

KUORAY MAO

<https://sociology.colostate.edu/people/krmao/>

EDUCATION

- 2015** **Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology**
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
Dissertation: *When the Wells Ran Dry: A Treadmill Analysis of Political Capitalism and Environmental Harm in Minqin Oasis, China.*
- 2009** **Master of Arts, Sociology**
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
Thesis: “Contextual Interaction and Stigma Management: Construction of Asian American Identities of Taiwanese 1.5 Generation Immigrants”.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-Present Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Colorado State University.
- 2021-2023 Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University.
- 2015-2021 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Colorado State University.

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Green Criminology
Environmental Sociology
Sociology of Law
Comparative Legal Systems
Deviance
Critical Criminology
China, Taiwan, and East Asia

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 Rosa del Olmo Prize, *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*
- 2021 American Region Scholar Grant Award, the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation
- 2020 Best Teacher Award, Colorado State University Alumni Association
- 2019 Best Article Award, Division of Critical Criminology & Social Justice,
American Society of Criminology

- 2016 Outstanding Emerging Scholar Award, the Western Social Sciences Association
- 2015 Community Action Research Initiative Award, the American Sociological Association
- 2010 Marvin E. Olsen Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association, Environmental and Technology Section
- 2010 Eddie Jacobson Scholarship for International Studies, Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation
- 2010 U.S. Fulbright Graduate Fellowship, U.S. State Department
- 2010 National Science Foundation EAPSI Fellowship, U.S. National Science Foundation

RESEARCH & SCHOLARLY RECORD

PUBLICATIONS

*Indicates graduate student co-authors at the time of submission; + indicates the corresponding author of the publication.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺ and Yue Xu*. "Climate adaptation and institutional continuity: Understanding lock-in dynamics in China's grassland governance." *Chinese Journal of Sociology*. DOI: 10.1177/2057150X261420583.
- 2026 Zhaoyang, Xu*, Lei Zhu*, **KuoRay Mao**, and Yongji Xue⁺. "Institutional logics in China's rural solar transition and their impacts on energy justice for vulnerable communities." *Energy Policy* 215, p115344. DOI: 10.1016/j.enpol.2026.115344/.
- 2026 Ho, Ka Ki Lawrence, **KuoRay Mao**⁺, Henry Wu*, and Alex Hagan*. "Illicit Parallel Trading, State Permission and Legality: A Comparative Analysis in the Southern Chinese Seaboard." *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. p1-28. DOI: 10.1080/00472336.2026.2620487.
- 2025 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Zhong Zhao, and Yue Xu*. "The Blueway and the Red Line Spiderweb: Assessing the Impact of Repressive and Ideological State Apparatuses on Environmental Protests in China." *Asian Politics & Policy*. 17(2), e70018. DOI: 10.1111/aspp.70018

- 2025 **Mao, KuoRay**. "From 'Closing the Deep-Bore Wells' to The Wandering Earth: A Re-examination of Environmental Governance Legitimacy in China" *UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal*. Vol. 41, Issue. 2. DOI: 10.5070/p8.61630.
- 2025 Lin, Wuyin*, **KuoRay Mao**⁺, and Xinyi Zhao* "Before and Beyond the Pandemic: Dynamics of Illegal Marine Wildlife Trade in Southern China Amidst Policy Shifts and Enforcement Efforts." *Global Ecology and Conservation*: e03622. DOI: 10.1016/j.gecco.2025.e03622/
- 2025 Tyler Harlan, Yixian Sun⁺, Juliet Lu, Jessica DiCarlo, Coraline Goron, Yifei Li, Jessica Liao, **KuoRay Mao**, Jesse Rodenbiker, Deborah Seligsohn, Niklas Weins and Annah Zhu "China aspires to be an environmental leader. How should the rest of the world engage?" *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*. Volume 55 Issue 1 DOI: 10.1177/18681026251400351
- 2024 Zhang, Qian⁺ and **KuoRay Mao**. "Disembedding and Disentangling Grassland Valuation: Insights into Grassland Management Institutions and Ecological Research in China." *Land* Vol.13, no. 8: 1218. DOI: 10.3390/land13081218.
- 2023 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺ and Zhong Zhao. "Authoritarian Environmentalism & Epistemological Violence: A Southern Green Criminology Analysis of the 2014 Lanzhou Water Crisis and the Belt & Road Initiative Expansion into the Global Water Sector." *International Journal for Crime, Justice, and Social Democracy*. Vol. 12, Issue 4, p27-38. DOI: 10.5204/ijcjsd.2948.
2025 biennial Rosa Del Olmo Prize from the IJCJSD.
- 2023 Feng, Danmeng, **KouRay Mao** (Joint first authorship), Yujie Yang, and Yu Hu⁺. "Crop-Livestock Integration for Sustainable Agriculture in China: A Historical Review of State Policy Goals, Reform Opportunities, and Institutional Constraints." *Frontiers of Agricultural Science and Engineering*. Vol. 10, Issue 4, p518-29. DOI: 10.15302/J-FASE-202352.
- 2022 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Shuqin Jin, Yu Hu, Nefratiri Weeks*, and Liangjun Ye. "Environmental Conservation or the Treadmill of Law: A Case Study of the Post-2014 Husbandry Waste Regulations in China." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. Vol. 66, Issue 4, p296-326. DOI: 10.1177/0306624X20928024.
- 2022 Jin, Shuqin⁺, **KuoRay Mao**, Dongmei Han, and Yu Hu. 2022. "Top-Down Implementation and Fragmented Bureaucracy: An Analysis of the Livestock Waste Prevention Regulation in China." *Open Journal of Social Sciences* Vol. 10, Issue 8, p 1-17. DOI: 10.4236/jss.2022.108001.
- 2021 Xue, Yong-ji⁺, **KuoRay Mao** (Joint first authorship), Nefratiri Weeks*, and Jingyi Xiao*. "China's Rural Reform and Innovation: Experiences and Lessons of the past

