

Mingui Gao

Department of Sociology
Center on Aging and the Life Course
Purdue University

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EDUCATION

- Dual-title Ph.D. in Sociology and Gerontology, Purdue University Expected 2027
 - Dissertation: “Functional Equivalents: Religious and Secular Social Engagement and Health Outcomes Among Older Adults”
 - Chair: Dr. Hui Liu; Committee: Dr. Patricia Thomas, Dr. Jacqui Frost, and Dr. Elliot Friedman
 - Graduate Certificate, Advanced Methods at Purdue in the Behavioral, Health, and Social Sciences (in progress; expected 2027)
- M.S. in Sociology, Purdue University 2024
- B.A. in English, Beijing Institute of Technology 2002

HONORS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIP

- Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Purdue University. 2026
- Honorable Mention, Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Purdue University. 2026

ADVANCED METHODS TRAINING

- Longitudinal Data Analysis, MCAP Summer Institute Summer 2025
 - The Methodology Center at Purdue (MCAP), an NIH-funded methods seminar
- Teaching Assistant (appointed), Longitudinal Data Analysis, MCAP Summer Institute Summer 2027

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medical Sociology; Aging and the Life Course; Social Relationships; Marriage and Family; Sociology of Religion; Religion and Health; Quantitative and Mixed Methods

TEACHING INTERESTS

Introduction to Sociology; Medical Sociology; Sociology of Aging and the Life Course; Sociology of Religion; Quantitative Research Methods and Statistics; Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Gao, Mingui** and Hui Liu. 2025. “Religious Attendance and Depressive Symptoms in Later Life: The Mediating Role of Church-based Social Ties.” *Aging & Mental Health*. doi:10.1080/13607863.2025.2594702.
2. Copeland, Molly, Wencheng Zhang, Hui Liu, and **Mingui Gao**. 2026. “Social Network Structure and Composition Predicting Cognitive Impairment: Racial/Ethnic Differences among Older Adults.” *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbag008.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

1. Hsieh, Ning, Hui Liu, and **Mingui Gao**. In press (November 2026). "Health Disparities of Sexual and Gender Minorities in Later Life." In *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*, 10th ed., edited by K. F. Ferraro and D. Carr. Elsevier.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. Liu, Hui, Juwen Wang, **Mingui Gao**, and William J. Chopik. "Educational Heterogamy and Dementia Risk among Older Couples." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

1. **Gao, Mingui**. "Functional Equivalents: Religious Attendance, Civic Engagement, and Later-Life Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms." (Manuscript in Preparation)
2. **Gao, Mingui**, Juwen Wang (co-first author), and Hui Liu. "Shared Faith, Shared Health? Spousal Religious Concordance and Dementia Onset among Older Couples." (Manuscript in Preparation)
3. Resweber, Corey, **Mingui Gao** (co-first author), and Fenggang Yang. "Strain or Resource? Plural Believing, Cosmopolitan Openness, and Health in Singapore."
4. Resweber, Corey and **Mingui Gao**. "Civic Frames, Not Threat Frames: Religious Attendance and Divergent Responses to Crime News."
5. Thomas, Patricia, **Mingui Gao**, Hui Liu, and Dawn Carr. "Embrace the Mind: The Impact of Affectionate Touch on Cognitive Impairment."
6. Suitor, J. Jill, Megan Gilligan, Robert Fraser, Destiny Ogle, and **Mingui Gao**. "I'm Everyone's Favorite! Patterns and Consequences of Cumulative Favoritism and Disfavoritism on Adult Grandchildren's Well-being." (Manuscript in Preparation)
7. He, Ranran, **Mingui Gao**, and Bing Han. "How Do Social Network Characteristics Moderate the Association between Subjective Hearing Loss and Cognitive Decline in Later Life?"

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Gao, Mingui**. "Functional Equivalents: Religious Attendance, Civic Engagement, and Later-Life Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY. 2026
2. Thomas, Patricia, **Mingui Gao**, Hui Liu, and Dawn Carr. "Embrace the Mind: The Impact of Affectionate Touch on Cognitive Impairment." International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) World Congress, Amsterdam, Netherlands. July 2026
3. He, Ranran, **Mingui Gao**, and Bing Han. "How Do Social Network Characteristics Moderate the Association between Subjective Hearing Loss and Cognitive Decline in Later Life?" Poster presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO. 2026
4. **Gao, Mingui**. "The Exodus of the Grey and the Black: A Comparative Study of the Survival Strategies of Two Out-migrating Churches from China." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. 2025
5. **Gao, Mingui** and Hui Liu. "Religious Attendance and Depressive Symptoms in Later Life: The Mediating Roles of Church-based Social Ties." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 2025
6. **Gao, Mingui**. "Strategic Framing, International Political Opportunity: A Case Study of the Formosa Incident as a Variant of Political Process Theory." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. 2024

