.
- Lei, Lei and Xialu Liu. 2022. “The COVID-19 Pandemic and Residential Mobility Intentions in the United States: Evidence from Google Trends Data.” *Population, Space and Place* 28(6) e2581.
*Top 10 most cited article in the journal during 2022-23.

- Lei Lei. 2022. "The Effect of Community Socioeconomic Context on High School Attendance in China: A Generalized Propensity Score Approach." *Sociology of Education* 95(1):61–88.
- Lei, Lei and Tse-chuan Yang. 2022. "Determinants and Health Implications of Individuals' Activity Space Experiences." *Population, Space and Place*: 28(5) e2541.
- Lei, Lei and Sonalde Desai. 2021. "Male Out-Migration and the Health of Left-Behind Wives in India: The Roles of Remittances, Household Responsibilities, and Autonomy." *Social Science & Medicine* 280: 113982.
- Lei, Lei and Zhiyong Lin❖. 2021. "From Traditional and Socialist Work-unit Communities to Commercial-Housing: The Association between Neighborhood Types and Adult Health in Urban China." *Chinese Sociological Review* 53(3): 254–284.
- South, Scott J. and Lei Lei. 2021. "Why are Fewer Young Adults Having Casual Sex?" *Socius* 7:1–12.
*Featured in *Yahoo News, HealthDay, Insider, U.S. News&World Report*
*Most downloaded article among all ASA journals in 2021
- Lei, Lei and Wei-hsin Yu. 2021. "What Does It Take to Get Ahead? Individual Characteristics, Community Contexts, and Stratification Beliefs among Youth in China." *Social Forces* 100(2): 738–764.
- Gillespie, Brian and Lei Lei. 2021. "Intergenerational Solidarity, Proximity to Parents When Moving to Independence, and Returns to the Parental Home." *Population, Space and Place* 27(2): e2395.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. 2021. "Explaining the Decline in Young Adult Sexual Activity in the United States." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 83(1):280–295.
- Lei, Lei, Sonalde Desai, and Feinian Chen. 2020. "Fathers' Migration and Nutritional Status of Children in India: Do the Effects Vary by Community Context?" *Demographic Research* 43(20):545–580.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. 2020. "The Comforts of Home: The Association Between Coresidence with Parents and Young Adults' Residential Mobility and Migration in the United States." *Population, Space and Place* 26(5):e2323.
- Lei, Lei, Sonalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman. 2019. "The Impact of Transportation Infrastructure on Women's Employment in India." *Feminist Economics* 25(4):94–125.
- Yang, Tse-Chuan, Lei Lei, and Aysenur Kurtulus❖. 2018. "Neighborhood Ethnic Density and Self-rated Health: Investigating the Mechanisms through Social Capital and Health Behaviors." *Health & Place* 53:193–202.

- Lei, Lei. 2018. "The Effect of Neighborhood Context on Children's Academic Achievement in China: Exploring Mediating Mechanisms." *Social Science Research* 72:240–257.
- Lei, Lei. 2017. "The Impact of Community Context on Children's Health and Nutritional Status in China." *Social Science & Medicine* 179:172–181.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. 2016. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home: The Role of Life Course Transitions, Socioeconomic Resources, and Family Connectivity." *Demographic Research* 34:109–142.
- South, Scott J. and Lei Lei. 2015. "Failures-to-Launch and Boomerang Kids: Contemporary Determinants of Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home." *Social Forces* 94(2): 863–890.
- Lei, Lei. 2013. "Sons, Daughters, and Intergenerational Support in China." *Chinese Sociological Review* 45(3):26–52.
* *Paul Meadows Excellence in Research Award, Honorable Mention, Department of Sociology, University at Albany*
- Lei, Lei. 2013. "Employment, Day Labor, and Shadow Work among Homeless Assistance Clients in the United States." *Journal of Poverty* 17(3):253–272.
- Lei, Lei and Heili Pals. 2011. "Son Preference in China: Why Is It Stronger in Rural Areas?" *Population Review* 50(2):27–46.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTER

