

Mingcong TANG

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EDUCATION

2023 – 2024	Boston University , Boston, MA Master of Arts (MA), Psychology Mentors: Qimin Liu, PhD and Todd Farchione, PhD <i>Thesis 1:</i> Identifying pathways from childhood adversity to suicidal thoughts and behaviors among sexual minority adults: an exploratory mediation analysis <i>Thesis 2:</i> Changes in cognitive reappraisal as a transdiagnostic mechanism of UP for emotional disorders
2019 – 2023	Southwest University , Beibei, CQ Bachelor of Science (BS), Psychology Mentor: Hong Chen, PhD <i>Thesis:</i> Effects of multidimensional early adversity on internalizing psychopathology symptoms: the transdiagnostic mechanism of avoidance behavior
2021	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Summer Session
2020	University of California, Berkeley , Berkeley, CA Exchange Semester

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS († indicates co-first author)

Zhang, J., Ji, R. *, Vegara, R. C., **Tang, M.**, & Khouri, B. (in press). Validation of the Embodied Mindfulness Questionnaire (EMQ) in a Chinese context: Preliminary evidence for cross-cultural measurement invariance.

Ji, R. *, **Tang, M.**, Vegara, R. C., Zhang, J., Cai, W., & Khouri, B. (in press). Validation of the Interpersonal Mindfulness Questionnaire (IMQ) in a Chinese Context: Preliminary Evidence for Cross-cultural Measurement Invariance.

Joshi, S. A., Lin, T., Balderston, N., Lynch, K., **Tang, M.**, Patel, M., Sun, I., Fureman, B., Oathes, D., Gregory, D., Sheline, Y., & Brown, L. A. (2025). A mechanistic trial of the neurobiology of extinction learning and intraparietal sulcus stimulation: Protocol. *Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications*.

Tang, M., & Ni, Y. (2025). The influence of parenting styles on adolescents' interpersonal relationship: A person-centered and variable-centered multi-informant study. *Current Psychology*.

- Lin, T., **Tang, M.**, Bauermeister, J. A., Tran, J. T., Kautz, M. M., Donnelly, H., Webster, J., Wolfe, J. R., Ben Nathan, J., Arcamano, A., Oquendo, M. A., Brown, G. K., Mandell, D., Mowery, D., & Brown, L. A. (2025). Moderating effects of coping strategies on the associations between stigma and depression among emerging adult sexual minorities. *Journal of affective disorders*, 390, 119843.
- Tang, M.**, Long, L. J., Torre, M., Spencer-Laitt, D., Moreno-Villamizar, J. D., Barlow, D. H., & Farchione, T. J. (2025). Cognitive reappraisal as a potential mechanism of Unified Protocol (UP) for emotional disorders. *Behavior Therapy*.
- Liu Q, **Tang M.,†** Rodriguez VJ. Stigma Experiences of Sexual and Gender Minority Parents and Offspring Mental Health. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025;8(4): e254502.
- Brown, L., Joshi, S., Patel, M., Fureman, B., **Tang, M.**, Oathes, D., Sheline, Y., Lynch, K., & Balderston, N. (2025). Continuous theta burst stimulation to the intraparietal cortex among patients with posttraumatic stress disorder. *Brain Stimulation: Basic, Translational, and Clinical Research in Neuromodulation*, 18(1), 343.
- Luo, Y., **Tang, M.,†** & Fan, X. Meta-analysis of resting frontal alpha asymmetry as a biomarker of depression. *npj Mental Health Res* 4, 2 (2025).
- Tang, M.**, Zheng, Y., Zhang, X., & Fan, X. (2025). Non-invasive neuromodulation treatment for depression in adolescents: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychiatry Research*, 344, 116329.
- Joshi, S., Patel, M., Balderston, N., Lynch, K., Fureman, B., Oathes, D., Sheline, Y., **Tang, M.**, & Brown, L. (2024). Effects of intraparietal sulcus stimulation on extinction learning in PTSD. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 49, 482.
- Tang, M.**, Rodriguez, V. J., Stanton, A. M., Trichtinger, L. A., Yung, A., & Liu, Q. (2024). Identifying pathways from childhood adversity to suicidal thoughts and behaviors among sexual minority adults: An exploratory mediation analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 363, 532–541.
- Li, J., Chen, Y., **Tang, M.**, & Wang, S. (2024). Do Negative Self-Evaluative Emotions Enhance Healthier Food Choices? Exploring the Moderating Role of Self-Affirmation. *Behavioral Sciences*, 14(7), Article 7.
- Tang, M.**, Xi, J., & Fan, X. (2022). QT interval is correlated with and can predict the comorbidity of depression and anxiety: A cross-sectional study on outpatients with first-episode depression. *Frontiers in cardiovascular medicine*, 9, 915539.
- Li, J., **Tang, M.**, Zhang, Q., Chen, Y., Ye, S., & Wang, S. (2022). Thinking on integrating health ethics into health education and the prospect of its practice path. *Chinese Medical Ethics*, 35(12)

