
Tianyi Zhang

534 Lucas Hall, St. Louis, MO 63121 | tzh5k@umsl.edu | Updated: April 30, 2025

Education

University of Missouri–St. Louis

- Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2023–Present

Duke University

- M.P.P., Sanford School of Public Policy, 2023
- Certificate in Social Policy

Case Western Reserve University

- B.A. in Sociology, 2020
- Cum Laude
- Concentration in Crime, Law and Justice

Research Interests

Crime, Education and Work, Spatial Patterns, Policy

Working Project

- Tianyi Zhang, “Education and Violence: How Does Public K-12 Education Affect County-Level Homicide Rates?”

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Grants and Fellowships

- Individual Conference Travel Grant, 2024, Graduate School, UMSL: \$1,200
- Recruitment Fellowship, 2023–Present, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, UMSL: \$1,000

Awards and Honors

- Merit-Based Scholarship, 2021–2023, Duke University
- Dean’s List, 2017–2020, Case Western Reserve University

Experiences

Research Experience

- 2023–Present: Graduate Research Assistant, Adam Boessen, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2022–2023: Graduate Researcher, Philip Cook, Wilson Center for Science and Justice, Duke University
 - Contributed to *The Legal Consequences of Gun Violence: Investigation and Court Processing of Fatal and Nonfatal Shootings, Durham, NC, 2017–2021*
- 2021: Research Assistant, Jianlong Yao, Institute of Law, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
 - Organized seminar on Critical Issues in Prosecuting Sexual Assault of Minors focusing on improving evidence accuracy

-
- 2021: Research Assistant, Suyun Hu, Institute of Urban and Demographic Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
 - Contributed to the *Annual Report of World Cities, 2022*

Conference Presentations

- Tianyi Zhang, “Education and Violence: How Does Public K-12 Education Affect County-Level Homicide Rates?” Roundtable Discussion, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 11, 2025
- Tianyi Zhang, “Education Expenditure as a Violence Reduction Strategy: Implications of Prioritizing Public Education on County-Level Homicide Rates.” Regular Session, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 14, 2024

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2025: Graduate Teaching Assistant, CRIMIN 6405: Research Methods, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2022–2023: Graduate Teaching Assistant, PUBPOL 811: Economics of the Public Sector, Duke University

Professional Experience

- 2020: Assistant, Dalian District People’s Court, China
 - Supported four criminal judges; organized and prepared case exhibits and evidence for trials; drafted verdicts and oversaw defendants

Services and Professional Membership

Discipline Service

- 2025: Award Committee, Ruth D. Peterson and Lauren J. Krivo Graduate Student Scholar Award, Division of Communities and Place, American Society of Criminology

Department and School Service

- 2025–2026: President, Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2024–2025: Graduate Student Assembly Representative, Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2023–2024: Member, Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2023–Present: Member, Equity Committee, University of Missouri–St. Louis
- 2018–2019: Director, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Case Western Reserve University
- 2017–2018: Member, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Case Western Reserve University

Professional Memberships

- 2024–Present: American Society of Criminology, Division of Communities and Place
- 2024–Present: Population Association of America
- 2025–Present: American Sociological Association, Crime, Law, and Deviance

Miscellanea

- Programming Languages and Softwares: STATA, R, ArcGIS
- Language Skills: Mandarin, English, German