

# PENGFEI ZHAO

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Personal Website: <https://pengfeizhao.org>

## EMPLOYMENT

- University of Florida, College of Education, Research and Evaluation Methodology Program  
Assistant Professor of Qualitative Methodology, as of 2019
- Indiana University, Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology  
Instructor & Research Consultant, 2017-2019  
Associate Instructor, 2011-2017  
Graduate Associate, 2010-2011
- Yale University, Sociology Department  
Visiting Assistant in Research (with Prof. Julia Adams), 2013-2014

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Indiana University Bloomington, Inquiry Methodology Program, 2017  
Major: Qualitative Inquiry Methodology  
Minor: Social Theory Studies  
Dissertation: "Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution's Rural Youth in Transition to Post-Mao China"  
*\*Winner of the 2017 IIQM PhD Dissertation Award, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, Canada*  
*\*Winner of the 2019 Illinois Qualitative Distinguished Dissertation Award (Traditional Category), International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, U.S.A.*
- M.A. Beijing Normal University, Literary Theory, with distinction, 2009
- B.A. Beijing Normal University, Chinese Language and Literature, with distinction, 2006

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical and post-critical philosophic, sociological, and educational theories  
Critical ethnography, narrative inquiry, critical action research & feminist research methodology  
Research ethics  
Youth culture, immigration, and social changes  
Education in East Asian context

## PUBLICATIONS (\*indicates equal co-authorship)

### Peer-reviewed Books and Monographs

- Zhao, P.**, K. Ross, P. Li & B. K. Dennis\* (2021). *Making Sense of Social Research Methodology: A Student- and Practitioner-Centered Approach*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press.
- Zhao, P. (In progress). *Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution's Rural Youth in Transition to Post-Mao China*.

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- Zhao, P. (2020). "Working the Hyphens in Contemporary China: Reconsidering Researcher-participant Relationship in an Authoritarian State." *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. DOI: 10.1080/09518398.2020.1828642.
- Dennis, B. K., L. Carspecken, **P. Zhao**, S. Silberstein, P. Saxena, S. Bose., D. Palmer, S. Washington & A. Elfreich (2020). "Digital Migrating and Storyworlding with Women We Love: A Feminist Ethnography." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. 49(6), 745-776.
- Zhao, P.**, L. Yang, Z. Sa & X. Wang (2020). "Propriety, Empowerment and Compromises: Challenges in Addressing Gender among Sex Educators in China." *Sex Education: Sexuality, Society and Learning*. 20(5), 552-567.
- Ross, K., B. K. Dennis, **P. Zhao** & P. Li (2017). "Exploring Graduate Students' Conceptions of Research: Links Between Identity, Validity, and Research Conceptions." *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 29(1), 73-86.
- Zhao, P.**, P. Li, K. Ross & B. K. Dennis (2016). "Methodological Tool or Methodology? Beyond Instrumentality and Efficiency with Qualitative Data Analysis Software." *Forum: Qualitative Social Research*. Access from: <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs1602160>
- Zhao, P.**, D. Palmer, S. Silberstein, A. Elfreich, S. Bose, S. Washington, P. Saxena, L. Carspecken, & B. K. Dennis (Under review). "You Are My Way to the Universe: Critical Collective Research and Feminist Community Building." *Feminist Studies*.

### Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

- Zhao, P. (In press). "Using Mendeley and Scrivener to Facilitate Writing in Qualitative Research." In Paulus, T. & Lester, J. *Doing Qualitative Research with Digital Tools*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press.
- Dennis, B. K., P. Li, K. Ross & **P. Zhao\*** (2020). "Pedagogy as a form of praxis and commitment: A student-centered approach to teaching research methodology". In T. S. Jenkins Ed. *Reshaping Graduate Education Through Innovation and Experiential Learning*. IGI Global.
- Li, P., K. Ross, **P. Zhao** & B. K. Dennis (2017). "Critical Action Research: How do Graduate Students in an Introductory Research Class Conceptualize 'Research'?" In *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. Access from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473989115>

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters: In Progress

- Zhao, P. (in progress). Chinese Rural Youth and the Resumption of the Merit-based Examinations in the Late 1970s and the Early 1980s.
- Wang, X. & **P. Zhao** (in progress). "As long as there is no accident": Narrating Teenage Pregnancy and Abortion among Chinese Adolescents.

