

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: Culture, Race and Ethnicity

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

Identity Trapping: How Materiality Shapes Organizational Identities Revise and Resubmit
An interview-based study of specialty food entrepreneurs pursuing social or environmental goals alongside profit. I apply a lens of materiality to show how conceptions that describe organizational identity as malleable overlook how identity claims are tethered to material processes (e.g., production or ingredients) that render identities rigid and limit growth.

Omar Lizardo and **Anthony Shu**
"The Cultural Environment for Innovation and Entrepreneurship"
De Gruyter Handbook of Sociology of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, De Gruyter, 2025, pp. 467-480.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

When the Fans Know You're Faking It: Performing Authenticity for Skeptical Audiences
Committee: Omar Lizardo (Chair), Gabriel Rossman, Stefan Timmermans, and Ashley Mears
My dissertation is an interview-based and ethnographic study of a professional wrestling school that began in 2023. Centered on producer-consumer relations and authenticity work for skeptical, disruptive audiences.

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

Mr. Chau's v. Mr. Chow: Adapting Asian Cuisine to the American Elite
Junior Paper

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Labor Center 2025-
Implementing mixed-methods survey instruments using Qualtrics to capture key performance indicators for California High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs). Managing project timelines and the development of job quality and environmental impact metrics, translating complex policy goals into measurable outcomes.

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

Newsletter, Third Place

Land-Use Reporting, Third Place

PRESENTATIONS

Production of Culture Perspectives (Panelist)

American Sociological Association General Meeting 2026

Invitee

The XVIII Medici Summer School in Management Studies, MIT Sloan School of Management 2026

Rooted in Flavor - An Exploration of Dim Sum

Asian American Museum at Great Park 2026

When the Fans Know You're Faking It: Performing Authenticity for Skeptical Audiences

UCLA Culture Working Group 2026

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

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtables 2024

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor, Suin Kim,

From Gifts to Commodities: How Digital Payments Reshape Social Obligations

and Economic Exchanges in Younger Generations, UCLA Department of Sociology, 2025-2026

Reader, Entrepreneurship, UCLA, Summer 2025

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, 2025-2026

Scholars' Conversations Contributor, ASA Consumers and Consumptions Section, 2025

Peer Mentor, UCLA Department of Sociology, 2025-2026

Guest Speaker, UCLA Sociology Introductory Graduate Student Seminar, 2025

Scout, James Beard Foundation Awards, 2022