

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Joy Yueyue ZHANG

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Education

Oct 2006 – Jun 2010

PhD: The Regulation of China's Stem Cell Research in the Context of Cosmopolitanization
London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Sociology
Supervisors: Sarah Franklin and Athar Hussain
Examiners: Ulrich Beck and Christoph Rehmann-Sutter
Funding: The Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics PhD Studentship, UK
BIONET Exchange Studentship

Oct 2005 – Sept 2006

MSc: Bioscience Biomedicine and Society
London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Sociology
Funding: LSE Graduate Merit Award

Sept 2000 – June 2005

BM BCh: Medicine and Surgery
Health Science Center, Peking University

Current Affiliations and Roles

Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Kent

Founding Director, Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent

Editors, *Current Sociology monographs* and *SAGE Studies in International Sociology (SSIS)* (I was unanimously elected to this 7-year editorship by the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association in 2023)

Editorial Boards, *Critical Policy Studies*; *Environmental Politics*; *Economy and Society*, *Science, Technology and Society*

Founding Member, Knowledge Diplomacy Forum (led by the University of Nottingham, with Wilton Park)

Member, Engineering Biology (EB) public dialogue Oversight Group, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology/Sciencewise, UK

Member, Peer Review College, Economic and Social Research Council, UK

Member, Genomic Security Working Group, Royal Society in London

Member, People Engagement Board, European Partnership for Personalized Medicine

Member, Science Diplomacy Anticipation Committee, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)

Research Interests

I am a Professor of Sociology, and I have studied the evolving science–society dynamics and their implications for the global ethical governance of emerging life sciences for the past two decades. My **research focuses** on the erosion of epistemic boundaries and the rise of cosmopolitan identities formed by changing disciplinary, geopolitical and state-society power relations. I specialise in expanding the transnational governance of risk beyond a Western-centric approach and in aligning theoretical frameworks with real-world challenges. **Conceptually**, my work contributes to the theorisation of cosmopolitanisation, decolonisation, commoning, epistemic justice and subaltern politics. **Empirically**, my research primarily focuses on four major scientific powers in the world: China, India, the UK and the US. I have investigated the governance and science diplomacy of emerging life sciences—including stem cells, synthetic biology, genome editing, and experimental therapies—alongside climate politics, food movements, and environmental engineering. **Currently**, I lead three cutting-edge social research programmes on engineering biology and its applications to critical minerals, biomedicine, and agriculture, aiming to inform social and policy deliberation in the UK and internationally.

I have an outstanding track record of consistently delivering high quality, high impact research. I have founded several landmark programmes, including the *BioGovernance Commons* in 2021, the founding of GSEJ in 2022, and most recently, *O.D.E.S.S.I.* — a global ‘odyssey’ for public deliberation on the socio-ethical dimensions of the life sciences, advancing innovative forms of science diplomacy and shaping a renewed cosmopolitics. Since its inception, GSEJ has convened events with participants from 24 countries, including co-hosting a UK–India G20 meeting on biogovernance and science diplomacy in New Delhi. My policy recommendations on global biodata governance were featured in the 2024 Think7 communiqué presented to the G7 presidency.

Key Grants

Amount	Period of Award	Funding body
£1,887,990 (Principal Investigator)	April 2025-March 2028	Advanced Research+Invention Agency
Project: Futuring Biological Commons: Promoting Response-ability among Stakeholders of Synthetic Plants		
£1,510,048 (Principal Investigator)	April 2025-March 2030	Welcome Trust
Project: Care-full Synthesis: Advancing Global Engagement on the Socio-Ethical Implications of Synthesising Human Genomes		
£14,881,069 (Co-Investigator - RRI and Policy Lead)	Feb 2024- Feb 2029	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK
Project: Engineering Biology Hub for environmental processing and recovery of metals; from contaminated land to industrial biotechnology in a circular economy (PI: Martin Warren, Quadram Institute; I am the responsible research and innovation (RRI) and policy lead of this project).		
€92,500	Nov 2023- Nov 2030	International Sociological Association (ISA)
This is not a research grant, but a grant that allows me to hire research and translation assistance to help me with my editorship of the <i>Current Sociology monographs</i> and <i>SAGE Studies in International Sociology (SSIS)</i> . As the editor, I'm entrusted by the ISA to use these two publications to select and showcase emerging and critical sociological debates.		
\$399,165 (Co-Investigator - equal contribution with the other two investigators)	Sept 2019- July 2024	National Science Foundation, USA
Project: Ethical Issues Surrounding Human Germline Genome Editing (With Kathleen Vogel, Arizona State University (PI) and Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, George Mason University; Equal contribution)		
£9,450 (Principal Investigator)	November 2022- March 2024	British Academy 2022 Small Research Grants
Project: Diffractive Knowledge Production in North-South Innovation Strategies: A Study of Major UK-India BioGovernance Research		
£3,000 (Principal Investigator)	October 2022- July 2023	University of Kent, Future Humans SRT seed corn funding
Project: Augmented Agency ∝ Augmented Fairness		
£3,663 (Principal Investigator)	May 2022-May 2023	Independent Social Research Fund
Project: Decolonise global participation: Developing new conceptual and participatory paradigms		