### Research Reports

Zhao, P., Poekert, P., Cugini, S., Jones, A., Schroeder, C., & Cavanaugh, C. (2020). *These Are Their Stories: Challenges, Successes, and Lessons Learned From Florida Education Stakeholders' Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning.

### Book Reviews

Zhao, P. (2017). Review of K. Bischooping & A. Gazso, *Analyzing Talk in the Social Sciences: Narrative, Conversation & Discourse Strategies*. *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 42 (3), 373-375.

### Editorially Reviewed Books and Articles

Zhao, P. (2018). "Making Our Voice Heard by the Public: Introducing a Podcast Series Featuring New Books in Qualitative Inquiry." *AERA Qualitative Research SIG Newsletter*, fall issue, 2018.

Zhao, P. (2015). "Using NVivo to Do a Literature Review." *AERA Qualitative Research SIG Newsletter*, spring issue, 12.

Zhao, P. (Trans.) (2013). "Images of Youth and the Family in Wilhelmine Germany: Toward a Reconsideration of the German Sonderweg," in *German Youth Movement*. Shanghai: Century Wenjing Press (In Chinese).

Zhang, Z. & **P. Zhao** (2009). *The Expansion of Science: Social Science in the 20th Century*. Taiwan: Changtan Cultural Media (In Chinese).

Zhao, P. (2009). *Eruption of Freedom: Goethe and the Campaign of Storm and Stress*. Taiwan: Changtan Cultural Media (In Chinese).

### GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP

**Zhao, P.** & P. Li (applied January 2021, pending). *How Do I Talk With My Kids About the "Chinese Virus"? Racialized Trauma, the COVID19 Pandemic, and Transnational Chinese Families in the U.S.* Racial Equity Special Research Grant, Spencer Foundation. [\$75,000 requested, Zhao serving as PI]

Zhao, P. (applied fall 2020, pending). *Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution's Rural Youth in Transition to Post-Mao China*. NAEEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. [\$75,000 requested, Zhao serving as PI]

Poekert, P., **P. Zhao** & C. Cavanaugh (applied September 2020, funded). *COVID-19: Baseline Data Collection and Planning Grant*. Gates Foundation. [\$145,798 awarded, Zhao serving as Co-PI]

Poekert, P. & **P. Zhao**. (applied spring 2020, funded). *COVID-19 Florida Research to Capture District Responses*. Gates Foundation. [\$106,760 funded, Zhao serving as Co-PI]

Zhao, P. (awarded fall 2019; effective spring-summer 2020). *Regulating Research Ethics in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan*. University of Florida International Center Global Fellow Program. Funded: \$5,000.

- Barbara D., Li, P., Ross, K. & **Zhao, P.** (awarded 2014; effective 2014-2015). *Exploring Students' Conceptions of Research and Inquiry*. Indiana University Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. Funded: \$5,000.
- Barbara D., Li, P., Ross, K. & **Zhao, P.** (awarded 2013; effective 2013-2014). *Exploring Students' Conceptions of Research and Inquiry*. Indiana University Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. Funded: \$2,500.
- Zhao, P. (awarded 2013; effective 2013). *The Changing Fate Project*. Richard C. Pugh Methodology Research Fellowship. Indiana University School of Education. Funded: \$750.
- Zhao, P. (awarded 2012; effective 2012). *The Changing Fate Project*. Summer Pre-dissertation Travel Grant. Indiana University. Funded: approximately \$2,500.
- Zhao, P. (awarded 2009, effective 2009-2013). Faculty Fellowship, full tuition and living stipend for four years. Indiana University School of Education. Funded: approximately \$37,000 per year\*4 years=\$148,000.