Liu, Q., Irani, K., Standring, J. P., **Tang, M.**, Luo, Y., Sangani, A. N., Tran, T., & Quinn, M. E. (in submission). Symptom-specific relation to functional impairment among adults with lifetime depression in daily lives.

Tang, M., Hao, C., Tran, T., & Liu, Q. (in submission). Association between foraging decisions and psychopathology symptoms.

Lin, T., Wiley, J., Zhu, Y., **Tang, M.**, Taylor, D. J., Pruiksma, K. E., Feler, B., Kautz, M., Baker, J., Khazem, L., Bryan, C. J., & Brown, L. A. (in submission). Predicting next-day suicidal urges, depression, and PTSD symptoms using ecological momentary assessments and passive sensing of sleep among military service members

Lin, T., Qiu, T., **Tang, M.**, Rogers, K., & Hadlock, S. (in submission). Symptom trajectories in intensive outpatient treatment exposure and response prevention for obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Li, M., Li, C., **Tang, M.**, Jiang, N., Li, X., Sun, Z., Wu, M., Ding, H., & Fan, Q. (under review). Associations between acoustic features and schizophrenia symptoms: A multi-task study with follow-up.

Liu, Q., **Tang, M.**, Hua, A. Y., Irani, K., & Rodriguez, V. J. (under review). Differential intergenerational pathways from parental childhood adversity to child psychopathology: Evidence from sexual and gender minority families.

Tang, M., May, A., Zoupou, E., Vu, B., AlRabiah, R., Zhu, Y., & Brown, L. (under review). The impact of contextual explanations on clinician responses to EMR-based suicide risk flags.

Liu, Q., Luo, Y. *, **Tang, M.**, Tran, T., & Yung, A. (under review). Intraindividual dynamics between rumination and tonic/phasic irritability among adults with symptoms of depression: A daily study.

Liu, Q., Zhu, Y. *, **Tang, M.**, & Rodriguez, V. J. (under review). A text mining approach to measure consistency in reasons for irritability.

Zhang, J., Llera, S. J., **Tang, M.**, Zhong, H., & Newman, M. G. (under review). Development and validation of the Chinese version of the Contrast Avoidance Questionnaires.

Joshi, S. A., **Tang, M.**, Denis, C., Voytek, C. D., Smith, P., Adams, N., Enge, L., Fiore, D., Metzger, D. S., & Brown, L. A. (in submission). Self-reported healthcare goals among people who inject drugs in five United States cities.

Tang, M., Yih, I., Li, Y., Jin, F., & Liu, Q. (in preparation). Comorbidity across childhood and adolescence: A Bayesian Gaussian Graphical Model (BGGM) analysis of Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) syndromes in a nationally representative Chinese sample

Fernnadez, K., **Tang, M.**, O'Reilly, J. A., Luck, S. J., & Liu, Q. (in preparation). Component potential reduction statistic: A metric of data quality for averaged event-related potentials.

Liu, Q., **Tang, M.**, Gao, F. & Liu, H. (in preparation). Idiographic state-dependent Gaussian graphical model.

BOOK AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Dijkstra, A., & **Tang, M.** (2023). Health Psychology, Healthy Behavior Change and Lifestyle Treatment. In Wang, S., Chen, J., Chen, Y., Chen, X (Eds.), *Theory and Practice of Medical Communication*. Chaoyang, Beijing: People's Medical Publishing House Co., LTD.

