Jiaying (Mai) Xu

jiayingxu@fas.harvard.edu | +1 425 449 0082 | https://maimaixx.github.io/

Education

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA **June 2023 – May 2025**
Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology
GPA: 3.7/4.0
Thesis: *Alcohol as a Predictor of Sexual Aggression Recidivism*

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA **August 2020 – May 2023**
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology (Double Major)
GPA: 3.7/4.0, Dean's List, Cum Laude

Manuscripts in Preparation

Xu, J., & Xu, H. *Modifiable lifestyle and psychosocial factors that buffer the long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences on adult cognitive ability: Evidence from the UK Biobank.*

Xu, J., Zhao, C., & Xu, H. *CPTSD and PTSD in Chinese clinical adolescents: Diagnostic criteria, detection rates, and the role of adverse childhood experiences.*

Qin, H., **Xu, J.**, Wang, J., Wang, W., & Xu, H. (2025). *Brain structural underpinnings of the differential effects of threat and deprivation on executive function: A UK Biobank study.* published online ahead of print.

Posters

Xu, J., & Knight, R.A. (September 2025). *Alcohol as a Predictor of Sexual Aggression Recidivism.* Poster presented at the *Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) Annual Research & Treatment Conference*; Orlando, Florida.

Research Experience

Research Fellow & Lab Manager—Developmental and Psychopathology Studies **Jun 2025 – Present**
State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Science & Mental Health, Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
(PI: Hang Xu, Ph.D.; PI: Weiwen Wang, Ph.D.)

Lead and contribute to multi-method projects on childhood adversity, resilience, and intervention mechanisms, spanning large-scale datasets, clinical adolescent samples, and juvenile intervention trials.

- **UK Biobank causal inference (first author; in preparation).** Designed and implemented a causal-forest (`grf`) workflow (orthogonalization, cross-fitting) to estimate Conditional Average Treatment Effects (CATEs) of ACEs on adult executive function. Built reproducible R pipelines to integrate modifiable lifestyle/psychosocial traits, cognitive outcomes, and inflammatory biomarkers; conducted regression analyses linking ACE and cognitive function to C-Reactive protein. *Also contributing to Qin et al., 2025 (submitted) on threat vs. deprivation*
- **Complex PTSD vs. PTSD in Chinese adolescents (first author; in preparation).** Cleaned, analyzed, and synthesized survey and clinical data across DSM-5 and ICD-11 criteria; examined detection rates, symptom heterogeneity, and ACE-related risk pathways in a large adolescent clinical cohort.
- **Juvenile intervention study (Zhangjiakou City; funding approved).** Co-developing trauma-informed intervention protocols; responsible for EEG/MRI data collection and analysis of neurocognitive mechanisms of intervention response; preparing manuscripts on baseline trauma, cognition, and neurobiological predictors.
- **Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment (TIOA).** Assisted in Chinese translation, cultural adaptation, and national rollout of TIOA; co-led training workshops for clinicians; created facilitator guides, fidelity metrics, and implementation checklists to enhance trauma-informed practice uptake.
- **Teaching & survey project.** Assisted with Health Psychology (UCAS course 180207040200MX004Y) and

concurrently developed a separate survey study on healthy college students; collected, coded, and analyzed data to support classroom-based research training led by Dr. Wang.

- **Lab management.** Coordinate day-to-day operations, including training/supervision of junior RAs, IRB compliance, database management, manuscript drafting, and lab-wide research meetings.

Research Assistant — Emotion Regulation Meta-Analysis   Feb 2025 – Present
Harvard University/Yale University (PI: Mark Shuquan Chen, Ph.D.)

Cross-cultural update of a prior Nature Human Behavior meta-analysis on emotion regulation and mental health.

- Screened >5,000 records against inclusion/exclusion criteria.
- Coded strategy type, demographics, and cultural indices with interrater checks.
- Extracted outcome metrics for effect-size computation and moderator modeling.
- Coordinated coder meetings; logged decisions to ensure reproducibility.
- Summarized emerging moderator patterns for interpretation memos.

Research Fellow — SMILE & Big4 META Projects   Oct 2024 – Present
Lab for Youth Mental Health, Harvard University (PI: John Weisz, Ph.D.)