\$18,840 (Co-Investigator- equal contribution with the two other investigators)	Sept 2021-Aug 2022	US Department of State Federal Assistance Award
	Project: Creating BioGovernance Commons (With Kathleen Vogel, Arizona State University (PI) and Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, George Mason University; Equal contribution)	
£43,200 (Principal Investigator)	Jan 2019 - Feb 2020	Newton Researcher Links Fund, British Council
	Project: Promoting Social Embeddedness of New Biotechnologies	
£4,482 (Principal Investigator)	Spring 2019	GCRF Impact Fund and School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent
	Project: Creating Norms of Public Engagement of Science in UK-China Collaborations	
(approx.) £7,500 (Principal Investigator)	October 2018	Beijing University of Technology, Foreign Expert Visiting Fellowship
	Project: What's the Role of Critical Social Research in China's Risk Governance?	
£2,500 (Principal Investigator)	Jul 2017 - Sept 2017	University of Kent
	Project: Developing an Educational Module Resource (EMR) on the Public Engagement of Science for Key Chinese Institutions	
£290,171 (Principal Investigator)	Jan 2015-Jan 2018	Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Future Research Leaders Award
	Project: Governing Accountability in China's Life Sciences: A Comparative Study of Stem Cell and GM	
€18,000 (Principal Investigator)	2011-2012	Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'homme, France
	Project: The Cosmopolitanization of Climate Change	
£7,000	2007-2010	BIONET Exchange Studentship (BIONET, EU-FP6)
	Project: China stem cell governance in the Sino-European context	
£75,332 (Principal Investigator)	2006-2009	Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics PhD Studentship
	Project: China stem cell research policy and related ethical issues	
£5,000	2005-2006	London School of Economics and Political Science
	LSE Graduate Merit Award	

Awards (Research)

2024 - Herbert Gottweis Prize for the article 'Decolonizing the temporal and relational assumptions in contemporary science and science policies'.

2022 - Nominated for Scientific Breakthrough of the Year (social science category), Falling Walls Summit

2021 - Runner up for Consolidator Researcher Prize, University of Kent

2019 - Shortlisted for 2019 SAGE Prize for Innovation/Excellence, for the article 'How to be modern? The social negotiation of 'good food' in contemporary China'.

2014 - Nominated for the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize, for monograph, *The Cosmopolitanization of Science: Stem Cell Governance in China*

Awards (Teaching)

2021/2 Nominated for Above and Beyond Award

2016/7 Nominated for Best Academic Advisor

2015/6 Nominated for Best Teaching Award

2014/5 Nominated for Best Teaching Award

2013/4 Nominated for Best Teaching Award

Publications

Monographs

Zhang, J. Y. and Datta Burton, S. (2022) [*The Elephant and the Dragon in Contemporary Life Sciences: A Call for Decolonising Global Governance*](#). Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Zhang, J. Y. and Barr, M (2013) [*Green Politics in China: Environmental Governance and State-Society Relations, London*](#): Pluto Press.

Zhang, J. Y. (2012) [*The Cosmopolitanization of Science: Stem Cell Governance in China*](#), Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. [Nominated for the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize]

Special Issue Editing

Forthcoming: [‘How Do Scandals Shape the Understanding and Practice of Responsible Research and Innovation?’](#) for *Journal of Responsible Innovation*. (Lead editor, co-editors: K. Vogel and S. Ben Ouagrham-Gormley. In peer-review stage. expected publication: early 2026)

2023- [‘Bioeconomy of the Common Good’](#) *Asian Biotechnology & Development Review*. 25 (1-2) (Lead editor, co-editor: K. R. Srinivas)

2022- [‘New Dimensions of Science Diplomacy for the 21st Century’](#), *Science Diplomacy Review*. 4(3) (Lead editor, co-editors: B. Blakrishnan, K. R. Srinivas. T. Sundberg)

Articles

Work in progress: Zhang, J. Y. ‘Safeguarding justice for the subalterns: Navigating the intersection of colonial biopiracy and the datafication of biosciences’, invited contribution to *the British Journal of Criminology’s* special issue on ‘Big DNA and Criminology: Visions of Governing the Genetic Subject’

Forthcoming: Zhang, J. Y., K. Vogel and S. Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, ‘How Do Scandals Shape the Understanding and Practice of Responsible Research and Innovation? (Introduction to Special Issue)’ *Journal of Responsible Innovation*. [The gist of the introduction has already been reviewed by the editorial board, and was published as the [Call for Paper](#).]

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) [‘Scandalous ‘Firsts’ from the Global South? The Entanglement between Epistemic Injustice and Responsible Research and Innovation \(RRI\)’](#), *Journal of Responsible Innovation*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23299460.2025.2557066>

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) [‘Science Diplomacy and China’s New “Self-Prioritizing” Development Mindset’](#), *Science & Diplomacy*, <https://doi.org/10.1126/scidip.adt9926>

Namdeo, S and Zhang, J. Y. (2024) [‘Rethinking Science Diplomacy and Global Biosecurity: Challenges, Emerging Practices and the Way Forward’](#), *International Affairs*, 2024; *iiae187*

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) [‘Commoning Genomic Solidarity to Improve Global Health Equality’](#), *Cell Genomics*, 3(10), 100405

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) [‘Decolonising the temporal and relational assumptions in contemporary science and science policies’](#). *Critical Policy Studies*, 17, 162-174.

Zhang, J. Y. Ben Ouagrham-Gormley S. and Vogel, K. (2023) [‘Chinese Academics Are Becoming a Force for Good Governance’](#). *Issues in Science and Technology*, 39(4), 81-84.