SYMPOSIA, PRESENTATIONS, AND POSTERS (*signifies mentee author)

Brown, L. A., Rosaz-Sharify, L., **Tang, M.**, Schwarz, R., & Shih, J. (in submission). Maximizing capacity for CBT using a digital tool (Symposium). Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) Annual Conference.

Lin, T., Taylor, D. J., **Tang, M.**, Zhu, Y., Kautz, M. M., Pruiksma, K. E., Baker, J. C., Khazem, L., Bryan, C. J., Wiley, J., & Brown, L. A. (2025, November). Predicting next-day suicidal urges, depression, and PTSD symptoms using active and passive sleep assessment among military personnel [Conference symposium]. *ABCT 59th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Tang, M., Tyler, J., & Brown, L.A. (accepted). Investigating Anxiety and Depression Trajectories in CBT: A Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model Approach. [Poster presentation]. *ABCT 59th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Rodriguez, V. J., **Tang, M.**, & Liu, Q. (2025, April). Understanding Family-Level Stigma: Effects on Child Outcomes in Diverse Family Structures [Invited talk]. *Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, United States.

Joshi, S.A., Patel, M., Balderston, N., Lynch, K., Fureman, B., Oathes, D., Sheline, Y., **Tang, M.**, & Brown, L.A. (2024, December). Effects of Intraparietal Sulcus Stimulation on Extinction Learning in PTSD. [Poster presentation]. *Annual convention of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology*, Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Tang, M., Shepherd, B. F., Horrocks, B., Lopez, R. Jr., & Feinstein, B. A. (2024, November). Minority stress and mental health among LGBTQ+ persons across the lifespan: A longitudinal, developmentally informed approach. In **Tang, M.** & B. F. Shepherd (Chairs). *Symposium conducted at the ABCT 58th Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Luo, Y. *, Tran, T., **Tang, M.**, & Liu, Q. (2024, November). Intraindividual dynamics between rumination and irritability in adults. [Poster presentation]. *ABCT 58th Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Tang, M., Zhang, J., & Cai, H. (2024, November). Moderated Mediation Association and Intervention Effects Between Mindfulness and Internalizing Psychopathology. [Poster presentation]. *ABCT 58th Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Zhu, Y. *, **Tang, M.**, Tran, T., & Liu, Q. (2024, November). Measuring the consistency of daily irritability triggers: A text-mining approach. [Poster presentation]. *ABCT 58th Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Tang, M., Li, S., Luo, Y., Morgan, L., Sim, M., Stoietskyi, F., Verstraet, L., Zhu, Y., Yung, A., Liu, Q., Rodriguez, V. J., & Trichtinger, L. (2024, May). Impact of parental stigma, internalizing, and externalizing psychopathology on child emotional and conduct problems. [Paper presentation]. *2024 ABCT Student SIG Research Symposium*, Virtual Conference.

Morgan, L., **Tang, M.**, Luo, Y., Sim, M., Yung, A., Trichtinger, L.A., Rodriguez, V.J., & Liu, Q. (2024, May). Identifying the Relations Between Internalized Stigma, Irritable Mood, and Aggressive Outbursts in Sexual and Gender Minority Parents: A Network Science Approach. [Paper presentation]. *2024 ABCT Student SIG Research Symposium*, Virtual Conference.

Tang, M., & Wei, D. (2024, April). The association between depression, anxiety and positive or negative emotion: a comparative study of the mediating mechanisms. [Poster presentation]. *2024 ADAA Annual Conference*, Boston, MA, United States.

Tang, M. (2023, September). Explore the impact of early life adversity on the development of avoidance in internalizing psychopathology symptoms: A dimensional approach. [Poster presentation]. *36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology*, St. Louis, MO, United States.

Tang, M. (2023, July). Explore the association between dimensions of early life adversity and avoidance in internalizing symptoms. [Poster presentation]. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (JCCAP), 2023 Future Directions Forum*, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Tang, M., & Wang, L. (2023, May). An Eye-Tracking study of the effects of prior knowledge on children's socio-emotional development through cartoon watching. [Paper presentation]. *International Joint Forum on Psychological and Cognitive Sciences for Young Scholars*, Virtual Conference.