- 40 years. *Journal of Contemporary China*. Vol. 30 Issue 128, pp. 266-282. DOI: 10.1080/10670564.2020.1790902.
- 2020 **Mao, KuoRay⁺**, Qian Zhang, Yong-ji Xue, and Nefratiri Weeks*. “Towards a Socio-Political Approach to Water Management: Successes and Limitations of IWRM Programs in Rural Northwestern China.” *Frontiers of Earth Science*. Vol. 14, Issue 2, pp. 268 -285. DOI: 10.1007/s11707-019-0795-3.
- 2020 Zhang, Qian⁺ and **KuoRay Mao**. “Target Enforcement & Integrated Watershed Management: Case Study of Three In-land Rivers in Gansu” *Academia Bimestris*. Issue6m, pp. 123-130. DOI: 10.16091/j.cnki.cn32-1308/c.2020.06.021. (In Chinese).
- 2019 Swanson, Lou⁺ and **KuoRay Mao**. “Thinking Globally About Universities and Extension: The Convergence of University-Based and Centralized Extension Systems in China.” *Journal of Extension*. Vol. 57, Issue 6, 6FEA4.
- 2018 **Mao, KuoRay⁺** and Eric A. Hanley. “Local Corporatism and Environmental Harm: A Fiscal Approach towards Desertification in NW China.” *Journal of Agrarian Change*. Vol. 18, Issue 4, pp. 848–868. DOI: 10.1111/joac.12266.
- 2018 **Mao, KuoRay**. “Treadmill of Taxation: Organizational Deviance and Desertification in the Minqin Oasis China.” *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*. Vol. 26, Issue 2, pp. 271–288. DOI: 10.1007/s10612-018-9386-y.
Best Article Award, Division of Critical Criminology & Social Justice, American Society of Criminology.
- 2018 **Mao, KuoRay⁺** and Qian Zhang. “Dilemmas of State-Led Environmental Conservation in China: Environmental Target Enforcement and Public Participation in Minqin County.” *Society & Natural Resources*. Vol.31, Issue 5, pp. 615-631. DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2017.1422063.
- 2018 Xue, Yong-ji, Ting Deng*, and **KuoRay Mao⁺**. “Influencing Factors on the Ecological Protection Behaviors of Entrepreneurial Farmers in Chinese Forest Zones.” *Sustainability*. Vol. 10, Issue 6, pp. 1-15. DOI: 10.3390/su10061827.
- 2018 Li, Xiuxia*, Lili Wei*, Wenru Shang*, Min Yin*, Juan Ling*, **KuoRay Mao**, Yiliang Zhu, Kehu Yang⁺. “Trace and Evaluation Systems for Health Services Quality in Rural and Remote Areas: A Systematic Review.” *Journal of Public Health*. Vol 26, Issue 2, pp. 127–135. DOI: 10.1007/s10389-017-0858-4.
- 2017 Wei, Lili*, XiuXia Li*, WenRu Shang*, Xin Xing*, Min Ying*, Juan Ling*, **KuoRay Mao**, Yiliang Zhu, and Kehu Yang⁺. “Tracking Rural Health Service Quality and Evaluation Mechanism: a Bibliometric Analysis.” *Chinese Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine*. 17(2):221-227. DOI: 10.7507/1672-2531.201612002. (In Chinese).