Zhang, J. Y. and Lei, R.. (2023) [‘Is Chinese Bioethics Ready to Move Forward from the CRISPR Baby Scandal?’](#), *Hastings Bioethics Forum*, 6 March 2023

Zhang, J. Y and Srinivas, K.R. (2023) [‘Bioeconomy for the Common Good: A Myth, A Sham or An Inspiration?’](#) *Asian Biotechnology & Development Review*, 25(1-2), 1-4

- Zhang, J. Y. (2023) '[What Do the British and Chinese Governing Visions on Human Genomic Research Tell Us about Biosovereignty?](#)', *Asian Biotechnology & Development Review*, 25(1-2), 5-23.
- Shepherd, J. and Zhang, J. Y. (2023) '[Combating the "Silent Crisis" of the Donation Gap with "Polyphonic Relatedness"](#)', *Asian Biotechnology & Development Review*, 25(1-2), 57-67. (corresponding author)
- Zhang, J. Y. (2022) '[The Hegemonic Paradox of Science Diplomacy and Its Contemporary Challenges: Lessons from the COVID Pandemic](#)', *Science Diplomacy Review*, 4(3), 17-30.
- Zhang, J. Y., Balakrishnan, B., Sriniva, R. and Sundberg, T. (2022) '[What new dimensions are needed for science diplomacy?](#)', *Science Diplomacy Review*. 4(3), 1-4.
- Zhang, J. Y., Ben Ouagrahm-Gormley, S. and Vogel, K. (2022) '[Creating Common Ground With Chinese Researchers](#)', *Issues in Science and Technology*, 38(4), 45-48.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2021) '[Will health diplomacy of the South balance global inequality?](#)' *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Fall 2021.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2021) '[\(Bio\)Politics of Existence and Social Change: Insights from the Good Food Movement](#)', *Sociological Review*, 69, 647–663.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2021) '[To keep nationalism in check, nurture science solidarity](#)' *Nature*, 591, 9.
- Zhang, J. Y. and Barr, M. (2021) '[Harmoniously Denied: COVID-19 and the Latent Effects of Censorship](#)'. *Surveillance and Society*. 19(2)
- Li, Jun, Liangjie Ye, Yimin Zhou, Joy Y. Zhang and Zhou Chen (2021) '[To procrastinate or not to procrastinate: A retrospective study of the optimal timing of containing the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)', *Frontiers in Public Health*. 9, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.613980>
- Xie, L. and Zhang, J. Y. (2020) '["Just sustainability" or just sustainability? Shanghai's failed drive for global excellence](#)'. *Society and Natural Resources*, 34, 449-466. (corresponding author)
- Zhang, J. Y. and Barr, M. (2019) '[The Transformative Power of Commoning and Alternative Food Networks](#)'. *Environmental Politics*, 28, 771-789.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2018) '[Cosmopolitan Risk Community in a Bowl: A Case Study of China's Good Food Movement](#)', *Journal of Risk Research*, 21, 68-82.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2018) '[How to be modern? The social negotiation of 'good food' in contemporary China](#)'. *Sociology*, 52, 150–165. [Shortlisted for 2019 SAGE Prize for Innovation/Excellence]
- Zhang, J. Y. (2017) '[Lost in Translation? Accountability and Governance of Clinical Stem Cell Research in China](#)'. *Regenerative Medicine*, 12, 647–656.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2017) '[Transparency is a growth industry](#)', *Nature*. 545, S65.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2015) '[The "Credibility Paradox" in China's Science Communication: Views from Scientific Practitioners](#)', *Public Understanding of Science*, 24, 913-927.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2015) '[Cosmopolitan Risk Community and China's Climate Governance](#)', *European Journal of Social Theory*.18, 327-342.
- Zhang, J. Y. and Barr, M. (2013) '[Recasting Subjectivity Through the Lenses: New Forms of Environmental Mobilisation in China](#)', *Environmental Politics*, 22, 849-865.
- Beck, U; Blok A; Tyfield D and Zhang, J. Y. (2013) '[Cosmopolitan Communities of Climate Risk: Conceptual and Empirical Suggestions for a New Research Agenda](#)' *Global Networks*, 13, 1-21.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2012) '[The Art of Trans-boundary Governance of Synthetic Biology](#)', *Systems and Synthetic Biology*, 7, 107-114.
- Arnoldi, J. and Zhang, J. Y. (2012) '[The dual reality in the institutionalization of the Chinese knowledge economy](#)', *International Journal of Chinese Culture and Management*, 3, 160-173.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) '[The "National" and "Cosmos": The emergence of synthetic biology in China](#)'. *EMBO Reports*, 12, 302-6.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) '[Scientific institutions and effective governance: a case study of Chinese stem cell research](#)', *New Genetics and Society*, 30, 193-207.
- Zhang, J. Y. (2010) '[Is the cosmopolitanization of science emerging in China?](#)' *Études Internationales*, 41, 571-595.

Zhang, J. Y. (2010) '[The cosmopolitanization of science: Experience from China's stem cell scientists](#)', *Soziale Welt* (Special issue in English), 61, 255-274.

Zhang, J. Y. (2010) '[The organization of scientists and its relation to scientific productivity: Perceptions of Chinese stem cell researchers](#)', *Biosocieties*, 5, 219-235.

Policy & Project Reports

Zhang, J. Y. (2026) 'Preface' in Pritchard Moore, O., Little, J., & Rylott, E. (2026). [Relational Map of Plant Synthetic Biology in the UK](#). Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19291106>

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) [An O.D.E.S.S.I. for Public Engagement in a New Era of Science](#). Canterbury, UK: Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15162874>

Sincavage, S. M., Srinivas, K. R., Zhang, J. Y., Fung, M. L., Muehlfelder, T. W. and Bertolaso, M. (2024) *An integrated global bio-data governance framework enhancing human rights and prosperity*. Think7 Policy Brief, May. Available at: https://archive.think7.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/T7it_tf4_pb01.pdf

Zhang, J. Y., Lei, R., Vogel, K. and Ben Ouagrham-Gormley, S. (2023) [Looking Back into the Future: CRISPR and Social Values: BioGovernance Common's Open Discussion with Chinese Academics](#). 13 February. Canterbury: Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent

Treloar, G.S., Vogel, K.M., Ouagrham-Gormley, S.B., and Zhang, J.Y. (2023). 'Summary report', *Global Engagement on Human Germline Genome Editing: Opportunities and Challenges Workshop*. London, 9-10 March 2023. Canterbury: Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent

Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (2022) [The Ethics of Protecting 'CRISPR Babies': An International Roundtable Summary Report](#). Canterbury: Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice, University of Kent

Lei, R., Jiao, H., Liu, H., Shi, J., Zhang, J. Y., Zhang, H., Yao, P., Wu, C., Zhang, D., Wang, Y., Peng, Y., Kang, H., Li, W., Xu, S., Chen, T., Chen, H., Chen, H., Su, Y., Zhang, H., Ou, Y., Zhu, W. and Ma, Y. (2022) *Policy Recommendations for China's 'Implementing Rules for Human Genetic Resources Management'*. HUST Center for Bioethics.