Ye, L., & **Tang, M.** (2023, March). A systematic review and meta-analysis of the association between depression and academic performance in adolescents. [Paper presentation]. *EGSS 21st Annual Conference*, Virtual Conference.

PATENT

Tang, M. (2022). Electronic bracelet intelligent monitoring management system for family interactions (Software Copyright No. 2022SR0365705). China National Copyright Administration.

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2025	Student and Early Career Professional Scholarship, <i>Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavior Therapy</i>
2023	Graduate Study Abroad Fellowship, <i>Southwest University</i>
2023	Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award (Province-Level) <i>Chongqing Municipal Education Commission</i>
2023	Outstanding Graduate Award, <i>Southwest University</i>
2022	Globalink Research Internship Fellowship, <i>Mitacs Program</i>
2022	China Scholarship Council, <i>Minister of Education of China</i>
2022	Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling: Meritorious Winner, <i>COMAP</i>
2022	First Prize Scholarship, <i>Southwest University</i>
2021-2022	Innovation Program for Undergraduates of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Funding (No. 20214002285). Student PI.
2021-2022	Chongqing Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program Funding (No. S202110635261). Student PI.
2021	China National Scholarship, <i>Minister of Education of China</i>
2021	Study Abroad Scholarship, <i>Southwest University</i>
2020	First Prize Scholarship, <i>Southwest University</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (RQ = Research Question)

Philadelphia, PA

July 2024 – July 2025

Center For the Treatment and Study of Anxiety

PI: Lily Brown, Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine

Research Coordinator

RQ: What are the neurobiological and cognitive mechanisms underlying treatment response in individuals with trauma-related and emotional disorders?

- Project: IPS TMS for Patients with PTSD - A mechanistic trial investigating how stimulation of the intraparietal sulcus modulates extinction learning and PTSD symptoms
 - a. Collected and managed multi-modal data: conducted baseline and follow-up clinical interviews to assess symptom changes and treatment response; collected brain imaging scans and self-report questionnaires; assisted with TMS administration and session coordination alongside clinicians and technicians
 - b. Managed NDA data submissions and coordinated project documentation and administrative task

RQ: How can digital and ecological momentary interventions improve emotional well-being and treatment accessibility for individuals awaiting or receiving care?

- Project: Digital interventions for participants on waitlist
 - a. Developed IRB submissions and study protocols
 - b. Programmed and managed digital study platforms; oversaw day-to-day study operations
 - c. Conducted clinical interviews to assess participant eligibility and progress

RQ: How do cognitive control processes influence suicidal thoughts and emotional dysregulation?

- Project: Cognitive control training (CCT) on suicidal ideation intensity

- a. Programmed study materials
- b. Assisted in IRB protocol development

Other manuscript projects (data analysis and manuscript preparation)

- Project: The impact of contextual explanations on clinician responses to EMR-based suicide risk flags
- Project: Vignette intervention study for suicidality among randomized groups
- Project: Supporting Transitions to Adulthood and Reducing Suicide (STARS)
- Project: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for patients presenting with primary psychiatric diagnoses

Boston, MA

Boston University, Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders

Dec 2023 - July 2024, Sept 2025 - present

Lab Manager

Quantitative Psychopathology Laboratory

PI: Qimin Liu, Ph.D.

RQ: How do computational mechanisms of decision-making and cognitive control contribute to emotion regulation and internalizing psychopathology?

- Project: Hierarchical Drift Diffusion Model (HDDM) analyses of Go/No-Go and Stop Signal tasks to link decision parameters (e.g., drift rate, threshold) with daily emotional reports
- Project: Applied reinforcement learning (RL) models using Bayesian approaches to behavioral task data. Linked foraging and reward-learning parameters (e.g., exploration-exploitation balance, learning rate) to depression, anxiety, and related symptoms

RQ: How do dynamic patterns of irritability and mood regulation contribute to the maintenance and fluctuation of depressive symptoms in daily life?

- Project: Text mining of daily diary data to identify contextual triggers and temporal patterns of irritability
- Project: Multilevel modeling to examine bidirectional associations between irritability and depression across days
 - a. Develop analytic strategies, perform formal analysis and write manuscripts
 - b. Provide mentorship to undergraduate and volunteer research assistants

RQ: How do momentary stress responses and physiological regulation shape daily emotional adaptation in depression and anxiety?

