

Anthony Shu

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EDUCATION

2022 - present PhD (Sociology) at **UCLA** (GPA: 4.0/4.0)
2024 M.A. (Sociology) at **UCLA**, Field Exams: Race and Ethnicity, Culture

2012 - 2016 A.B. cum laude (Sociology) at **Princeton University** (GPA: 3.74/4.0)
Certificate in African American Studies
Thesis: The Stratification of Culinary Prestige at EXPO Milano 2015 and in the Michelin Guide

PUBLICATIONS

How Materiality Shapes Postmaterialist Organizational Identities In Review
An interview-based study of specialty food entrepreneurs pursuing social or environmental goals alongside profit. I apply a lens of materiality to studies of cultural production and economic sociology to show how a field of founders motivated by ambitious, postmaterial objectives is shaped by material forces.

“The Cultural Environment for Innovation and Entrepreneurship” 2025
Co-authored book chapter with Omar Lizardo for the De Gruyter *Handbook of Sociology of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Battle between Belonging and Exclusion in Professional Wrestling In Progress
An interview-based and ethnographic study of a professional wrestling school. Early themes include inclusion and exclusion.

Restoring Agency to the Actor-Structure Relationship In Progress
This theoretical paper investigates how structures and institutions support the contestation of social meanings. Currently being prepared for submission to the American Sociological Association.

The Stratification of Culinary Prestige at EXPO Milano 2015 and in the Michelin Guide
Senior Thesis, Advisor: Dalton Conley
A mixed methods study combining three weeks of ethnographic research at the 2015 Universal Exposition in Milan and statistical analysis of the Michelin Guide using R to highlight hierarchies of culinary prestige and how nations maintain cultural wealth.

Mr. Chau’s v. Mr. Chow: Adapting Asian Cuisine to the American Elite
Junior Paper
A paper examining how Asian restaurants adapt to the taste of the American elite through ethnographic research and analysis of online user reviews.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Digital Editor (Peninsula Foodist/Features), Embarcadero Media 2022
Wrote weekly feature stories on a diverse range of topics for the Peninsula Bay Area’s award-winning newsgroup. Covered daily and breaking food news to keep readers informed on happenings between San Jose and San Francisco.

Senior Digital Content Coordinator, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, food bank 2018 - 2022
Co-led storytelling initiative to illustrate food insecurity in Silicon Valley. Interviewed food recipients and managed production of high-quality photo, written, and video projects to support raising over \$100 million annually and serve an average of 500,000 clients each month. Presented at national food bank conference on transformational and ethical storytelling.

Freelance Food Writer 2017 - Present
Freelance feature writing for outlets including Eater SF, KQED, and the Princeton Alumni Weekly.

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Lunchbox Moments Zine 2021
Co-Founder, Co-Curator
Lunchbox Moments is a charity magazine featuring work by 25 Asian American and Pacific Islander artists and writers that explores our relationships with food and cultural identity. We use the term "lunchbox moments" to include and also transcend literal school lunch narratives centered on shame. Featured in Food and Wine, KQED, Eater SF, The Universal Asian, Palo Alto Weekly, Princeton Alumni Weekly, Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center United States of Asian America Festival.

Achieving Blue Growth through Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 2015
Contributor, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
Interviewed researchers and studied reports from social and natural sciences to gather information on 10 domains of fisheries and aquaculture research.

AWARDS

Fellowships and Grants
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program Grant, 2023, 2024
Graduate Research Mentorship Program Grant under Omar Lizardo, 2023-2024
Honorable Mention, NSF GRFP 2024

Other Recognitions
2022 California Journalism Awards, Digital Division:
Writing, Second Place "In Squires and Corrie Slot Machines, San Mateo has forced out a treasure most residents never knew they had"
Newsletter, Third Place "The Peninsula Foodist newsletter"
Land-Use Reporting, Third Place "Why Sweet Farm fled Half Moon Bay for the East Coast with its llamas, piglets and turkeys in tow"

PRESENTATIONS

Modernités alimentaires I – industrie agro-alimentaire et marketing
IEHCA International Convention on Food and Drink Studies 2025
How Materiality Defines Authenticity Claims and Organizational Identities
UCLA Organizations and Management Group 2025
Scaling Up Social Enterprise
Guest Lecturer, UCLA SOCIOL M136 2025
The Challenges of Scaling Up Social Enterprise:
How Materiality Shapes a Postmaterialist Market
Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtables ASA 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA, Eating Society: From Individual to Planetary Health, UCLA, Spring 2025

TA, Development of Sociological Theory, UCLA, Winter 2025

TA, Culture and Personality, UCLA, Spring 2024

TA, Social Organization of Black Communities, UCLA, Fall 2024

SERVICE WORK

Culture Working Group Coordinator, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Guest Speaker, Introductory Graduate Student Seminar, 2025