## HONORS

### International

- 2019 Illinois Qualitative Distinguished Dissertation Award (Traditional Category), International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry
- 2017 IIQM PhD Dissertation Award, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, Canada (Top winner out of 101 submissions, \$2000)

### University

- 2013, 2014 Trentham Travel Award (twice), Indiana University (\$300 each)
- 2009 Excellent Master's Thesis, Beijing Normal University
- 2006 Excellent Undergraduate Student, Beijing Normal University
- 2003–2005 Academic Scholarships (three times), Beijing Normal University
- 2003 Outstanding Social Service, Beijing Normal University

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Zhao, P. (2019, November). Interviewee. *International Education Week Faculty Spotlight*. University of Florida, College of Education, E-Learning, Technology and Communication Services.  
<https://education.ufl.edu/news/2019/11/21/international-education-week/>
- Zhao, P. (2018, February). Interviewee. Zhao Receives Top Prize for Dissertation Rural Chinese Youth. By Scott Witzke, on News of Indiana University, School of Education.  
<https://education.indiana.edu/news-events/news/2018/2018-02-08-pengfei-zhao.html>

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (\*indicates equal co-authorship)

### Plenary Presentations

Carspecken, L., B. K. Dennis, D. Palmer, S. Silberstein, P. Saxena, S. Bose. & **P. Zhao** (2019). "Digital Migrating with Women We Love: A Feminist Ethnography." Plenary paper presented at the Oxford Ethnography and Education Conference, Oxford, UK.

### **Invited Workshops, Talks & Speeches**

- Zhao, P. (2020). "Black Eyes, Dark Nights, and the Search for Light: Reflections of Doing Critical Research in Contemporary China." Inaugural meeting of Transnational Educators, Scholars, and Activists Network to Decolonize Academia (TESANDA).
- Zhao, P. (2020). "Reconsidering Research Collaboration from a Feminist Perspective." Give 'Em Something to Talk About Dialogue Series. College of Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- Zhao, P. (2020). "Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution's Rural Youth in Transition to Late-Socialist China." Dissertation Award Webinar Series. International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.
- Zhao, P. (2020). "Chinese Rural Youth and the Resumption of the Merit-based Examinations in the Late 1970s and the Early 1980s." "Unequal Childhoods" in China: Youth Schooling and the Intersectionality of Gender, Class, and Ethnicity Workshop, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, Boston, MA. (Virtual presentation due to COVID19 pandemic)
- Zhao, P. (2018). "Coming of Age in the 1970s: Rural Youth and the Educated Youth Movement." Paper presented at New Materials and New Horizon: Rustication Movement and the Educated Youth Conference, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- Zhao, P. (2017) "Our Missions in a Global Era." Graduate student representative speech at 2017 winter convocation, School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

### **Refereed National/International**

- Zhao, P. (2020). "Rethinking the Role of Research Methodologist from a Transnational Perspective." American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. (Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Zhao, P. (2020). "Navigating an Under-regulated Field Site: Making Ethical Research Decisions in Contemporary China." Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA. (Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Zhao, P. (2020). "Reconsidering Translation—Still a Conundrum?: Enhancing Validity in Transcultural Data Analysis." The Qualitative Report Conference, Davie, FL.
- Bose, S., L. Carspecken, B. K. Dennis, D. Palmer, S. Silberstein & **P. Zhao**. (2019). "You Are My Way to the Universe: Collectivity as Post-Collaborative Critical Feminist Research." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2019). "Navigating an Unregulated Field Site: Making Ethical Research Decisions in Contemporary China." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2019). "Reframing Hopes and Possibilities of Critical Qualitative Inquiry: From a

