

SHAN SHI

PhD in Sociology · Social Network Analysis / Mixed-Methods Research / Creative Industries

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PROFILE

Sociologist specialising in social network analysis and mixed-methods research, with first-hand industry experience in music sector (Modern Sky / BADHEAD). My doctoral research bridges cultural production and relational sociology, offering a longitudinal, data-driven mapping of collaboration networks in Chinese music industry (1999–2023).

EDUCATION

Sep 2022 – Jun 2026 PhD in Sociology, University of Manchester, UK

- Supervisor: Prof. Nick Crossley; Dr. Helen Holmes
- Thesis: *From Industry Emergence to Network Formation: Collaboration in Chinese Music Production (BADHEAD, 1999–2023)*
- Viva passed with the highest grade, A(i); PhD awarded with no corrections required
- Research fields: social network analysis, mixed-methods research, creative industries

Sep 2021 – Sep 2022 MSc in Sociological Research, University of Manchester, UK

- Awarded with Distinction; supervisor: Prof. Nick Crossley

Aug 2013 – Jul 2017 BA in Sociology, Yunnan University, China

PUBLICATIONS

Published / Accepted

- Shan Shi. (forthcoming, 2026). “Embedded Regional Origins: A Longitudinal Mapping of Collaboration Networks in China’s Music Industry (BADHEAD, 1999–2023).” *The Journal of Chinese Sociology*.
- Shan Shi. (2026). “Regional Origins Embedded in Collaboration Ties: A Longitudinal Case Study of the Music Industry” (in Chinese). In Yanjie Bian, Jianke Yang, & Libiao Jiang (Eds.), *Theoretical Breakthroughs and Empirical Research in the Sociology of Guanxi, Vol. 2: Recent Advances in Empirical Research* (Ch. 6, pp. 107–138). Xi’an Jiaotong University Press. (Book chapter)
- Shan Shi. (2025). “The Generation and Persistence of Social Ties: The Exponential Random Graph Model Approach — A Review of *Exponential Random Graph Models for Social Networks: Theory, Methods, and Applications*” (in Chinese). *Review of Social Research Methods*, 8(2): 399–410. (Book review)

Under Review

- Shan Shi. “Beyond Participation: Gender and Relational Position-taking in Project-based Work.” Under review at *Poetics*.
- Shan Shi. “Modern Sky and the Making of Mainland China’s Music Industry, 1997–2007.” Under review at *Popular Music and Society*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) — UK professional recognition of teaching in higher education

Sep 2023 – May 2025 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Departments of Sociology and Social Statistics, University of Manchester

- Statistical Models for Social Networks (SOST71032)
- Network Analysis (SOST30022)
- Applied Statistics for Social Scientists (SOST10142/20142)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Nov 2024 – Mar 2025 Research Assistant, University of Manchester (interdisciplinary Computer Science and Criminology project)

- Conducted qualitative data analysis on the challenges facing UK start-ups in digital platform environments, providing analytical support and evidence for the conclusions of an interdisciplinary team.

Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 Research Assistant, Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research, University of Manchester

- Built a systematic literature-screening pipeline using large language models to assess the impact of digital media on democratic governance, and compared how different research methods affect the credibility of findings.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023 Assistant Coordinator, Manchester Student Homes, University of Manchester

- Offered accommodation advice to students in person and via phone/email.
- Maintained the administration of the Manchester Student Homes website.

2019 – 2020 Operations Manager, Modern Sky Entertainment Co., Ltd., Beijing

- Operated sound.china.cn, an online Chinese music platform affiliated with the State Council Information Office of China, and kept the content updated weekly.
- Collaborated with the art director in managing the BADHEAD and Modern Sky World Music record labels, and engaged in producing and promoting 8 albums.
- Served as booking agent for artists including Mamer (IZ), Mu Tui Gua (Wood Pushing Melon) and Zhou Fengling, organising live shows.
- This first-hand experience in the music industry later provided field access and primary data sources for my PhD research.

2018– 2019 Administrative Assistant, Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group Co., Ltd.

- Provided administrative support to the CEO, compiling and producing presentations and reports as directed.

TALKS

- 2026 Mitchell Centre Seminar — speaker: “Embedded Regional Origins: A Longitudinal Mapping of Collaboration Networks in China’s Music Industry (BADHEAD, 1999–2023)” (Manchester, UK).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Inaugural Forum on Chinese Modernization and Sociological Theory Innovation — presenter: “Regional Origins in Music Production” (Xi’an, China).

- 2025 INSNA Sunbelt Conference — chair and presenter, “Culture and Networks” session: “Regional Origins in Music Production” (Paris, France).
- 2023 British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference — presenter: “The Persistence of Chinese Rock: A Social Network Analysis Perspective” (Manchester, UK).

AWARDS & FUNDING

- 2023 School of Social Sciences Fieldwork Bursary for Postgraduate Research, University of Manchester
- 2014 Outstanding Student Award, School of Public Administration, Yunnan University

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

- **Data analysis:** R, SPSS, UCINET, MPNet; statistical network models (ERGM); LLM-assisted data and text analysis.
- **Qualitative methods:** in-depth interviewing, qualitative coding.
- **Languages:** Chinese (native); English (full professional proficiency).