- Project: Exploring Psychological and Physiological Markers of Discrimination (Fitbit Study)
 - a. Investigate how daily experiences of discrimination relate to emotional and physiological stress responses using wearable (Fitbit) EKG monitoring and ecological momentary assessments (EMA)

RQ: How does irritability reflect dysregulated emotion processes that contribute to depression and anxiety?

- Project: The Role of Irritability in Depression (IDI Study)
 - a. Use a multi-method approach (clinical interviews, baseline cognitive tasks, 28-day EMA) to assess how momentary irritability interacts with daily emotion regulation and mood fluctuations
 - b. Apply computational modeling and longitudinal analysis to quantify intraindividual dynamics between irritability, affect, and contextual stressors

RQ: How do social and emotional communication processes contribute to depression risk and regulation in daily life?

- Project: Social Communication in Depression (SCD Study)
 - a. Examines how conversational emotion dynamics and nonverbal behaviors (facial/vocal expressions) relate to emotion regulation and social functioning
 - b. Lead project management and coordination across multiple study teams, including scheduling, recruitment, and weekly progress meetings; train and supervise research assistants on data collection, adherence monitoring, and protocol implementation; maintain and organize study databases across multi-source datasets (questionnaire, experimental, and wearable data); develop and program experimental procedures and research protocols; prepare and submit IRB materials

RQ: What social, familial, and cognitive mechanisms contribute to risk and resilience in the development of depression, anxiety, and suicidality among sexual minority individuals?

- Project: Identifying pathways from childhood adversity to suicidal thoughts and behaviors among sexual minority adults: an exploratory mediation analysis
- Project: Model construction about the intergenerational transmission of parents' and children's internalizing and externalizing psychopathology, with the association with external stressors (e.g., stigma, prejudice)
 - a. Develop analytic strategies, perform formal analysis and write manuscripts

Other manuscript projects (data analysis and manuscript preparation)

- Project: Development of ERP validity measures
- Project: Bayesian Gaussian Graphical Modeling of Psychopathology Networks in the ABCD Study
- Project: Cross-Lagged Panel Network Analysis of Decision-Making, Stress, and Behavioral Symptoms in the ABCD Study
- Project: Hierarchical Taxonomy (HiTOP) Modeling of CBCL and KSADS Dimensions in the ABCD Study

Boston, MA

Sep 2023 - July 2024

TREND UP Lab

PIs: Todd Farchione, Ph.D. and David H. Barlow, Ph.D.

Boston University, Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders

Project Coordinator

RQ: How do emotion regulation processes, such as cognitive reappraisal, mediate treatment outcomes and symptom change in anxiety and depression?

- Project: Dynamic Changes in Emotion Regulation as a Mechanism Linking the Unified Protocol to Reductions in Internalizing Psychopathology
- Project: Examining Daily Emotion Regulation Dynamics During CBT Using Network Analysis and Group Iterative Multiple Model Estimation (GIMME)

Other involved projects

- Project: Flourishing and Virtue in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety and Depressive Disorders

- Project: Using machine learning to develop precision treatment rules to optimize user engagement and clinical response to digital mental health interventions for emotional disorders (e.g., anxiety, depression, and related mental health disorders)
 - a. Receive training for Structured Interview such as SIGH-A & SIGH-D, MINI
 - b. Develop and maintain electronic databases and monitor data integrity

Montreal, QC

May 2023 - June 2024

PI: Jenny Zhang, Ph.D.

RQ: How do mindfulness-based interventions modulate emotion regulation processes to alleviate depression and anxiety?

- Project: Mechanistic Pathways of Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Internalizing Psychopathology
 - a. Conducted meta-analytic evaluations of mindfulness intervention effectiveness and mediation mechanisms; examined neural correlates of mindfulness-induced emotion regulation changes

RQ: How can mindfulness constructs be operationalized to capture emotion regulation processes across cultural contexts?