- Lei, Lei and Zai Liang. 2023. "Social Networks, Wages, and Job Tenure among Migrant Workers in China: Heterogeneous Effects over Time and by Education." Pp. 397–421 in *Social Inequality in China* edited by Yaojun Li and Yangjie Bian. World Scientific Publishing Europe Ltd.
- Lei, Lei. 2016. "Mental Health Status of Migrant Workers in China: The Roles of Working Conditions, Residential Environment, and Victimization." Pp. 200–221 in *Confronting the Challenges of Urbanization in China* edited by Zai Liang, Steven F. Messner, Youqing Huang, and Chen Chen. New York: Routledge.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW (❖ Indicates graduate student co-author)

- Lei, Lei and Wei-hsin Yu. "Opting Out of Neighborhood Schools: Determinants and Consequences of School Choice Strategies in China."
- Lian, Bin and Lei Lei. "Trends in Young Adults' Living Arrangements in Urban China, 2003–2018."
- Li, Zhen and Lei Lei. "Residential Mobility in Urban China: Individual Traits, Housing Factors, and Institutional Constraints."

WORK IN PROGRESS

Lei, Lei. “When Left-Behind Children Become Adults: The Long-Term Implications of Parental Migration on Children’s Transition to Adulthood.”

Lei, Lei and Quan Mai. “Mother’s Precarious Employment and Children’s Cognitive Development.”

Lei, Lei. “Presence of Migrants and Neighborly Trust in China.”

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Lei, Lei. “Transportation Infrastructure, Community Context, and Women's Employment in India.” Blog for Women's Empowerment Data for Gender Equality (WEDGE).

Lei, Lei, Sonalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman. “The Impact of Transportation Infrastructure on Women's Employment in India.” American Sociological Association Sociology of Development Section Policy Brief, Volume 5, Issue 4.

GRANT

Internal – Funded

2021–2022 “Religion and Parental Support in the Transition to Adulthood.” Gretel Weiss Graduate Student-Faculty Collaboration Grant. Department of Sociology, Rutgers University. \$4,000.

2021–2022 COVID Impact on Scholarly Productivity Faculty Grant. Rutgers University. \$5,000.

External – Funded

2019–2021 “Male Absence Due to Migration and the Health of Left-Behind Wives in India.” NIH-NICHD R03 1R03HD098377-01, Lei Lei (Principal Investigator). \$155,000.

External – Under review

2023 “Potential Grandparental Support and Fertility in China.” NIH-NICHD R03 *Resubmit*. Lei Lei (Principal Investigator) and Xialu Liu (Senior Personnel).

External – Unfunded

2022 “Potential Grandparental Support and Fertility in China.” NIH-NICHD R03. Lei Lei (Principal Investigator) and Xialu Liu (Senior Personnel). Not funded.

2021 “Human-centered Pandemic Modeling.” Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Prevention Phase I: Development Grants. NSF. Lei Lei (Senior Personnel) PI: Vivek Singh. Not funded.

2022 “Rural/urban Health Disparities in Midlife: Life-course Neighborhood Exposures and Sociobehavioral Mechanisms.” NIH R01 (National Institute on Aging and National

Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities), Lei Lei (Senior Personnel) PI: Tse-Chuang Yang (University of Texas, Medical Branch). Not funded.

