

Helen Law

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Address

Department of Sociology, University of Tübingen,
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Research interests

Educational inequalities Gender differences in educational and occupational choices Quantitative methods

Academic career

Oct 2017 – Present *Postdoctoral researcher* (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow),
Department of Sociology, The University of Tübingen

Education

- 2012 – 2017 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD in Sociology) awarded 15 December 2017
The Australian National University (ANU)
(Including 12 months of personal leave due to the illness of a family member)
Thesis title: *Gender and mathematics: Pathways to mathematically intensive fields of study in Australia.* ([link](#))
Thesis examination results: no revisions needed
- 2008 – 2010 Master of Philosophy (MPhil in Sociology)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
Thesis title: *Cross-national patterns of gender gap in math test scores: Role of family background, single-sex schooling, and gender equities*
- 2005 – 2008 Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology) with Honours, *First Class*
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

Grants, awards and scholarships

- 2017 – 2019 **[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, European Commission](#)**
- For the project "[Understanding the impact of parental occupation on gender differences in field of study choice in Germany](#)" (€159 460).
 - Host: Professor Pia S. Schober, Department of Sociology, The University of Tübingen

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Grants, awards and scholarships (continued)

- 2018 **ANU Gender Institute Prize for the best PhD thesis for 2017, Australia**
- The prizewinner was selected on the basis of quality in the specialist field as evinced in the examiners' reports and evidence of how far the thesis was seen to advance broader feminist theory in studies of gender and/or sexuality.
 - Included an award of AU\$1 000.
- 2012 – 2016 **International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS), Australia**
- Covered the tuition fees, health cover costs and student visa fee (approximately AU\$132 920).
- 2012 – 2015 **ANU University Research Scholarship (International), Australia**
- Provided the stipend and other benefits (approximately AU\$91 840).
- 2012 – 2015 **NCVER PhD Top-up Scholarship, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Australia**
- Offered AU\$15 000 and covered travel and accommodation costs for attending the NCVER's No Frills conference.
- 2012 **Travel Award, Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association (ISA)**
- Subsidized the travel to the RC28 conference in recognition of good scholarship in the field of stratification (US\$500). This award is given only once in a four-year period to the same person.
- 2008 – 2010 **Postgraduate Studentship, CUHK, Hong Kong**
- Provided the stipend in return for assisting in the teaching and research work of the Department of Sociology, CUHK (HK\$307 200 ≈ US\$39 384).
- 2006 – 2007 **Dean's Honors' List, Faculty of Social Science, CUHK, Hong Kong**
- Students included in the Honor Roll were those who had good academic performance with a grade point average (GPA) within the top 10% of each department.
- 2006 – 2007 **Chung Chi College Head's List, CUHK, Hong Kong**
- In addition to meeting the standards for appointment to the Honor Roll, students showed good performance in general education courses, active participation in extracurricular activities and good conduct.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Law, Helen and Joanna Sikora. 2018. Gender stratification and feminist sociology: Why East-Central Europe needs more quantitative gender stratification research. *Fabrica Societatis* 1(1): 207-222. ([link](#))

Law, Helen. 2018. Gender and mathematics: Pathways to mathematically intensive fields of study in Australia. *Advances in Life Course Research* 37: 42-56. 5-year impact factor in 2017: 1.715. ([DOI](#))

Law, Helen. 2018. Why do adolescent boys dominate advanced mathematics subjects in the final year of secondary school in Australia? *Australian Journal of Education* 62(2): 169-191. 5-year impact factor in 2017: 1.185. ([DOI](#))

The *Teacher* magazine of the Australian Council for Educational Research highlights this research in its article, "Gender and enrolment in advanced maths":

<https://www.teachermagazine.com.au/articles/gender-and-enrolment-in-advanced-maths>

The *Australian Journal of Education* and the *Teacher* magazine share this paper and the article on social media (Twitter and email bulletin).

The [ANU Gender Institute](#) also included this article in its newsletter.