- Project: Development and Validation of the Interpersonal and Embodied Mindfulness Questionnaires
 - a. Designed, validated, and psychometrically tested new mindfulness measures; investigated cross-cultural differences in emotion regulation between Chinese and North American participants

RQ: What cognitive and affective mechanisms, such as rumination, underlie the effects of mindfulness training on internalizing symptoms?

- Project: Mindfulness, Rumination, and Emotion Regulation in Internalizing Psychopathology

RQ: How can avoidance-based emotion regulation tendencies be measured across cultures?

- Project: Cross-Cultural Validation of the Contrast Avoidance Questionnaires
 - a. Adapted and validated the Chinese version of the Contrast Avoidance Questionnaires (Worry and General Emotion subscales) to assess avoidance-oriented emotion regulation

Shanghai

Feb 2023 - June 2024

PI: Qing Fan, Ph.D.

RQ: How can computational models of facial expression dynamics serve as biomarkers for depression?

- Project: Predicting Depression Symptoms Using Facial Features in Randomized Controlled and Follow-Up Studies
 - a. Developed Python functions to generate facial feature datasets; applied Transformer-based models to predict depressive symptom trajectories across behavioral tasks

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, School of Medicine

Project Principal Investigator

RQ: How can acoustic features of speech reflect and predict symptom changes in schizophrenia?

- Project: Predicting Schizophrenia Symptoms Using Acoustic Data in Randomized Controlled and Follow-Up Studies
 - a. Extracted acoustic features from speech recordings across experimental contexts; implemented analytic pipelines in Python to model associations between speech markers and schizophrenia symptom changes

Beibei, CQ

2022 - 2023

Creative & Affective Neuroscience Lab (CANB)

PIs: Jiang Qiu, Ph.D. and Dongtao Wei, Ph.D.

RQ: How do emotion regulation and motivational processes contribute to the longitudinal course of depression and anxiety in adolescents and young adults?

- Project: Emotion Regulation and Reward Processing in the Development of Internalizing Psychopathology
 - a. Analyzed psychological and physiological data from large multi-site longitudinal studies to examine prospective associations between depression, anxiety, and emotional states over 18 months; investigated emotion regulation and motivational mechanisms underlying these relationships; compared mechanistic differences between depressive and anxious symptom trajectories

Shanghai

2021 - 2024

PI: Xiwang Fan, Ph.D.

RQ: How can physiological and neural biomarkers and neural oscillatory patterns reflect altered emotion regulation and cognitive control in depression and anxiety?

- Project: Identifying ECG Biomarkers in Depressive and Anxiety Disorders
 - a. Processed ECG data and analyzed cardiac indicators associated with symptom severity using R and Python and wrote manuscripts
- Project: EEG Signatures of Emotion Regulation Deficits in Internalizing Psychopathology
 - a. Conducted meta-analyses on EEG markers and neuromodulation effects; analyzed EEG microstate data in clinical samples; wrote manuscripts

Shanghai Pudong New Area Mental Health Center

Project Principal Investigator

RQ: How effective are neuromodulation approaches in improving depressive symptoms among adolescents and young adults?

- Project: Efficacy of Non-Invasive Neuromodulation for Adolescent and Young Adult Depression
 - a. Performed meta-analyses evaluating treatment efficacy; prepared grant proposals, IRB submissions, and RCT protocols; wrote manuscripts

Edmonton, AB

July 2022 - Oct 2022

Computational Psychiatry Lab

PI: Bo Cao, Ph.D.

RQ: How do digital inclusivity and environmental stressors relate to depression and anxiety?

University of Alberta, Department of Psychiatry

Research Intern

- Project: Associations Between Digital Inclusivity and Mental Health Conditions Using CLSA Data

- a. Conducted literature reviews on psychiatric disorder identification and treatment outcome prediction; cleaned and analyzed large-scale, multi-modal datasets; wrote analysis reports

Beijing

2021 - 2022

Health & Genetic Psychology Research Lab

Supervisor: Ligang Wang, Ph.D.

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology

Project Principal Investigator

RQ: How do early social and emotional cues influence children's socio-emotional development?