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2016 | Allen E. Liska Dissertation Award, Department of Sociology, University at Albany |
| 2015–2016 | Dissertation Research Fellowship Award, University at Albany |
| 2015 | Paul Meadows Excellence in Research Award (Honorable Mention), Department of Sociology, University at Albany |
| 2015 | Professional Development Fund, School of Public Health, University at Albany |
| 2014 | Professional Development Award, Graduate Student Employees Union, University at Albany |
| 2009 | Best Student Award International Entrepreneurship Program, Tilburg University |
| 2008 | Tilburg University Scholarship |

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “The COVID-19 Pandemic and Residential Mobility in the U.S.” Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Rutgers University – New Brunswick. March 8, 2023.
- “The Impact of Community Socioeconomic Context on High School Attendance in China: A Generalized Propensity Score Approach.” Economics Research Center of West China, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China. November 24, 2022.
- “Current Issues in Children’s Development, Education, and Welfare in China.” Speaker at the Policy Roundtable. University of Pennsylvania CSCC - NYU Shanghai CASER Workshop on Inequalities and Child Development. November 18, 2022.
- “Parental Absence during Childhood and Intergenerational Solidarity in Adulthood in China.” Center for Social Research, Peking University. November 10, 2022.
- “Why Are Fewer Young Adults Having Casual Sex?” Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. March 30, 2021.
- “Social Positions, Community Context, and Stratification Beliefs Among Youth in China.” Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. December 11, 2019.
- “From Traditional and Socialist Communities to Commercial-Housing: The Association Between Neighborhood Types and Health in China.” Princeton Research Network on Contemporary China Conference. Princeton, NJ. August 14, 2019.
- “From Traditional and Socialist Communities to Commercial-Housing: The Association Between Neighborhood Types and Health in China.” Quantitative Application of

Sociology Workshop, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University. February, 2019.

“The Impact of Community Socioeconomic Context on the Transition to High School in China: A Causal Analysis.” Education and Inequality workshop, Korean Millennials Research Lab, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. November 2018.

“Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status and Children’s Education, Health, and Attitudes in China.” Rutgers Center for Chinese Studies, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. October 2018.

“Parental Migration and Children’s Well-being in China and India.” Panelist for MPRC Special Workshop: Global Perspectives on How Families Shape Children's Outcomes. Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland. College Park, MD. April 2018.

“The Impact of Male Migration on the Health of Left-behind Wives and Children in India.” Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland. College Park, MD. October 2017.

“Does Economic Development Empower Women? Village Transportation Infrastructure and Women’s Work Participation in India.” 3rd IZA Research Conference: New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries, the World Bank. Washington D.C. October 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Lei, Lei and Wei-hsin Yu. “Opting Out of Neighborhood Schools: Determinants and Consequences of School Choice Strategies in China.” Population Association of America annual conference. Columbus, OH. April 2024.

Lei Lei and Scott South. “Who Returned Home? The COVID-19 Pandemic and Young Adults’ Residential Transitions.” American Sociological Association annual conference. Philadelphia, PA. August 2023.

Lei Lei and Wei-hsin Yu. “Determinants and Consequences of School Choice Strategies in China.” First annual conference of READI (Research on East Asian Demography and Inequality). Tokyo, Japan. July 2023.

Lei, Lei and Youngjin Chae. “Parental Absence during Childhood and Intergenerational Solidarity in Adulthood in China.” Population Association of America annual conference. New Orleans, LA. April 2023.

Lei, Lei and Xialu Liu. “The COVID-19 Pandemic and Residential Mobility in the United States: Evidence from Google Trends Data.” *Accepted* at American Sociological Association annual conference. Los Angeles, CA. August 2022. (Withdrawn.)