- 2017 Shang WenRu*, XiuXia Li*, Lili Wei*, Xin Xing*, Min Ying*, Juan Ling*, **KuoRay Mao**, Yiliang Zhu, and Kehu Yang⁺. “Research on quality evaluation index system of the rural health service.” *Chinese Journal of Health Policy*. 10(3): 61-9. DOI: 10.3969/j.issn.1674-2982.2017.03.011. (In Chinese).
- 2012 Pih, Kay Kei-ho⁺, Akihiko Hirose, and **KuoRay Mao**. “The Invisible Unattended: Low-wage Chinese Immigrant Workers, Health Care, and Social Capital in Southern California’s San Gabriel Valley.” *Sociological Inquiry*. Vol. 82, Issue 2, pp. 236-256. DOI: 10.1111/j.1475-682X.2012.00408.x.
- 2010 Pih, Kay Kei-ho⁺, Akihiko Hirose, and **KuoRay Mao**. “Gangs as Contractors: The Structure of Taiwanese Gang Business in Southern California.” *Trends in Organized Crime*. Vol.13, Issue 2, pp. 115-133. DOI: 10.1007/s12117-010-9095-8.
- 2008 Pih, Kay Kei-ho⁺, Mario De La Rosa, Douglas Rugh, and **KuoRay Mao**. “Different Strokes for Different Gangs? An Analysis of Capital among Latino and Asian Gang Members.” *Sociological Perspectives*. Vol. 51, Issue 3, pp. 673–676. DOI: 10.1525/sop.2008.51.3.473.
- 2005 Pih, Kay Kei-ho⁺ and **KuoRay Mao**. “Golden Parachute’ and Gangbanging: Suburban Chinese Gangs in Southern California.” *Journal of Gang Research*. Vol. 12, Issue 4, pp. 59-72.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters and Commentaries

- 2026 Raymond Appiah* and **KuoRay Mao**⁺. “Institutional Corruption and Green Crime in Rural Ghana: A Social and Ecological Disorganization Analysis of Gold Mining under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Extractivist Regime” In: Emmanuel, B., and Clack, W. (eds) *Rural Crime in Africa*. pp. 159-179. Cham, Springer Nature, Switzerland. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-032-16081-2_9.
- 2025 Ravetta, Emilia*, **KuoRay Mao**⁺, and Raymond Appiah*. “Green Coloniality and the Politics of Extractivism. A Southern Criminology Analysis of China’s Role in Lithium Mining in Argentina and Zimbabwe” In: Cavalcanti, R.P., Fonseca, D.S., Vegh Weis, V., Carrington, K., Hogg, R., Scott, J. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Criminology and the Global South*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-74932-2_101-1.
- 2024 Yang, Chenyujing* **KuoRay Mao**, Xiaomeng Liang*, and Yongji Xue⁺ “Value China’s deserts beyond energy projects.” *Science*. Vol 383, Issue 6689, p. 1302. DOI: 10.1126/science.ado0596
- 2023 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Qian Zhang, and Micaela Truslove*. “Grassland Conservation and Environmental Inequality in Inner Mongolia, China.” *Handbook of Inequality and the Environment* edited by Michael A. Long, Michael J. Lynch, and Paul B. Stretesky.

Cheltenham Glos, UK: Edward Elgar. pp. 425-444. DOI:
/10.4337/9781800881136.00037

- 2021 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Qian Zhang, and Nefratiri Weeks*. “Authoritarian Environmentalism as Just Transition? A Critical Environmental Justice Examination of State Environmental Intervention in Northwestern China.” *Environment Justice in the Anthropocene: From (Un) Presents to Just Futures*. edited by Stacia Ryder, Kathryn Powlen, Melinda Laituri, Stephanie A. Malin, Joshua Sbicca, and Dimitris Stevis. London: Routledge, pp. 175-187. DOI: 10.4324/9781003023609-19.
- 2020 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Yiliang Zhu, Zhong Zhao, and Yan Shan*. “Authoritarian Environmentalism and Environmental Regulation Enforcement: A Case Study of Medical Waste Crime in Northwestern China.” *Routledge International Handbook of Green Criminology* 2nd ed. edited by Nigel South and Avi Brisman. London: Routledge, pp. 382-400. DOI: 10.4324/9781315207094-21.
- 2014 Li, Yu Hui and **KuoRay Mao** ed. *Selected Studies on Western China*, Lanzhou, China: Lanzhou University Press. (In Chinese).
- 2012 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺, Kay Kei-Ho Pih, and Shuming Bao. “The Neoliberal Sunshine in Northwestern China: A Case Study of Government Sponsored Job Training Programs, Migration, and Poverty Alleviation in Gansu and Ningxia Provinces” *China Currents 2012 Special Edition* edited by P.B. Prime and J.R. Schiffman. Atlanta: China Research Center, pp.71-83. ISBN-13: 9780982641521
- 2006 **Mao, KuoRay**. “Do-Not-Call Registry” & “Telecommunication Act of 1996” In the *Encyclopedia of Privacy* edited by William G. Staples. Westport: Greenwood Press. pp. 177-178 & 584-585. ISBN-13: 978-0313334771.

