

AMY GONG LIU

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race, equity, and justice in schooling; organizational and institutional logics; democratic education; education policy and reform implementation; children's wellbeing

EDUCATION

2027* **Ph.D in Sociology**, University of California, Irvine (*expected)
2024 **M.A. in Sociology**, University of California, Irvine
2019 **B.A. in Human Rights and Ethnicity/Race Studies**, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

2026 Turney, Kristin, Steven Schmidt, Ashley Torres, Isha Bhallamudi, and **Amy Gong Liu**. "One More Thing on my Mental List: Cognitive Labor During Family Member Incarceration." Forthcoming in *Social Problems*.

2026 Kim, Ha Eun, **Amy Gong Liu**, Miles Davison, and Andrew Penner. "Elementary School Discipline Lowers Students' Sense of Belonging." *Social Science Research*.

2024 Turney, Kristin, **Amy Gong Liu**, and Estéfani Marin. 2024. "From 'It's Really Tough' to 'It Doesn't Change Anything:' Understanding Heterogeneous Responses to Paternal Incarceration." *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.

Under Review

2026 Turney, Kristin, Steven Schmidt, Isha Bhallamudi, **Amy Gong Liu**, and Ashley Torres. "Burdens of Brokering: How Families Navigate the Strains of Incarceration." *American Journal of Sociology*: Revise and resubmit.

2026 Penner, Emily, Jomar Lopes, **Amy Gong Liu**, Courtney Quach, and Alex Chang. "Learning to Liberate: Teacher Practice and Praxis During the Rollout of District Wide Ethnic Studies Courses." *American Educational Research Journal*: Revise and resubmit.

Policy Publications

2022 Hayes, Joseph, Niu Gao, Darriya Starr, and **Amy Gong Liu**. 2022. "Achieving Universal Broadband in California." Public Policy Institute of California.

2022 Hayes, Joseph, Niu Gao, Darriya Starr, and **Amy Gong Liu**. 2022. "Policy Brief: Achieving Universal Broadband in California." Public Policy Institute of California.

In Progress

- 2026 **Liu, Amy Gong**, and Paul Hanselman. "Beyond Academic Effects: The Relationship Between Dimensions of Tracking and Students' Socioemotional and Climate Outcomes."
- 2026 Hanselman, Paul, **Amy Gong Liu**, Paul Yoo, Quentin Brummet, and Andrew Penner. "The Causal Effects of 8th Grade Algebra Course Placement on Students' Socioemotional and Climate Outcomes."
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher, Ethnic Studies Implementation in California** (PI: Emily Penner)
- Perform qualitative analysis of field observations and teacher interviews data collection efforts; created codebook, authored analytic memos, and led manuscript drafting and revising.
- 2022 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher, Education and Transition to Adulthood Project** (PI: Andrew Penner)
- Conduct statistical analyses on large-scale administrative panel data for students; projects include academic tracking, restorative practices, and algebra coursetaking, with lead responsibility for drafting and revising manuscripts.
- 2021-25 **Graduate Student Researcher, Jail and Family Life Project** (PI: Kristin Turney)
- Analyzed interview data on family incarceration; produced analytic memos and contributed to manuscripts on carceral brokering and cognitive labor.
- 2022-23 **Project Assistant, Public Policy Institute of California**
- Drafted codebook, conducted interviews with statewide stakeholders, and participated in public-facing events, including conference presentations and stakeholder symposiums
- 2020-2021 **Committee Chair, City of Alameda Advisory Task Force for Policy Reform**
- Produced policy briefs for Alameda City Council on laws criminalizing survival in Alameda city and county, including homelessness, decriminalization of misdemeanors, and legal fines/fees.
- 2019-2021 **English Teacher and Grade Level Lead**, Wood Middle School, Alameda, CA
- Facilitated weekly meetings and schoolwide operations as acting Grade Level Lead. During COVID-19, led efforts to adapt curriculum to online modules and to collect implementation data for school and district leadership.
- 2018 **Editorial/Communications Summer Fellow**, The Century Foundation, New York, NY
- 2017 **Women's Rights Intern**, The National Organization for Women, New York, NY
- 2016 **Legal Research Intern**, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026* Lead Instructor, "Ethics and Equity: Schools as Engines of Social Justice." UCI Ethics Center Summer Mentoring Program (*scheduled)

2026*	Instructor of Record, Organizations, University of California, Irvine (*scheduled)
2026*	Instructor of Record, Introduction to Sociology, Golden West College (*scheduled)
2026	Teaching Assistant, SOC 141: Organizations
2025	Teaching Assistant, SOC 180A: Sociology Majors Seminar
2023	Teaching Assistant, SOC 120: Sociological Theory
2023	Teaching Assistant, SOC SCI 10B: Probability and Statistics in Social Sciences II
2022	Teaching Assistant, SOC 1: Introduction to Sociology
2021	Teaching Assistant, SOC 62: Family and Intimate Relations

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

2026	UC Voice Initiative Recipient, University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement (\$1000)
2025	Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award, UC Irvine Dept. of Sociology
2025	Graduate Fellow, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (\$1500)
2025	Fellow, California State University Pre-Professor Program (\$1000)
2024	Research Grant, Center for Administrative Data Analysis at UCI (\$7500)
2021	Conference Travel Grant, UCI School of Social Sciences (\$500)
2024	W. T. Grant Foundation SIG Mentor/Mentee Award, American Educational Research Association (\$500)
2021	Associated Graduate Students of UCI: Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Research Competition, First Place (\$100)
2021	Dean's Recruitment Fellowship, University of California, Irvine
2018	Undergraduate Multicultural Affairs Service Award, Columbia University
2017	The Eric J. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, Columbia University (\$5000)
2017	Public Policy Leadership Conference, Harvard Kennedy School (\$5000)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2026	“Learning to Liberate:’ Takeaways from Teachers on the Scale-Up of Ethnic Studies Courses.” Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Pacific Grove, CA.
2025	“The Causal Effect of Advanced Course Placement on Academic Achievement, Socio-Emotional Outcomes, and School Climate.” International Sociological Association Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility Summer Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
2025	“Beyond Academic Outcomes: The Relationship between Dimensions of Tracking and Students’ Socioemotional Skills and School Climate Perceptions.” American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

- 2024 “Pedagogical Moves in Ethnic Studies: a Cross-District Study.” American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2024 “Dimensions of Tracking and Students’ Socio-Emotional Outcomes.” American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 “Stepping in and Stepping Away: Variation in How Children Navigate Responsibilities Stemming from Parental Incarceration.” The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology Annual Meeting, Melbourne, AUS
- 2022 “From ‘It’s Really Tough’ to ‘It Doesn’t Change Anything:’ Understanding Heterogeneous Responses to Paternal Incarceration.” The Russell Sage Foundation, New York, NY
- 2021 “Burdens of Brokering in Family Member Incarceration.” The American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 “Children’s Wellbeing and Responses to Paternal Incarceration.” The American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 “Academics, Apathy, and Social Change in the City.” The New York City Civic Engagement Symposium at Barnard College, New York, NY
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SERVICE

- 2024 - 2026 Chair, Sociology Graduate Student Association
- 2025 Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program at UCI (UROP)
- 2022- 2023 Co-Chair, Recruitment/Welcome Week Facilitator
- 2023-2024 Co-Chair, Social Events Committee
- 2021-Present Mentor, Sociology Graduate Student Association Mentorship Initiative