

Ruijia (Cherie) Xiao

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EDUCATION

- Sep. 2021 – Present **University of California – San Diego (GPA: 3.74/4.0)**
9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093
- **Major: Cognitive Science (Major GPA: 3.88/4.0)**
 - **Minor: Data Science**
 - **Coursework:** Brain Disorders and Cognition; Neuroanatomy and Physiology; Statistical Methods; Practice of Data Science

PUBLICATIONS

Ruijia Xiao. (2024). The Overview of Promising Nonpharmacological Treatments to Improve the Cognitive Performance of Schizophrenia Patients. Accepted to *The 4th International Conference on Biological Engineering and Medical Science, ICBioMed 2024*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- July 2024 – Present **Research Assistant, Functional Neuroscience Lab**
PI: Dr. Fiza Singh (*Associate Professor of Psychiatry, UCSD*)
- Studies how frontal gamma oscillation modulations improve working memory in patients with mild cognitive impairment
 - Administers neurofeedback to participants using EEG CGX cap, with data processed in MatLab
 - Conducts and scores neuropsychological assessments measuring memory, attention, executive functioning, and motor speed using instruments such as the MCCB
 - Collects participant feedback through Qualtrics
 - CITI-certified to work with human subjects in clinical research trial
- April 2024 – July 2024 **Research Intern, American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology (AIBRT)**
PI: Dr. Robert Epstein (*Senior Research Psychologist, AIBRT*)
- Conducted projects on resilience competencies using the Epstein Resilience Inventory
 - Reviewed and organized literatures relevant to resilience and mental health
 - Analyzed data through linear regression analysis using SPSS
 - Drafted and edited sections of the manuscript
- April 2024 – June 2024 **Student, Advanced Research Workshop in Brain Science: Understanding the Cause of Common Brain Disorders from the Perspective of Celebrities**
Course Instructors: Dr. Jeff Dalley (*Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, Director of Studies in Neuroscience and Psychology, University of Cambridge*) & **Dr. Weijun Ma** (*Associate Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, East China Normal University*)
- **Workshop by Dr. Jeff Dalley**
 - Reviewed human brain anatomy, focusing on structures and functions of different lobes in the cerebral cortex, grey and white matter, neurodevelopmental processes, and network topologies
 - Studied stress-related mental disorders (e.g., schizophrenia, depression, substance use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder) and examined related transnational research for emerging treatment interventions
 - Learned famous mental disorder examples and gain experience in diagnosing mental disorders based on DSM, Research Domain criteria (RDoC), and endophenotypes
 - Explored limitations of the DSM framework and ways to improve diagnostic accuracy and patient mental health outcomes
 - Authored and presented a literature review titled “Schizophrenia: A Complex and Chronic Mental Health Disorder”, which received commendation from Dr. Dalley

- **Workshop by Dr. Weijun Ma**
 - Learned the neurological bases of addiction, sexual orientation, attention, and cognition
 - Studied the underlying cognitive processes of learning, memory, language, and thoughts
 - Explored the connection between brain development and social cognition

Jan. 2021 – June 2021

Research Assistant, Social and Engineering Psychology Research Lab

PI: Dr. Jingyu Zhang (*Associate Professor of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences*)

- Designed specialized behavioral assessments contributing to the training program for the Chinese National Space Administration's (CNSA) air traffic controllers
- Coded and annotated video footages of Baidu's autonomous test vehicles to assist in data collection and analysis processes

INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEER

Aug. 2024 – Present
2hr/week

Peer Support Mentor, Mood Psychological Counseling
Remote

- Received comprehensive training from licensed professional therapists to build the foundation for counseling and the effectiveness in emotional support
- Provided weekly mental health support sessions to assigned mentee via zoom

Jan. 2024 – Present
2hr/week

Event Planning Department Officer, Mood Psychological Counseling
9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093

- Designed series of stress-relief activities targeting Chinese international students
- Held monthly workshops to promote student well-beings and reduce feelings of loneliness

May 2023 – Feb. 2024
5hr/week

Data Engineer Intern and Business Intern, Pieneer, Co. (Startup)
9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, CA 92093 & Remote

- Collected, organized, and analyzed data of student organizations that we partnered with
- Outreached to UCSD student organizations to build a collective platform that could streamlined the management and promotion of events being held

June 2022 – Aug. 2022
15hr/week

Teaching Assistant, Fafan Education

505B Ruijin Business Center, 100 Zhaojiabang Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai

- Worked closely with class teachers to design and grade assignments or exams
- Provided one-to-one, after-school tutoring to students preparing TOFEL and SAT exams

Dec. 2020 – Jan. 2021
10hr/week

Customer Service, Mango Psychology
Shanghai China

- Responded to hot-line calls, offering initial assessments and emotional support mainly regarding interpersonal issues
- Identified callers' needs and transferred cases to clinical specialists

Dec. 2019 – Dec. 2020
2hr/week

Volunteer, Blue Harbour Club

3300 North Zhongshan Road, Putuo District, Shanghai, China

- Socialized with and provided company to Zi An, a young boy with cerebral palsy and cognitive impairment
- Designed engaging cognitive development games and interactive plays to promote Zi An's social and cognitive abilities

OTHER SKILLS

Programming: Java, Python, MatLab

Software: SPSS, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Drive Suite

Languages: English, Mandarin, Cantonese (read only), German (Elementary)