7. **Gao, Mingui.** “The Aerodynamics of Faith: Persecution, Secularism, and Disparate Trajectories of Religious Growth in China and Taiwan since 1945.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. 2023

GRANTS & FUNDING

- PROMISE Award, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University. (\$1,000) 2026
- Center on Aging and the Life Course (CALC) Travel Grants. (\$1,500, GSA; \$500, SSSR) 2026
- Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) Travel Award, Purdue University. (\$816) 2026
- Travel Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR). (\$1,000) 2025
- CALC Travel Grant. GSA Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. (\$1,500) 2025
- CALC Travel Grant. GSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. (\$1,500) 2024
- PROMISE Award, College of Liberal Arts. SSSR Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. (\$500) 2024
- PROMISE Award, College of Liberal Arts. SSSR Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. (\$500) 2023

DATA & SOFTWARE EXPERTISE

- Statistical computing: Stata (growth curve modeling, dyadic analysis, survival analysis, equivalence testing); R (longitudinal data analysis)
- Panel and survey data: Health and Retirement Study (HRS/RAND); National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), including restricted Round 4 data; Singapore Gerontological Survey on Religion and Spirituality (GESRS); Pew American Trends Panel
- Geospatial data collection: field mapping of religious institutions in Taiwan (with Dr. Fenggang Yang)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Purdue University

- SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant, Purdue University

- SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology, with Prof. Mark Pawson Spring 2025
- SCLA 102: Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking & Communication, with Prof. Ariel Azar Spring 2025

Prior Faculty Position

- Lecturer, Department of English, Yanshan University, China 2002–2010

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Research Assistant, Center on Aging and the Life Course, Purdue University 2024–
- Research Assistant, Center on Religion and the Global East, Purdue University 2022–2024

SERVICE

- Senator, Purdue Graduate Student Senate Fall 2026–
- Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Religion, Spirituality & Aging* Spring 2026
- Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology, Purdue University 2025–2026
- Volunteer, CALC Tech Team (digital literacy for older adults), Friendship House, West Lafayette 2024–2026

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA); Gerontological Society of America (GSA); Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

PUBLICATIONS FROM EARLIER ACADEMIC CAREER

Book Chapters

1. **Gao, Mingui.** 2009. “泰安市青年路基督教会 [The Christian Church on Qingnian Road in Tai'an].” Pp. 170–206 in 边际的共融：全球地域化视角下的中国城市基督教研究 [*Fusion at the Margins: A Study of Urban Christianity in China from a Global-Localization Perspective*], edited by Z. Wu, X. Li, J. Huang, and X. He. Shanghai People's Publishing House.
2. **Gao, Mingui.** 2008. “Jewish Culture and the Old Testament.” Pp. 56–92 in *An Outline of Western Culture*, edited by Weidong Zhang. Harbin Institute of Technology Press.
3. **Gao, Mingui.** 2008. “Christian Culture and the New Testament.” Pp. 93–129 in *An Outline of Western Culture*, edited by Weidong Zhang. Harbin Institute of Technology Press.

Translated Books

1. Habecker, Eugene B. 2017. *Rediscovering the Soul of Leadership*. Translated by **Mingui Gao** and Jing Ma. Gansu People's Fine Arts Publishing House. (Original work published 1996)
2. Lillback, Peter A. 2010. *Liberty Bell: American Culture's Heritage*. Translated by Jianbo Huang and **Mingui Gao**. Jiangxi People's Press. (Original work published 2000)
3. McGrath, Alister. 2006. *A Brief History of Heaven*. Translated by **Mingui Gao** and Xiaoxia Chen. Peking University Press. (Original work published 2003)
4. Stark, Rodney. 2005. *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History*. Translated by Jianbo Huang and **Mingui Gao**. Shanghai Classics Publishing House. (Original work published 1996)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| • Director of Asia Office, AP Asia LLC, Hong Kong | 2018–2022 |
| • Director of Mandarin Department, SPH International School, Indonesia | 2016–2018 |
| • Senior System Consultant, Experian Information Technology, Beijing | 2015–2016 |
| • Founder and Director, Capella Publishing, Beijing | 2010–2015 |