

Ph.D. candidate
Center for Neural Science
New York University
pz580@nyu.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Affect, motivation, social cognition, mental health, reinforcement learning, naturalistic behavior.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

New York University, New York
Ph.D. in Neural Science
Thesis: Dynamic Nature of Procrastination
Advisor: Wei Ji Ma 2018-2023
Lab: Computational Neuroscience 2016-2018

Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin
Research Assistant
Lab: Adaptive Rationality 2015-2016

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Psychology, Beijing
Research Assistant 2013-2014
Peking University, Beijing
Master program in Theoretical Physics 2013-2014

Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing
B.Sc. in Physics, minor in Psychology, Cum Laude 2009-2013

INVITED TALKS

Society for NeuroEconomics, Vancouver [pdf](#) 2023
Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research, London 2023
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta 2023
Concepts and Categories Seminar Series, New York University 2023
Center for Neural Science Seminar Series, New York University 2022
Center for Adaptive Rationality at Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin 2015

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, Oxford University [pdf](#) 2023
Cognitive Science Society, Toronto 2022
Science of Life Improvement Conference, virtual 2021
Mental Effort Workshop, virtual 2021
Cognitive Science Society, virtual 2021
Cognitive Science Society, virtual 2020

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| Cognitive Science Society, Montreal | 2019 |
| Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, Technical University of Berlin pdf | 2019 |
| Annual Meeting of Vision Science Society, Florida | 2015 |
| International Symposium on Decision Making and Brain Research, Beijing | 2014 |

SUMMER SCHOOLS

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| Neuromatch Academy: deep learning | 2021 |
| Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience | 2016 |

AWARDS

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| Society for NeuroEconomics Travel Grant | 2023 |
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PREPRINT

Zhang, P. & Ma, W. J. temporal discounting predicts procrastination in a real-world task. (2023)
doi:10.31234/osf.io/gwj7h [pdf](#)

IN PREP

Zhang, P., Lin, Y., Lieder, F., Ma, W. J. Dynamic Nature of Procrastination
Zhang, P., & Ma, W. A Normative Account of Procrastination: Causes and Solutions.

TEACHING

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| Teaching Introduction to Computational Cognitive Science, summer school of Liberal arts and sciences, Veritas China | 2021 |
| Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Brain and Behavior, New York University | 2017 |
| Teaching Assistant for Lab in perception, New York University | 2017 |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ad Hoc Reviewing

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience
Cognitive Science Society

Outreach:

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| HappySad Science Blog: How to apply cognitive science to our daily lives? | 2017-2022 |
| Workshops on stories behind our PhD journey (with special seminars during pandemic) | 2021 |
| Podcast: Stories behind my paths: from physics, to computational neuroscience, and finally to my beloved computational cognitive science. | 2020 |
| Talks for the general public, | |
| 1) Why do people procrastinate? New York Bailu Psychology talks | 2019 |
| 2) Why do we love music? New York Culture talks | 2018 |

REFERENCES

Wei Ji Ma, Professor, New York University
Falk Lieder, Assistant Professor, UCLA