Invited Book Reviews and Commentaries

- 2024 Zhao, Zhong and **KuoRay Mao**, “Decoding China’s Response to Environmental Justice Movement in Shenzhen.” *New Security Beat*. the Woodrow Wilson Center-East-West Center Vulnerable Deltas Project.
https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2025/01/decoding-chinas-response-to-environmental-justice-movement-in-shenzhen/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIAhNBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHcSasQ39LrUUbQGNaX1FNi-OyFMGp6aCePq1jRayjxvxkDKZXA5spC9XA_aem_hsSWincrI8DpxJgAcXNjrQ
- 2020 **Mao, KuoRay**⁺ and Lei Zhang. “Risk Management Regimes and Epidemic Control in East Asia: Lessons from COVID-19.” *Contexts Magazine: Sociology for the Public* Online Special Issue on the Global Impact of the Coronavirus.
<https://contexts.org/blog/covid-19-impact-on-asia-and-beyond/#mao>.
- 2020 **Mao, KuoRay**. “Review of *Defining Crime: A Critique of the Concept and Its*

Implication by Lynch, Michael J., Stretesky, Paul B., Long, Michael”. *The Social Sciences Journal*. 57(1), pp. 120–121. DOI: 10.1080/03623319.2020.1722590.

- 2014 **Mao, KuoRay**. “Review of *Privatizing Water: Governance Failure and the World's Urban Water Crisis* by Bakker, Karen”. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. Vol.54 (5-6), pp.494-496. DOI: 10.1177/0020715213516163.

Special Issue Editorship

- 2023 “Rural Revitalization and the Green Transformation of Global Agriculture” with Shuqin Jin and Zhen Zhong. *Sustainability* 15(14).

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

External (PI and Co-PI)

- 2021-2022 “Environmental Social Control and Regulatory Pluralism: A Green Criminology Approach to the Generation and Transference of Hazardous Wastes in Taiwan” PI, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, North America Scholar Grant (27,000 USD)
- 2019-2021 “Poverty Alleviation and the Diffusion of Rural Entrepreneurship in Northern China.” Co-PI with Yongji Xue, Chinese Social Sciences Research Grant (14,375 USD)
- 2019-2020 “Environmental Governance & Renewable Energy Development by Village Women Groups in Northwestern China.” Co-PI with the Green Camel Bell and Yiliang Zhu, China Merchants Charitable Foundation, Rural Development Support Grant (21,550 USD)
- 2019-2020 “Waste Alleviation in Rural Development.” Co-PI with the Green Camel Bell and Yiliang Zhu, Oxfam Foundation, Oxfam Hong Kong Rural Community Development Grant (30,187 USD)
- 2018-2020 “Tracking and Evaluation of Health Services Quality (TEQ) at Village and Township Clinics in Rural Northwestern China – Tools for Capacity Building.” Co-PI with Kehu Yang, XiuXia Li, Yiliang Zhu, China Medical Board, China Medical Board Open Competition (78,400 USD)
- 2017-2018 “Tracking and managing pesticide and fertilizer use in Loess Plateau Villages to control environmental pollution.” Co-PI with the Green Camel Bell and Yiliang Zhu, U.S. Department of State, Federal Assistance Award (20,000 USD)
- 2016-2017 “Sustainable Waste Management in the Loess Plateau Villages:

Empowerment of Women, Participatory Learning and Action, Adaptive Technologies.” Co-PI with the Green Camel Bell and Yiliang Zhu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CAD 24,292.50)

2015-2016 “Community-based Waste Management and Water Conservation in Northwestern Rural China.” Co-PI with Yaojiang Shi, Yiliang Zhu, and Benzhong Zhang, National Geographic Society, Air and Water Conservation Fund (USD 21,257)

2015-2016 “Empowering Women to Sustain Community-based Waste Management and Water Conservation in Northwestern Rural China.” PI, American Sociological Association, Community Action Research Initiative (2,400 USD)

Internal

2024-2025 “Community-Based Justice: Listening, Communicating, and Enacting Solutions in an Evolving Funding Landscape.” Co-PI with Anderson, Ashley A., Jaime L. Jacobsen, Stephanie A. Malin, Mindy Hill, Dimitris Stevis, OVPR Catalyst Program – Ready, Set, Go, Office of the Vice President for Research, Colorado State University (5,000 USD)

2024-2025 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (850 USD)

2023-2024 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (1,000 USD)

2022-2023 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (1,000 USD)

2021-2022 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (1,000 USD)

2020-2021 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (1,000 USD)

2019-2020 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (1,948 USD)

2017-2018 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (2,000 USD)

2015-2016 CLA Professor Development Program Awards, Colorado State University (2,000 USD)