- Lei, Lei and Frederic Traylor. "How Does Religion Influence Young Adults' Coresidence with Parents?" Population Association of America annual conference. Atlanta, GA. April 2022.
- Lei, Lei and Sonalde Desai. "Male Out-Migration and the Health of Left-Behind Wives in India: The Roles of Responsibility and Autonomy." Population Association of America annual conference. Virtual presentation. May 2021.
- Lei, Lei and Quan Mai. "Nonstandard Employment and Young Adults' Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home in the United States." Population Association of America annual conference. Virtual presentation. May 2021.
- Gillespie, Brian and Lei Lei. "Intergenerational Solidarity, Proximity to Parents When Moving to Independence, and Returns to the Parental Home." Population Association of America annual conference. Virtual presentation. May 2021.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. "Explaining the Decline in Young Adult Sexual Activity in the United States." American Sociological Association annual conference. San Francisco, CA. Virtual presentation. Aug 2020.
- Lei, Lei. "The Impact of Community Socioeconomic Context on the Transition to High School in China: A Causal Analysis." International Sociological Association-RC28 summer conference. Princeton, NJ. Aug 2019.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. "The Comforts of Home: The Effect of Coresidence with Parents on Young Adults' Residential Mobility and Migration." American Sociological Association annual conference. New York, NY. Aug 2019.
- Gillespie, Brian and Lei Lei. "Family Connectivity, Nest-leaving Distance, and Returns to the Parental Home." The 10th International Population Geographies Conference. Loughborough, UK. July 2019.
- Lei, Lei and Zhiyong Lin. "From Traditional and Socialist Communities to Commercial-Housing: The Association between Neighborhood Types and Health in China." Urban China Research Network conference. Nanjing, China. June 2019.
- Lei, Lei and Sonalde Desai. "Fathers' Migration and the Health of the Left-behind Children in India: Exploring the Role of Gender and Context." Population Association of America annual conference. Austin, TX. April 2019.
- Lei, Lei and Tse-chuan Yang. "The Health Implications of Contextual Exposure: The Third Way between Residential Neighborhood and Activity Space." Population Association of America annual conference. Austin, TX. April 2019.
- Lei, Lei and Zhiyong Lin. "From Traditional and Socialist Communities to Commercial-Housing: The Association between Neighborhood Types and Health in China."

- International Chinese Sociological Association conference. Princeton, NJ. August 2018.
- Lei, Lei and Sonalde Desai. "Husbands' Migration and the Health of the Left-behind Wives in India." Population Association of America annual conference. Denver, CO. April 2018.
- Lei, Lei. "The Impact of Community Context on Children's Health and Nutritional Status in China." Population Association of America annual conference. Chicago, IL. April 2017.
- Lei, Lei, Sonalde Desai and Reeve Vanneman. "Does Economic Development Empower Women? Village Transportation Infrastructure and Women's Work Participation in India." Population Association of America annual conference. Chicago, IL. April 2017.
- Lei Lei. "The Effect of Neighborhoods on Children's Educational Achievement in China: Exploring Mediating Mechanisms." Population Association of America annual conference. Washington D.C. April 2016.
- Lei, Lei and Zai Liang. "Social Network, Wage, and Job Tenure of Migrant Workers in China." American Sociological Association annual conference. Chicago, IL. August 2015.
- Lei, Lei and Scott J. South. "Leaving and Returning Home in Young Adulthood: Explaining Racial and Ethnic Differences." Population Association of America annual conference. San Diego, CA. May 2015.
- Lei, Lei. "Understanding the Mental Health Status of Migrant Workers in China." American Sociological Association annual conference. San Francisco, CA. August 2014.
- South, Scott J. and Lei Lei. "Failures to Launch and Boomerang Kids: Contemporary Determinants of Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home." Population Association of America annual conference. Boston, MA. May 2014.
- Lei, Lei and Samantha Friedman. "The Influence of Gender, Marital Status, and the Presence of Children on Locational Attainment, 2009." American Sociological Association annual conference. New York, NY. August 2013.
- Lei, Lei. "Sons, Daughters and Intergenerational Support in China." American Sociological Association annual conference. Denver, CO. August 2012.
- Lei, Lei. "Schooling, Work and Idleness among Migrant Children in China." American Sociological Association annual conference. Denver, CO. August 2012.
- Lei, Lei. "Employment, Day Labor and Shadow Work Among Homeless Assistance Clients in

the US.” Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference, Las Vegas, NV. March 2011.

Lei, Lei. “Household Labor Division, Decision Making and Marital Quality in Contemporary China.” Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference, Las Vegas, NV. March 2011.

Lei, Lei. “Son Preference in China: Why Is It Different Between Rural and Urban Areas?” American Sociological Association annual conference, Atlanta, GA. August 2010.