Zhang, J. Y. He, G. Zhang, W. (2019) 'Overturning the "doing-comes-before-talking" mentality, building China's leadership in global science governance'. *Zhanlve Yanjiu Cankao* (内参, *Internal Policy Recommendation to China's Ministry of Science and Technology*). 386, 1-4

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) [Governing Scientific Accountability in China. Final Report of the ESRC Research Project](#). Canterbury: GSA-China.

Zhang, J.Y. Marris, C. and Rose, N. (2011) [The Transnational Governance of Synthetic Biology: Scientific uncertainty, cross-borderness and the 'art' of governance](#). BIOS Working Paper prepared for the Royal Society Science Policy Centre (UK), May 2011

Book Chapters

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) 'The Dual Role of Risk in Mitigating Socio-Political Inequality: A Case Study on the Cosmopolitanization of Science'. in: Curran, D. eds, *Handbook on Risk and Inequality*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) 'Harmoniously Denied: China's Censorship on COVID-19', In: Bringel, B and Pleyers, G. eds. *Social Movements and Politics in a Global Pandemic: Crisis, Solidarity and Change*. Bristol: Bristol University Press

Zhang, J. Y. (2020) Globalisation, Cosmopolitanisation and a New Research Agenda. In: Rossi, I, eds. *Challenges of Globalization and Prospects for an Inter-civilizational World Order*. Springer.

Zhang, J. Y. (2017). 'Relaciones entre el Estado y las ONG en China: Una simbiosis controvertida'. in: Bringel, B. and Pleyers, G. eds. *Movimientos sociales en los años 2010: crisis, indignación y polarización*. Buenos Aires: CLACSO.

Zhang, J. Y. (2014) 'Synthesizing the "national" and the "cosmos": the case of life sciences in China', in Yasemin Soysal eds. *Transnational Trajectories in East Asia: Nation, Citizenship and Region*, New York: Routledge

Zhang, J. Y. (2014) 'Does China Offer a New Paradigm for Doing Science?' in David Kerr eds. *China's Many Dreams: Comparative Perspectives on China's Search for National Rejuvenation*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Beck, U. and Zhang, J. Y. (2012) 'Reflexivity' in *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, Published Online: 29 Feb 2012

Lentzos, F; Cockerton C; Finlay S; Hamilton R.A.; Zhang J.Y. and Rose, N. (2012) 'The Societal Impact of Synthetic Biology', in Baldwin et al (eds) *Synthetic Biology: A Primer*. London: Imperial College Press

Barr, M and Zhang, J. Y. (2010) 'China: bioethics education, biosecurity, and the rise of its science' in B. Rappert ed. *Ethics, Education, and the Life Sciences*, Canberra: Australian National University Press.

Zhang, J. Y. (2009) 'The Regulation of China's Stem Cell Research in the Context of Cosmopolitanization', in O. Doering ed. *Life Sciences in Translation: A Sino-European Dialogue on Ethical Governance of the Life Sciences*, London: BIONET

Documentaries

April 2021 - 'Science denial in a "post-truth" era', episode 1 for the INFODEMIC mini documentary series, Produced by the Aspen Institute Science & Society Program and Robyn Lane Productions

August 2021 - two episodes of China's Great Science Leap. Produced by BBC Radio 4. (I was both featured in the show and worked as a consultant in its making).

Selected Organised Events

In addition to directing research events associated with the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ), I regularly convene high impact academic and policy outreach events for global audiences. Below are a selection of key events in the past few years:

2025

Invited Session Organisation: 'Stability, sustainability and reversibility' GESDA High-Level Anticipation Meeting: Towards a Post-Synthetic Biology Era. Shenzhen Institute of Synthetic Biology in Shenzhen, China, 26th – 28th November 2025. **Funded by GESDA**

Conference organisation: *An O.D.E.S.S.I. for Public Engagement in a New Era of Science*. Reading Room, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, 26th – 28th November 2025. 29-30 September 2025. **Funded by ARIA, Wellcome Trust, BBSRC**

Invited Session Organisation: 'Safeguarding Synthetic Life', a half-day event marking the second of three public-facing events on the creation of mirror life, 18 September 2025. **Funded by The Mirror Biology Dialogues Fund (MBDF)**

Invited Event Organisation: *STS for Epistemic Justice: Strategies and Practice*. This online event is the BSA STS Study Group's pilot initiative to jointly organise events with research centres in the UK. This event has attracted participants from Europe, the Americas and South and East Asia. 23 June 2025. **Funded by University of Kent and BSA STS Study Group**

2024

Invited Event Organisation: Science Literacy and Communication: Empowering Citizens to Counter Global Disinformation. 17 October 2024. **Funded by the Aspen Institute Science & Society Program**

Invited Event Organisation: *Ethical Frameworks for Deployment of Synthetic Biology in the Indo-Pacific*. Hybrid, 19 September 2024. This is the launch event of a report based on engagement with 89 individuals across 19 countries, conducted by members of InKlude Labs in Bengaluru, the Australian National University in Canberra, and Western Sydney University. **Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**