Kim, Doo Hwan and **Helen Law**. 2012. Gender gap in maths test scores in South Korea and Hong Kong: Role of family background and single-sex schooling. *International Journal of Educational Development* 32(1): 92-103. 5-year impact factor in 2012: 1.134 ([DOI](#))

Law, Helen and Doo Hwan Kim. 2011. Single-sex schooling and mathematics performance: Comparison of sixteen countries in PISA 2006. *Social Transformations in Chinese Societies* 7(2): 233-272 (the official journal of the Hong Kong Sociological Association). ([link](#))

Book chapters

Law, Helen. *Forthcoming in 2019*. The underrepresentation of women in maths-intensive fields of study: The role of teenage occupational expectations, self-assessed maths competence and subject choice in Year 12. In *20 Years of Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth*.

Conference proceedings

Kim, Doo Hwan and **Helen Law**. 2010. Gender gap in maths test scores in Korea and Hong Kong: Role of family background and single-sex schooling. *Full papers and abstracts of the 14th World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES)*, published by the Organizing Committee of the 14th WCCES and the Faculty of Education at Boğaziçi University, Turkey.

Conference presentations

- Jul 2018 The Educational Inequality Conference of the Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies ([AMCIS](#)), Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Jul 2015 The 24th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference “No Frills” of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research ([NCVER](#)), Sydney, Australia
- Jul 2013 The Winter Meeting of Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility ([RC28](#)) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Brisbane, Australia
- May 2012 The Spring Meeting of [RC28](#), ISA, Hong Kong, China
- Jun 2010 The 14th World Congress of Comparative Education Societies ([WCCES](#)), Istanbul, Turkey
- Dec 2009 [The 11th Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Sociological Association](#), Hong Kong, China

Workshop presentations

- Oct 2018 The 2nd interdisciplinary workshop for junior educational researchers organised by the College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research ([CIDER](#)) and the Leibniz Education Research Network ([LERN](#)), Berlin, Germany
- Oct 2018 “Educational inequalities: psychological and sociological processes” workshop, Tübingen, Germany
- Oct 2017 “Educational policies, processes and social inequalities” workshop, Tübingen, Germany

Other research experiences

- Jun 2014 – Jun 2015 *Research assistant*, School of Sociology, ANU
Supervisor: Professor Larry Saha
- Jul 2012 – Jun 2013 *Research assistant*, School of Sociology, ANU
Supervisor: Dr Joanna Sikora
- Nov 2010 – Feb 2012 *Research assistant*, Department of Sociology, CUHK
Supervisors:
Professor Lei Jin (Nov 2010 – Feb 2012),
Professor Doo Hwan Kim (Nov 2010 – Aug 2011),
Professor Nicole W.T. Cheung (Mar – May 2011)
- Dec 2007 – Jul 2008 *Student helper as a research assistant*, Faculty of Law, CUHK
Supervisor: Professor Eric W.H. Chui

Service to the profession and membership

Reviewer:

*Australian Journal of Education, International Journal of Comparative Sociology,
International Education Journal: Comparative Perspectives*

Membership:

2012 – Present, member, Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility
([RC28](#)) of the International Sociological Association (ISA)

2018 – Present, associated member, LEAD Graduate School & Research Network,
The University of Tübingen, Germany

2015 – Present, fellow, Life Course Centre, Institute of Social Science Research, The
University of Queensland, Australia

Teaching and supervisory experiences

2017 – 2018 *1 research assistant*

2014 *Completion of [principles of tutoring and demonstrating](#), ANU*

2008 – 2010 *Teaching assistant, Department of Sociology, CUHK*

SOC3207 Economic Sociology Semester 2, 2009/10

SOC2112 Korean Society and Culture Semester 1, 2008/09

Semester 1, 2009/10

UGC2973 Korean Society and Culture Semester 2, 2008/09

Statistical software

Stata, SAS, SPSS, Mplus, HLM and R

Languages

English (fluent)

Cantonese Chinese with traditional characters (native)

Mandarin Chinese with simplified characters (fluent)