- Transnational Perspective.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2019). “Working the Hyphens in an Authoritarian State: Reflections of Doing Fieldwork in Contemporary China.” The Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Zhao, P.** & B. K. Dennis\* (2018). “Du Iz Tak? The Impossibility of Linguistic Erasure.” First International Conference on Literacy, Culture, and Language Education, Bloomington, IN.
- Zhao, P. (2018). “Working the Hyphens in an Authoritarian State: Positionality, Intersubjectivity and Structural Constraints.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2018). “Changing Fate: Rural Youth and the Resumption of the Merit-based Examinations in the Late 1970s and the Early 1980s.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Zhao, P. (2017). “Transforming the Iron Girl: A Difficult Passage to Post-Mao Womanhood in Modern China.” The Oxford Ethnography and Education Conference, Oxford, UK.
- Zhao, P. (2017). “Nothing to Do with IRBs: Revisiting the Twenty-year-long Struggle over IRB Review of Oral History.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2017). “Ideology and Personal Voices: Deconstructing the Binary in Oral History Studies on Socialist China.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2017). “Doing Fieldwork in an Authoritarian State: Interpersonal Communication and State Effects.” Annual Meeting of Comparative and International Education Society. Atlanta, GA.
- Zhao, P. (2016). “Ideological Mobilization Revisited: A Case Study of the Educated Youth Movement in Socialist China.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- Zhao, P. (2016). “Rediscovering the Returning Youth: The Untold Cultural Politics of the Educated Youth Literature.” The Cultural Revolution Today: Literature, Film, and Cultural Debates, Hongkong University, Hongkong, China.
- Dennis, B. K., K. Ross, P. Li & **P. Zhao**. (2015). “Working toward Equity and Inspiration Through Sustainable Collaborative Qualitative Inquiry.” The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Li, P., **P. Zhao**, K. Ross & B. K. Dennis. (2015). “Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS): What Does It Mean for Validity?” The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Su, Y., P. Li & **P. Zhao** (2015). “Evidence-Based Practice from 1993 to 2014: A Critical Discourse Analysis on Diverging Meanings, Discursive Effects, and Issues of Accountability.” The Annual Meeting of American Psychological Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Su, Y., P. Li & **P. Zhao** (2014). “Evidence and Social System: A Functional Analysis of the Evidence-based Practice in Counseling Using Habermas’s Critical Theory.” The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

- Ross, K., P. Li, **P. Zhao** & B. K. Dennis (2014). "Exploring Students' Conceptions of Research and Inquiry." The Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Zhao, P.**, P. Li, K. Ross & B. K. Dennis (2013). "The Intersubjective Feature of Reflective Teaching in Research Methodology Classes: Findings from an Action Research." The 25<sup>th</sup> Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference, Dayton, OH.
- Zhao, P.**, Y. Su & P. Li (2013). "A Critical Reconstruction of Evidence in Educational Research." The Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

### **Refereed State/Regional/Local**

- Zhao, P.**, B. K. Dennis, P. Li & K. Ross (2019). "Teaching Research Methodology to Practitioner-Learners/Researchers: A Student-Centered Critical Approach." Poster presentation at P. K. Youge Developmental Research School Inquiries & Investigations Symposium, Gainesville, FL.
- Zhao, P. (2016). "Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution's 'Returning Youth' in Transition to Post-Socialist China." Manuscript Workshop: New Directions in China Studies. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- Zhao, P. (2016). "Historicizing Oral Narrative: A Cultural and Linguistic Study of the Emergence of Post-Socialist Subjects in 1978 China." Inquiry Brown Bag, School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

### **As Conference Panel Organizer**

- Zhao, P. (2020). Doing Critical Social Science Research in Contemporary China: Access, Ethics, and Power Dynamics. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA. (Canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic).
- Zhao, P. (2018). "Doing Fieldwork in China Reconsidered: Reflexivity, State Power and Inbetweenness." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Zhao, P. (2018). "Displaced Youth: Migration, Education, and The Young Generations in China's Post-Mao Era." Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Zhao, P. & M. Call-Cummings (2014). "Meeting Challenges of Qualitative Data Analysis in the New Era." The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Teaching at the University of Florida**

- EDF-6938 Differentiated Research,\*\* fall, 2020
- EDF-7483 Qualitative Data Collection,\*\* spring, 2020; spring, 2021
- EDF-6938 Qualitative Foundations of Educational Research,\*\* fall 2019; spring & fall 2020; spring, 2021.

## Graduate Teaching at Indiana University

Instructor	EDUC-Y520 “Strategies for Educational Inquiry” (2011-2019, eleven semesters)**
Associate Instructor	EDUC-Y520 “Strategies for Educational Inquiry” (2013-2015, four semesters) EDUC-Y612/613 “Critical Qualitative Inquiry I and II” (2012-2014, four semesters)*
Intern Instructor	EDUC-Y515 “Philosophical Foundations of Educational Research” (2010, one semester)