Conference organisation: *Opportunities and Challenges of Cooperation with China on Human Germline Genome Editing Research and Governance*, George Mason University, Washington D.C., June 27-28, 2024. **Funded by the National Science Foundation (US)**

2023

Conference organisation: *Global engagement on Human Germline Genome Editing: Opportunities and Challenges*, Senate House, University of London 9-11 March 2023. **Funded by the National Science Foundation (US)**

Conference Organisation: *Looking Back into the Future: CRISPR and Social Values*. This high-impact online event prompted China to take greater regulatory initiative against irresponsible experimental gene therapy. It received worldwide media attention (please see [here](#)). 11 February 2023. **Funded by the University of Kent**

2022

Conference organisation: *BioGovernance Commons Forums (Online)*.

Forum 1: How to Build Better Global Governance of Science A US-China Dialogue 25 August 2022

Forum 2: How to make the “China story” of science and innovation more informative: An EU-China Dialogue, 6 September 2022. Funded by the U.S. Department of States

Conference Organisation: *BioGovernance and Science Diplomacy: The Past and Future of UK-India Dialogues*. Co-hosted with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). Given the quality of pre-conference discussion, this event was included into the official G20 programme, which makes GSEJ one of the few non-Indian organisation that have co-hosted a G20 meeting that year. New Dehli. 18-19 August. **Funded by the British Academy and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Ministry of External Affairs, India**

Event organisation: *The Ethics of Protecting CRISPR Babies: An International Roundtable*. This online event convened leading scientists and social scientists involved in the International Summits on Human Genome Editing and led to China reversing its planned policy position on the world’s first individuals born with heritable genome edits. 18 March 2025 **Funded by the University of Kent**

Selected Invited Conference Papers

In addition to attending the main professional associations’ conferences (e.g., ISA and 4S meetings), I receive approximately 15-20 conference invitations each year.. Below are a selection:

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘Safeguarding justice for the subalterns: Navigating the intersection of colonial biopiracy and the datafication of biosciences’ Biodata, Surveillance and Society, Oslo Norway, 20 & 21 November 2025

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘Keynote: Synthetic Genomics: Promise and Precaution.’ 2025 Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit: The Age of Possibility: Science, Sovereignty and Shared Futures. CERN, Switzerland 25 October, 2025

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘A New Odyssey for Global Science Governance: Introducing the O.D.E.S.S.I. Initiative’ Fudan-LSE Lecture. Institute for Global Public Policy, Fudan University, 4 September, 2025

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) Panelist. Sciencewise Roundtable What Is the Role of Public Opinion in Shaping Engineering Biology Research and Policy?. Wellcome Trust, London. 22 May 2025.

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘“Openings” in Life Science Governance’, GESDA Anticipation Workshop on Planetary Humanism, Villars Palace, Switzerland, 24-26 March 2025.

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) Panelist. Feminist Approaches to Justice: Beijing+30 and Justice for Women and Girls. UN NGO-CSW Forum. Online. 18 March 2025.

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘Care-full Synthesis: How RRI Can Lead to Better Science and Better Policies’ Japan-UK Synthetic Biology Conference, Osaka, Japan, 3-4 February, 2025

Zhang, J. Y. (2025) ‘“Science at Large” and Global Governance’, invited lecture at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies, Georgetown Law and King’s College London, London, 27 January 2025.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘Responsible Research and Innovation’. UK-US Bioengineering Solutions for Critical Minerals Workshop, UK Science and Innovation Network, London. 5-6 December 2024.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘Decolonising STS in the Context of Asia’s Rise.’ British Sociological Association -Science and Technology Study Group Seminar, 12 November, 2024

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘Human Genetic Engineering – Today’s Science and Future Society’ ESRC 2025 Festival of Social Science, Wellcome Trust, London, 8 November, 2024

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘Public Engagement in the Age of “Science at Large”’. Solidarity in Governing Biotechnology. Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 11 October 2024.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) Panelist. UNESCO Roundtable Discussion on Empowering the Global Community Through Scientific Literacy. UNESCO Headquarter, Paris. 24 September 2024.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) Panelist. Expert Meeting on Framework Conditions for Cooperation with China in Science, Technology, and Innovation, European Commission. Online, 9 September 2024.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘An Integrated Global Bio-data Governance Framework Enhancing Human Rights and Prosperity’, Think7 (T7) Italy Summit, the official think tank engagement group of the G7. Rome. 13-14 May, 2024.

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘Synthetic Biology: Can It Change Global Governance?’ Brave New Worlds: Research, Risk, and Responsibility. Delange Conference, Rice University. 9 February, 2024

Zhang, J. Y. (2024) ‘What Global Science Will Have Been.’ Staff lecture, Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem). Bangalore, 11 January 2024

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) ‘Transnational Science Governance beyond Western-Centric Approaches’ Science Scripts and Contestations: International Workshop. Berlin Social Science Center, WZB, Dec 6-8, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) ‘Decolonise Science Communication for a Cosmopolitan Future’, World Conference on Science Literacy. Beijing 19-20 September, 2023.