- Project: Eye-Tracking Investigation of Children's Socio-Emotional Processing During Cartoon Viewing
 - a. Conceptualized research questions and hypotheses; designed and programmed the experiment; developed IRB materials and standard procedures; collected eye-tracking and questionnaire data from children with and without hearing loss; analyzed multi-modal data (eye movement and behavioral measures) using Python and MATLAB

Beibei, CQ

2021 - 2022

National College Student Innovation and Research Competition

Supervisor: Ni Yan, Ph.D.

Southwest University, School of Psychology

Project Principal Investigator

RQ: How do parenting styles influence adolescents' social relationships and emotion regulation within family systems?

- Project: Identifying Contemporary Chinese Parenting Styles and Their Associations with Adolescents' Interpersonal Relationships
 - a. Conceptualized research questions and hypotheses; conducted literature reviews; developed research proposals, grants, and IRB applications; collected data from over 300 participants across 100+ families; analyzed multi-informant data in R, Amos, and JASP; wrote manuscripts and presented research findings

Beibei, CQ

2020 - 2023

PI: Hong Chen, Ph.D.

Southwest University, School of Psychology

Project Coordinator

RQ: How does early life stress influence emotion regulation and the development of internalizing psychopathology in youth and young adults?

- Project: Early Life Adversity, Cognitive Control, and Emotion Regulation in the Development of Depression and Anxiety
 - a. Analyzed multi-dimensional early adversity (deprivation, threat, instability) and their associations with depression and anxiety symptoms using network and structural equation modeling; conducted meta-analyses on avoidance behavior as a transdiagnostic mechanism; designed and implemented behavioral paradigms (Psychopy, E-Prime, Inquisit) to assess inhibitory control, reward processing, and emotion regulation; collected ecological momentary assessment (EMA) data to examine daily emotional fluctuations and regulatory strategies

Groningen, Netherlands

2021 - 2023

PIs: Yu Chen, Ph.D. and Shuangmiao Wang, Ph.D.

University of Groningen

Research Intern

RQ: How do self-evaluative emotions influence health-related decision-making and behavior change?

- Project: Health Behavioral Changes Associated with Self-Evaluative Emotions in Adolescents and Young Adults
 - a. Programmed and implemented experimental paradigms; developed materials for interventions promoting healthy eating behaviors in naturalistic contexts; analyzed randomized controlled trial data on emotion activation and health behavior change using Stata and R

Beijing

May 2022 - Dec 2022

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Laboratory

PI: Runsen Chen, Ph.D.

Tsinghua University, Vanke School of Public Health

Research Assistant

RQ: How can digital interventions improve the detection and prevention of self-injury and suicidality among youth?

- Project: Parent-Child Agreement and Digital Screening in Youth Suicidality
 - a. Conducted a meta-analysis on parent-child agreement in assessing suicidal behaviors; evaluated and digitized clinical questionnaires assessing externalizing and internalizing disorders; managed and cleaned datasets for digital mental health projects

Beijing

2021 - 2023

Neuropsychology and Applied Cognitive Neuroscience (NACN) Laboratory

PI: Raymond C. K. Chan, Ph.D.

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology

Research Assistant

RQ: What are the cognitive-affective mechanisms linking impulsivity and emotion regulation to self-destructive behaviors and psychopathology?

- Project: Emotion-Related Impulsivity, Self-Destructive Behaviors, and Psychopathology
 - a. Conducted a meta-analysis examining emotion-related impulsivity in self-destructive behaviors with and without suicidal intent; assisted in network analyses of schizoid traits and internalizing symptoms; recruited participants and collected EMA data on daily emotional experiences and regulation strategies

Beibei, CQ

2019 - 2023

Sleep and Neuroimaging Center

PI: Xu Lei, Ph.D.

Southwest University, School of Psychology

Research Assistant

RQ: How do disruptions in sleep and emotion regulation contribute to depression and related disorders?

- Project: Emotion Regulation in Depression and Sleep Disorders
 - a. Collected fMRI, EEG, and behavioral data for a large-scale, multi-site study on cognitive and emotional processing; implemented and refined psychophysiological experiments; processed and analyzed data on stress responses and emotion regulation; conducted literature reviews and maintained research databases

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Philadelphia, PA

July 2024 - July 2025

University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine

Clinical Research Coordinator

Center For the Treatment and Study of Anxiety

Supervisors: Lily Brown, Ph.D.