*\*New curriculum developed/co-developed; \*\*Significant course redesign*

## Invited Lecture & Guest Instructor

- Bose S., B. K. Dennis, L. Carspecken, D. Palmer, P. Saxena, S. Silberstein, & **P. Zhao**. (2019). ARCGis Accelerated Crash Course, Indiana University Center for Excellence for Women & Technology, Bloomington, IN.
- Zhao, P. (2019). “Writing a qualitative dissertation.” Invited by Peiwei Li for GCOUN 6101: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. Leslie University, Boston, MA.
- Zhao, P. (2018). “Using Digital Tools in a Feminist Collective Project: From Collaborative to Collective Research.” Invited by Meagan Call-Cummings for EDRS 897: Special Topics on Digital Tools in Qualitative Inquiry. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.
- Zhao, P. (2014). “I Have Never Told Anybody Else What I Have Told You’: Accessibility and Research Ethics in Qualitative Field Work.” Invited by Jessica Nina Lester for EDU-Y520: Strategies for Educational Inquiry, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Zhao, P. (2013). “Using NVivo in Qualitative Research.” Invited by David Joseph Flinders for EDU-Y611: Qualitative Inquiry in Education. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

## Other Teaching Experience

Chinese Tutor	Education Abroad Program in Beijing, University of California, Beijing, China, 2006-2007
Intern Chinese Teacher	Beijing 171 High School, Beijing, China, 2005
Volunteer Chinese Teacher	Gaojianba Elementary School for Minority Children, Guizhou, China, 2004

## Teaching Certification

Certificate for Teaching Chinese Language and Literature, Ministry of Education, China, 2006

## SERVICE

## Doctoral Dissertation Committees (in-progress)



Chunhua Dai (Major: Curriculum and Instruction)  
Zexu Xi (Major: Curriculum and Instruction)  
Christine Lord (Major: Science Education)  
Jiameng Gao (Major: ESOL/Bilingual Education)  
Gerardo Altamirano (Major: Curriculum & Instruction, advanced to candidacy)  
Mu Zhang (Major: Higher Education Administration)

### **Mater Thesis Committee**

Yujuan Liu, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada (serving as external member, completed)

### **Service to the Profession**

*Member*, AERA Division D Early Career Award Committee, 2019  
*Member*, AEAR Qualitative Research SIG Outstanding Book Award Committee, 2019  
*Host*, New Books in Education Podcast Series (<http://newbooksnetwork.com>), 2017-present  
*Outreach and recruitment officer*, Forum of Critical Chinese Qualitative Research (FCCQR), a Special Interest Group affiliated with the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), 2017-present  
*Submission Reviewer*, American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020  
*Co-founder & co-director*, the Feminist Research Collective, 2017-present  
*President*, Brown Bag Committee of Inquiry Methodology, Indiana University, 2012-2013

### **Journal & Book Reviewing**

*Ad hoc Reviewer*, *Educational Policy Analysis Archives*, 2016; *Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 2019; *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 2020; *Qualitative Psychology*, 2020; *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, 2020

## **CONSULTATION AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

### **Internal Consultation at Indiana University**

Provide research methodology consultation for 42+ doctoral students on their qualitative and mixed methods dissertation projects, 2017-2019

### **External Consultation**

Served as research consultant for Li Yang's doctoral dissertation project, "Power Statuses and Peer Relationship: Interactive Dynamics of Bullying in Chinese Schools" Beijing Normal University, Beijing, 2018

Served as consultant for undergraduate student independent research project, "Diasporic Filial Piety," Vanderbilt University, Nashville, 2016

### **Professional Training**

Global Fellow Workshop Series, University of Florida, spring 2020

The Contemporary in Theory Workshop Series, Vanderbilt University, 2015-2017

Comparative Research Workshop Series, Sociology Department, Yale University, 2013- 2015

Dissertation Writing Workshop Series, Yale University, 2014

Workshop of Social Scientific Studies on China, Yale University, 2014

Ethnography: A Conference and a Retreat, Sociology Department, Yale University, 2014

### **Professional Organization Memberships**

American Educational Research Association

Association for Asian Studies

Comparative and International Education Society

International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry

### **Leadership and Social Service**

*Vice president*, Dream Corps Indiana University Chapter, an NGO dedicated to promoting reading education for children in rural China, 2011-2013

**Languages:** Chinese (native), English (near-native)