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) ‘India and the Future of the Cosmopolitics of Science’. BioGovernance and Science Diplomacy: The Way Forward, a G20 Discussion co-organised by GSEJ and the RIS, India. New Delhi. 18-9 August, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) Invited presentation by the journal Critical Policy Studies: Fighting the ‘Silent Crisis’ with ‘Polyphonic Relatedness’: A Feminist and Decolonial Approach towards Mobilising Black Communities in the UK. IPPA annual conference (Toronto) 29 Jul, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) ‘From Self-Governance to the Commoning of Science: The human genome editing summits and the challenges to the ‘Asilomar model’, Engineering Life: Regulating Science, Risks, and Society in Europe conference, Rice University Global Paris Centre, 14-16 Jun, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) main stage speaker, Future Trends Forum: Our Future Selves, from repairing to enhancing human capabilities. The Bankinter Innovation Foundation (Madrid) 13 Jun, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) Discussant, American Sociological Association Author Meets Readers: Science Studies Meets Colonialism (online), 7 Apr, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) Panelist, Medical Ethics Gone Rogue: The Case Study of He Jiankui, MEHU Medical Ethics Webinar, Hong Kong University (online), 4 Apr, 2023.

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) Invited speaker for the Third International Summit of Human Genome Editing. Invited by the Planning Committee 6 March, 2023

Zhang, J. Y. (2023) The elephant and the dragon in contemporary life sciences, STS Research Seminar (book launch), UCL, 16 Nov 2023.

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘Rogue scientists and elephant in the room’, QED: Question Explore Discover Festival, Manchester. Invited by QED Festival 28-30th October, 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘Lessons for Navigating Competing Ideas of Doing Good’ iGEM Responsibility Conference: Navigating Synthetic Biology’s Future, Paris Expo Porte de Versailles in France, Invited by iGEM, 26 Oct, 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘Decolonising the Global Governance of Research’, Research on Research Institute (RoRI) seminar, University of Sheffield. Invited by RoRI, 20 Oct, 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘Problematising the Frankenstein Framing for Science’, Annual Meeting of International Conference on Genomics (ICG). Invited by ICG organiser. The conference was originally planned for 3-6 September in Chengdu, but needed to postpone to October due to COVID situation in China. 25 Oct 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) Discussion lead for the conference ‘Safe, Secure and Responsible Synthetic Biology Beyond Containment’, Wilton Park. Invited by iGEM, 20-22 July, 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘“Can We Trust Science from China?” Observations around the Ascent of a New Power Player’ Institute’s Colloquium, Berlin, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. 31 May, 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) ‘Risk Society and Epistemic Inequality: Rising Voices from the ‘Global South’ in Global Governance’ Responsible Agency and Epistemic Injustice Workshop. Philosophy, University of Kent, 27 May 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) Inaugural lecture for the Global Development lecture series: 'Global Health and Inequality', CATS College at Canterbury. 3 May 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) 'Populism and Science Diplomacy', Seminar for the Lise Meitner Research Group, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. 21 May 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2022) 'Synthetic Biology and Ethical Concerns for a Major Science Power', inaugural public lecture of the 'Ethical Governance of Emerging Technology', HUST Centre for Bioethics. 4 May 2022

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) 'Human Challenge Trial and the Evolution of Ethical Perspectives' Annual Conference of Medical Ethics Section, Chinese Medical Association. Invited by Peking University, 18 December 2021

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) Panelist: 'China, Climate Change, COP26 - What Comes Next? - SACU Expert Panel Discussion', Invited by Society for Anglo Chinese Understanding (SACU) . 9 December 2021

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) 'Myth and reality of engaging with China', Training session for all German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) regional leads. 29 June 2021.

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) 'Bridging European-Chinese HE Cooperation. Perspectives for confident, responsible and sustainable relationships', Universities in Europe's Think Tank Web Conference, 20 May 2021

Zhang, J. Y. (2021) 'Overcoming Science Denialism', Aspen Global Science Congress on Scientific Thinking & Action, 17 March 2021

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'Instrumentalising climate change: China in global politics', Exploring the Links Between Climate Science Legacies and Contemporary Climate Policy. University of Birmingham Brussels Campus 19 Dec, 2019

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'The evolution of China's science policy and how to engage with it', Science Policy Expert Advisory Committee, the Royal Society. 12 Dec, 2019

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'Imagining new futures for engagement, knowledge and society.' Engage 2019, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement, UK., 5 Dec 2019

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'China's rise in science and its global implications'. SOAS China Institute Monday Forums, London, 2 Dec, 2019

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'From democratising to decolonising science: Lessons from China's contemporary life science controversies', PEALS 20th Anniversary Seminar, Newcastle University. 13 Nov 2019

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) Keynote: The co-production of bioethics: the role of bioengineers in shaping our biological future. The 9th WACBE World Congress on Bioengineering, 18 Aug, Taipei

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) Decolonizing ethical governance in the global age. Bioethics Conference on Regenerative Medicine, AI and Culture, National University Taiwan, 17 Aug, Taipei

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) Risk Society Legacies Plenary, STEPS Uncertainty Symposium 4 July, University of Sussex.

Zhang, J. Y. (2019) 'Cosmopolitan risk community in a bowl: The search for 'good food' in China, 14 Feb 2019, FRIED (Food Researchers in Edinburgh) seminar, University of Edinburgh

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) 'Why Public Engagement Matters to China's Rise in Global Science?', 27-29 Nov 2018 at the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing, Hong Kong. invited by: The Royal Society, London

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) 'Gene technology and public engagement in China' at the 22 Nov 2018. International Symposium Public Engagement with Genome Editing, London. invited by: National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement, UK

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) short input, the 13th Berlin Debate on Science and Science Policy, 7 Nov 2018, invited by: Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation, Germany

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) 'The Cosmopolitanization of Science and the Construction of a "Chinese" voice?', 15 Oct 2018, staff lecture. Beijing, invited by CASTED, Ministry of Science and Technology, China

Zhang, J. Y. (2018) 'Opening the "Black Box" of the Biosciences'. Royal Society. Invited by the Royal Society Science Policy Centre. 27 March 2018.

