

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; K-12 teacher preparation; 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 **Liu, Amy Gong**, and Paul Hanselman. "Beyond Test Scores: The Relationship Between Dimensions of Tracking and Students' Socio-Emotional and School Climate Outcomes." *Sociology of Education*.
- 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." *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*.
- 2026 Turney, Kristin, Steven Schmidt, Isha Bhallamudi, **Amy Gong Liu**, and Ashley Torres. "Burdens of Brokering: How Families Navigate the Strains of Incarceration." *American Sociological Review*.
- 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**. "Feeling Professional: Teacher Preparation Programs in the Face of Ethnic Studies Reform."
- 2026 **Liu, Amy Gong**, and Emily Penner. "Between a Rock and a Soft Place: Calibrating Institutional Tensions and Justice-Oriented Reform."
- 2026 **Liu, Amy Gong**, and Emily Penner. "Meaning Making Around Ethnic Studies: Student Responses to Competing School Logics."

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - Present **Graduate Student Researcher, Ethnic Studies Implementation in California** (PI: Emily Penner)
- Conducted qualitative data collection and analysis; assumed lead responsibility for second-wave data collection, analytic memo writing, and manuscript development in 2025.
- 2022 - 2025 **Graduate Student Researcher, Education and Transition to Adulthood Project** (PI: Andrew Penner)
- Analyzed large-scale administrative panel data across projects on academic tracking, restorative practices, and algebra coursetaking; led manuscript drafting and revision.
- 2021 - 2025 **Graduate Student Researcher, Jail and Family Life Project** (PI: Kristin Turney)
- Coded and interpreted qualitative interview data on family incarceration, authored analytic memos, and contributed to manuscripts on carceral brokering and cognitive labor.
- 2022 - 2023 **Project Assistant, Public Policy Institute of California**
- Developed a qualitative codebook, conducted interviews with statewide stakeholders, and contributed to policy reports and public-facing presentations.
- 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
- Taught 8th Grade English; during COVID-19, led campus-wide efforts to digitize curriculum and collect student socioemotional and school climate data
- 2018 **Editorial/Communications Summer Fellow**, The Century Foundation, New York, NY
- 2017 **Women's Rights Intern**, The National Organization for Women, New York, NY
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026	Lead Instructor, “Ethics and Equity: Schools as Engines of Social Justice.” UCI Ethics Center Summer Mentoring Program
2026	Instructor of Record, Organizations, University of California, Irvine
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	Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Irvine (\$5000)
2026	National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (alternate finalist)
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 at UCI (\$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	Organizational Coherence and Reform Readiness in Two Teacher Preparation Programs. American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
2026	“Feeling Professional:” Teacher Preparation Programs in the Face of Ethnic Studies

	Reform.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA.
2026	“Ethnic Studies and Pedagogical Content Knowledge: Teachers on the Scale-Up of Ethnic Studies Courses.” Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA.
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

SERVICE

2026 - 2027	Graduate Student Representative, Sociology of Education Association (SEA)
2024 - 2026	Chair, Sociology Graduate Student Association
2025	Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program at UCI (UROP)
2022 - 2023	Recruitment/Welcome Week Facilitator, Sociology Graduate Student Association
2023 - 2024	Social Events Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association
2021 - Present	Mentor, Sociology Graduate Student Association Mentorship Initiative