Lei, Lei. “Effects of Globalization and Public Policies on the Industrial Relations in the Port of Rotterdam, 1990-2008.” Southern Sociological Society annual conference, Atlanta, GA. April 2010.

Lei, Lei. “Do Immigrants Consume Less Energy Than Native-Born Americans?” Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference, Houston, TX. March 2010.

TEACHING

Rutgers University

Soc 541 Statistical Methods in Sociology I (Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

Soc 542 Statistical Methods in Sociology II (Spring 2021)

Soc 570 Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis (Spring 2020, Spring 2023, Fall 2024)

Soc 227 Population and Society (Spring 2024)

Soc 312 Introduction to Statistics in Sociology (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

Soc 380 Global Health: Sociological Perspectives (Fall 2022)

Soc 422 Seminar: Global Health: Sociological Perspectives (Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate students

2024–2025, Adia Win, Second Advisor for Interdisciplinary Thesis, Psychology, Rutgers University.

2023–2024, Zimeng Wang, Advisor for Honors Thesis, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2021–2022, Catherine Sackey, Advisor for Honors Thesis, Sociology, Rutgers University.

Graduate students

2024–2025, Xu Guo, Chair for 2nd Qualifying paper, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2024–2025, Beichen Fang, First-year advisor, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2023–2024, Olivia Hakala, Gretel Weiss Graduate Student-Faculty Collaboration Project, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2023–2024, Seungyun Lee, Qualifying paper committee member, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2023–2024, Hanee Choi, Qualifying paper co-chair, Sociology, Rutgers University.

2022–2023, Shibin Yan, Member of dissertation committee, Public Affairs, Rutgers University – Camden.
 2021–2022, Frederic Traylor, Gretel Weiss Graduate Student-Faculty Collaboration Project, Sociology, Rutgers University.
 2021–2022, Youngjin Chae, First-year advisor, Sociology, Rutgers University.
 2019–2020, Changhye Ahn, Qualifying paper committee member, Sociology, Rutgers University.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Editorial board:

Sociological Perspectives (2020-22, 2022-24);
Journal of Health and Social Behavior (2024-26)

Occasional referee:

American Sociological Review
Demography
Social Forces
Social Science Research
Journal of Marriage and Family
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Journal of Family Issues

Journal of Gerontology-Social Sciences
Chinese Sociological Review
Social Problems
Chinese Journal of Sociology
Social Currents
Sociological Forum
Sociological Perspectives

2023	Panel speaker, Postdoc Academy, Boston University
2022	Discussant, Chronic and Mental Health session, Population Association of America annual conference
2021	Program committee member, 2022 Population Association of America conference
2021	Session organizer, 2022 Population Association of America conference
2019	Member, Graduate Student Research Paper Award committee, Section on Asia and Asian America, American Sociological Association.
2018	Discussant, panel on Family Diversity and Child Well-Being, Population Association of America annual conference

University and Departmental Service

2024-25	Task Force on Behavior Health and Equality, Office of the Provost
2023-24	Faculty mentor, SAS Honors Faculty Mentor Program, SAS
2023-25	Member, SAS Core curriculum Committee, SAS
2023-24	Member, Hiring committee, Department of Sociology
2022-24	Member, Executive committee, Department of Sociology
2022–24	Member, Community and Equity Committee, Department of Sociology

2022–23	Member, Graduate program committee, Department of Sociology
2018–23	Co-organizer, Quantitative Application of Sociology workshops, Department of Sociology
2021–22	Member, colloquium committee, Department of Sociology
2021	Guest speaker, SAS honors colloquium, SAS
2020–21	Member, graduate admission committee, Department of Sociology
2019	Member, review committee for the Anne Foner Dissertation Prize
2018–19	Member, undergraduate committee, Department of Sociology

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association
Population Association of America
International Sociological Association-RC28

STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

Stata, SAS, R, SPSS, LISREL, ArcGIS, Mplus