Zhang, J. Y. (2017) 'The Problem with Problem Solving', invited public lecture, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. Invited by: Institute of the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. 19 Sept 2017.

Zhang, J. Y. (2016) 'Social Uptake of Sustainability in China', invited panelist, The Third Global China Dialogue, British Academy, 2 December, 2016

- Zhang, J. Y. (2015), 'The Greening of China', invited public lecture, Laval University, Quebec, 30 July, 2015
- Zhang, J. Y. (2015) 'Cosmopolitan communities and the reworking of boundaries', FMSH Collège d'études mondiales' annual seminar, Paris, 18 May, 2015
- Zhang, J. Y. (2013) 'China's innovative system' at the 'A New 'Chinese Way'? Multi-disciplinary perspectives on China as an alternative to the West' workshop, University of Durham, 4 July, 2013
- Zhang, J. Y. (2013) Panelist, "Regulating 'stem cell tourism' in the UK and Asia: How do we move forward together?", SOAS, London, 25 June, 2013
- Zhang, J. Y. (2013) 'The Cosmopolitanization of Science', Author Meets Critics, European Conference on Technology Assessment, Prague, 14 March, 2013
- Zhang, J. Y. (2013) 'Imagework and cross-cultural risk studies', CosmoClimate workshop, University of Munich, 25 February, 2013
- Zhang, J. Y. (2012) 'The geography of "imagined communities" in China', Risk and Climate Change: The Shaping of a Cosmopolitan Future, FMSH Paris, 10-11 December, 2012
- Zhang, J. Y. (2012) 'China's Bio-Governance: Imagined Cosmopolitan Communities', Asian Studies Lecture Series, University of Sussex, 2 October, 2012
- Zhang, J. Y. (2012) 'Scientific Governance in the Context of Neo-Globalization', Philosophy of Science and Technology Salon, Institute of Science, Technology and Society, Tsinghua University, 4 April, 2012
- Zhang, J. Y. (2012) 'Environmental movement in China', invited presentation at the 'Organising Cosmo Climate Research' conference, University of Munich, 11-13 January, 2012
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) 'The Ethical Governance of Synthetic Biology', Department of Medical Humanities, Peking University, 10 May, 2011
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) 'Synthesizing the "National" and the "Cosmos": The emergence of synthetic biology in China', invited presentation at the 'Nation and Citizen in Transformation: Making and Unmaking of Transnationalism in East Asia' conference, Hong Kong, 6-7 May 2011
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) 'The International Governance of Synthetic Biology', invited presentation at 'The Economic and Social Life of Synthetic Biology', Royal Society of London and Royal Academy of Engineering, 13-14 April 2011
- Zhang, J. Y. (2011) 'Staging climate change', Invited presentation at the 'Cosmopolitan Climate Workshop', University of Munich, 17-19 January 2011
- Zhang, J. Y. (2009) 'How China wishes to become an R&D champion', Invited presentation at the 'China: the next superpower?' Conference, Centre for International Relations, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 29 September 2009
- Zhang, J. Y. (2009) 'Reflexive Modernization in East Asia: China' Invited presentation at the 'Varieties of Second Modernity' Workshop, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, 16-18 April 2009
- Zhang, J. Y. (2008) 'The Organization of Scientist and Its Relation to Scientific Productivity' Invited presentation at 'The Social Regulation of Stem Cell Research: Looking beyond regulatory exteriors in Asia', University of Sussex, Brighton, 15 December 2009
- Zhang, J. Y. (2008) 'The Cosmopolitanization of Science', Invited seminar at Department of Philosophy, Durham University, 27 November 2008
- Zhang, J. Y. (2008) 'What is Chinese life Scientists' role in shaping research policies', Invited presentation at the 14th Meeting of Chinese Life Scientists Society in UK, Oxford, 13 September 2008

Professional Memberships

- American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- British Sociological Association (BSA)
- Chatham House
- European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)
- International Sociological Association (ISA)
- Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
- UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab

Peer-Review Experience

Prize judging panels

2021 SAGE Prize for Innovation and/or Excellence (for *Sociology*)
Environmental Politics Paper of the Year Award 2020

Editorial boards:

Critical Policy Studies (2025-present)
Environmental Politics (2018-present)
Economy and Society (2020-present)
Sociology (2018-2025)

Other journal reviews:

<i>Asian Biotechnology & Development Review</i>	<i>Mobility</i>
<i>BioSocieties</i>	<i>PLOS Medicine</i>
<i>China: An International Journal</i>	<i>Public Policy and Administration</i>
<i>China Information</i>	<i>Public Understanding of Science</i>
<i>China Quarterly</i>	<i>New Genetics and Society</i>
<i>Communications Biology</i>	<i>Regulation & Governance</i>
<i>Critical Policy Studies</i>	<i>Rural Sociology</i>
<i>Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory</i>	<i>Science</i> (for its Policy Forum section)
<i>Environmental Sociology</i>	<i>Science and Public Policy</i>
<i>Frontiers in Sociology</i>	<i>Science Diplomacy Review</i>
<i>Health Security</i>	<i>Science Progress</i>
<i>Humanities and Social Sciences Communications</i>	<i>Society and Natural Resources</i>
<i>International Journal of the Commons</i>	<i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i>
<i>Journal of Rural Studies</i>	<i>Sociological Review</i>
<i>Journal of Responsible Innovation</i>	<i>Theory Culture and Society</i>
<i>Life Sciences, Society and Policy</i>	

Grant reviews

British Council Newton Fund: Institutional Links Grant and Workshops Grant;
AHRC: Early Career Fellowship;
EURIAS Fellowship Programme: Junior and Senior applications;
ESRC: multiple funding schemes
Foundation Cariplo: Science and Society programme
Wellcome Trust: multiple funding schemes
Swiss National Science Foundation