- Administer clinical interviews and diagnostic assessments to evaluate patients' eligibility and track treatment progress
- Manage the intake process for new patients; educate patients on TMS procedures and treatment goals; help them understand the therapeutic process and support their informed decision-making; track patients' symptom progression, adherence to treatment schedules, and any adverse events
- Work closely with psychiatrists, psychologists, and TMS technicians to coordinate care and discuss case progress

Toronto, Ont

May 2021 - July 2024

Supervisors: Bei Xu

- Live observation of assessments of anxiety, depression, OCD, PTSD, AHDH symptoms, diagnostic interviews, and assessments for youth and adolescents
- Assist in initial assessments or intake interviews with clients to gather information about their psychological history, current symptoms, and overall functioning
- Assist in the intervention processes, treatment planning, and crisis management; learn to apply therapeutic techniques and interventions appropriate to the clients' needs
- Manage a caseload of clients, which includes scheduling appointments, maintaining records
- Write clinical reports, case conceptualization, and risk assessment
- Provide support in crisis situations under supervision
- Support in TEDx talks, international conference presentations, and manuscript preparation
- Assist in developing family relationships and system psychometric scales
- Co-develop interdisciplinary projects to integrate AI components into case conceptualization and treatment planning and selection
- Co-develop therapeutic courses for children and adolescents with mental disorders from a Family System Therapy perspective
- Assisted in interviewing and selecting potential clinical interns
- Created training documents that improved the onboarding process for new interns

Wuhan, HB

May 2022 - Nov 2022

Supervisors: Bei Xu and Zhe Wu

Wuhan Psychiatric Hospital (Mental Health Center)

Clinical Intern

- Helped to develop and co-lead group psychotherapy with over 200 participants
- Served as the primary contact with patients enrolled in group therapy, coordinated studies from startup to closure
- Facilitated recruitment initiative, developed and enhanced recruitment procedures and program advertisements

Beijing Tsinghua University, Student Psychological Development Guidance Center

May 2022 - Sep 2022

Peer Counselor

- Provided peer support for 4 hours every week through the online platform
- Delivered emotional support, suicide prevention, and grief support for help seekers of all backgrounds
- Digitized, scored and managed psychometric assessments

- Trained for psychological and psychodiagnostics testing and assessment, therapeutic skills (e.g., CBT, DBT, MI, and ACT approaches), case conceptualization, and risk assessment; bi-weekly supervision sessions

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025	NIRx fNIRS Data Acquisition and Equipment Handling Training <i>Boston University's Cognitive Neuroimaging Center</i>
2025	Graduate Student and Early Career Professional Workshop <i>Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavior Therapy</i>
	2025 Student and Early Career Professional Scholarship
2024	brainSTIM Center TMS Workshop <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
2024	Neurohackademy <i>University of Washington eScience Institute</i> Analyze human neuroscience data and make the analysis and results shareable and reproducible
2021	CIBR-CLS-IDG Neurological and Cognitive Science Program <i>Center for Life Sciences, Chinese Institute for Brain Research, IDG/McGovern Institute for Brain Research</i> Group presentation: The importance of mixed selectivity in complex cognitive tasks
2021	Neuromatch Academy (NMA) Group project: Memory Replay in N-Back Task Using ECoG datasets

SKILLS

Programming: Python, JavaScript, SQL, Stan, JAGS

Data Analysis: R, Excel, SPSS, Stata, Amos, Mplus, SAS, SPM, GraphPad Prism, Gephi, JMP

Experiment: E-prime, Qualtrics, Matlab, Psychopy, Inquisit, jsPsych, REDCap, Psytoolkit

Clinical: SIGH-A & SIGH-D, MINI, C-SSRS, DIAMOND

MISCELLANEOUS

Ad-hoc Reviewer: Scientific Reports, BMC Psychiatry, British Journal of Psychology, Journal of Behavioral Medicine, Frontiers in Psychology

Co-reviewer: Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science, Clinical Psychological Science, Development and Psychopathology, Emotion

Moderator: PsyArXiv

Membership: ABCT, APA, APS, SRP, ADAA

Staff Writer: International Collegiate Journal of Science (2020-2023)