Meta-analyses of school-based interventions (SMILE) and psychotherapy homework effects (Big4).

- Screened >3,000 studies; documented PRISMA flow diagrams.
- Extracted intervention, outcome, and moderator data into REDCap.
- Calibrated interrater reliability; refined coding manual for clarity.
- Verified effect-size calculations and contributed to moderator models in R.
- Drafted methods and integrated literature for manuscripts.

Graduate Researcher — Master's Thesis (Alcohol & Recidivism)   Jun 2023 – May 2025
Knight Lab, Brandeis University (PI: Raymond A. Knight, Ph.D.)

Archival dataset (Massachusetts Treatment Center + NIJ) testing alcohol use as predictor of recidivism 1–15 years post-release.

- Obtained IRB approval; developed hypotheses and measurement plan.
- Extracted archival files with MTC Dictionary; built longitudinal datasets.
- Derived 28-item alcohol scales via exploratory factor analysis.
- Fit logistic and Cox regression models for differentiated recidivism.
- Disseminated results (ATSA, MASOC, MATSA) and drafted manuscript.

Undergraduate Research Assistant — Psychopathy & Sexual Aggression   Jun 2022 – May 2023
Knight Lab, Brandeis University (PI: Raymond A. Knight, Ph.D.; Supervisor: Sonja Krstic, Ph.D.)

Literature synthesis on developmental antecedents and personality correlates of sexual aggression.

- Conducted targeted searches of longitudinal studies.
- Summarized theoretical updates for lab conceptual models.
- Produced evidence briefs integrating findings into projects.

Undergraduate Summer Research Assistant — Socioeconomic & Wellbeing Studies   May 2021 – Sep 2021
Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (PI: Xuefeng Chen, Ph.D.)

Projects on poverty, parenting behavior, and income–happiness relationships.

- Consolidated literature on poverty and parental behavior constructs.
- Cleaned and analyzed survey datasets (SPSS / Excel).
- Prepared internal summaries to support manuscripts.

Industrial Experience

Psychology Student Intern — Digital Platform Initiative · **Aug 2023 – Jun 2024**
Boston Children's Hospital, Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Children's (PPOC)
(Supervisors: Maria Jesus Arrojo, LMFT/LMHC; Jonas Bromberg, Psy.D.)

Research for an internal platform enhancing outpatient pediatric behavioral health integration.

- Evaluated >80 digital youth mental health tools; identified functional gaps.
- Designed and deployed clinician surveys (SurveyMonkey / Qualtrics).
- Analyzed survey data to generate integration recommendations.
- Presented feature priorities informing platform scope and IT roadmap.

Extracurricular Activities

Student Club Co-Founder · **Dec 2022 – Jan 2024**
Muhe Mood Psychology, Brandeis Chapter

- Founded and managed a 114-member organization promoting mental health awareness among international students.
- Coordinated campus events, partnered with school counselors, and expanded resource access.
- Directed outreach via 100+ social media posts and initiatives, including an anonymous letter exchange campaign.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Course Assistant, Developmental Psychology, Brandeis University · **Fall 2024**
Principal Instructor: Hannah Snyder

Graduate Course Assistant, Statistics, Brandeis University · **Fall 2024**
Principal Instructor: Paul Dizio

Graduate Course Assistant, Intro to Psychology, Brandeis University · **Spring 2025**
Principal Instructor: Ryan Lundell-Creagh

Graduate Course Assistant, Statistics in R, Brandeis University · **Spring 2025**
Principal Instructor: Ryan Lundell-Creagh

Honors and Awards

Merit Scholarship, Brandeis University · **2023 - 24**
GSAS Grant, Brandeis University · **2023 -24**
Cum Laude, Brandeis University · **2023**
Dean's List, Brandeis University · **2021 - 23**

Skills & Test Scores

Programming Skills: R Studio(ANOVAregression, machine learning, causal forest, Bayesian), SPSS, JASP, LaTeX, Python, Colab, Github, Matlab
Additional Skills: Qualtrics, Covidence, Stata, Umbrella, Survey Monkey, REDCap, Zotero
Languages: Mandarin (native), English (bilingual), Spanish (intermediate), Japanese (intermediate)
GRE: 166 Verbal, 165 Quantitative (June, 2021)
TOEFL: 114 (June, 2016)