Manuscript reviews

Agenda Publishing	Duke University Press
Amsterdam University Press	Palgrave Macmillan
Brill	Routledge
Columbia University Press	SAGE

Work and Administrative Experiences

Current position and affiliations:

Director for the Centre of Global Science and Epistemic Justice (2022-present)
Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of Kent (May 2023 -present)
Jul 2020 - May 2023 Reader in Sociology
Oct 2014 - Jul 2020 Senior Lecturer in Sociology
Sept 2012 - Oct 2014 Lecturer in Sociology

Administrative roles:

School REF Coordinator (2022-2025)
School Director of Admissions (2019-2021)

Director of Studies, Sociology (2019-2021)
School Chief Examiner (2014-2015, 2017-2018)

Past positions:

2024 Member, Task Force on ‘Science and Digitalization for a Better Future’, Think7 (the official think tank engagement group of the G7)

2023 Member, Expert Task Force on ELSI, Sino-EU PerMed

2023 Member, Public Engagement Task Force, International Society for Stem Cell Research (2023)

2022- 2024 Member, Climate Impacts Advisory Committee, Wellcome Trust

2021-2024 External Examiner for BA Sociology with Social Policy; BA Sociology with Criminology at the University of Sheffield

2017-2024 Member, Human Practice Committee, International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM)

2020-2022 Visiting Fellow, Global Biopolitics Research Centre, Kings College London

Sept 2011 - June 2012 Fernand Braudel Fellow Collège d'Etudes Mondiales, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'homme (FMSH) & Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques (CADIS), École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)

Nov 2011 to Nov 2015 - Affiliated Researcher (Adjunct Associate Professor level) Research Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Peking University Health Science Centre

May 2010 - May 2011 Research Officer - International Governance of Synthetic Biology, BIOS Centre, London School of Economics

2007 – 2010 Occasional Research Assistant, BIONET: Ethical Governance of Biological and Biomedical Research: Chinese – European Cooperation. Funded under the European Commission Sixth Framework programme with support from the UK Medical Research Council. BIOS Centre, London School of Economics

Teaching

Module Convenor

SO337 Fundamentals of Sociology (Undergraduate)

SO709 Modern Chinese Society (Undergraduate)

SO727 Contemporary Social Theory (Undergraduate)

SO627 Sociology of the Global South (Undergraduate)

SO938 Technology, Society and Policy (Postgraduate)

SO832 Critical Social Research: Truth Ethics and Power (Postgraduate)

Co-lecturer

SO408 Sociological Theory: The Classics (Undergraduate)

SO602 Social Research Methods (Undergraduate)

SO712 Urban Sociology (Undergraduate)

SA303 Environmental Issues: Social Science Approaches (Undergraduate)

BI803 Biotechnology and Public Affairs (Postgraduate)

PhD supervisions

Name and duration of study	Topic	Current position
Kacper Leon Wi- atrowski (2026-)	Solving Addiction: How Biotechnology Shapes Our Understanding and Response	
Ceylan Hassan (2026-)	Rooted Resistance - how eco-cultural communities negotiate and resist epistemic loss. Funded by the South East Doctoral Training Arc (SEDarc)	
Meher Basit (Part time, 2022-)	Transnational Identities of British Pakistani Wo- men	
Georgina S. Treloar (2019-2024)	Extinction Rebellion: An Analysis of Framing in the Movement's Nascency	Postdoctoral Research Asso- ciate, University of Exeter
Daisy A. Emoekabu (2015-2021)	Environmental Policy Making and Implementation in Nigeria: The Case of Climate Change	Teaching Lecturer, Uni- versity of Kent
Martin Clinton Rooke (2016-2020)	Changes in the UK News Reporting of Health/En- vironmental Risks between 1985-2017. (Funded by the British Library)	Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School
Daniel T. Grassian (2015-2019)	A New Way of Eating: Creating Meat Reducers, Vegetarians and Vegans. (Funded by the University of Kent's Vice Chancellor's Scholarship)	Communications and En- gagement Manager, Educa- tion Endowment Foundation
Tom Douglass (2014-2019)	Statins Strife: Assessing the Expanding Pharma- ceuticalisation of the Primary Prevention of Cardi- ovascular Disease. (Funded by the University of Kent's Vice Chancellor's Scholarship)	Research Fellow, University of Birmingham
Mengwei Tu (2014-2016)	Education, Migration and Family Relations Between China and the UK: The Transnational One-Child Generation (Thesis published by Emer- ald Publishing Limited in 2018)	Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Criminology, Sociology and Social Policy, Swansea Uni- versity
Ada Cheung (2013-2016)	Ageing, Family Responsibility In Elderly Care in Urban China	Assistant Professor, Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Terry Ruan (2012-2015)	Guanxi, Social Capital and School Choice in China: The Rise of Ritual Capital (Thesis pub- lished by Palgrave Macmillan in 2017)	Professor, Guizhou Mines University, China

Media Experience

To date, I have been interviewed by more than 45 media outlets, including the *Science*, *Nature*, *WIRED*, *MIT Technology Review*, *the British Medical Journal*, the Associated Press, Statnews, NPR, *National Geographic*, *Undark Magazine*, BBC, ABC (Australia), CNN, *Courier della Sera*, *de Volkskrant*, *El Pais (Spain)*, *Weekendavisen*, VoA, ARD German Radio, Radio24 (Italy), Swiss radio, *South China Morning Post*, Xinhua News Press and China Central Television, as well as the Chinese edition of *Cosmopolitan* and *Madame Figaro* magazines. I've also written for the Hastings Bioethics Forum, openDemocracy, Somatosphere, the Conversation and CNN Global Public Square blog.