Pei Yuan Zhang   **June 2025**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Department of Psychology
New York University
pz580@nyu.edu

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

New York University, New York
Ph.D. in Cognitive Science (program: Center for Neural Science)
Thesis: Dynamic Nature of Procrastination

Advisor: Wei Ji Ma	2019-2024
Rotation in computational neuroscience labs	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

PUBLICATIONS

Zhang, P. Y., & Ma, W. J. (2024). Temporal discounting predicts procrastination in the real world. Scientific reports, 14(1), 14642.

Preprints

Zhang, P. Y., & Ma, W. J. (2025). A normative account of procrastination and its correlates, consequences and interventions. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/akrxw_v1

IN PREP

Zhang, P. Y., Lin, Y., Lieder, F., Ma, W. J. The Dynamic Nature of Procrastination

AWARDS

Best dissertation award from the Society for Neuroeconomics	2024
Society for NeuroEconomics Travel Grant	2023

INVITED TALKS

Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics (Invited by Dr. Peter Dayan)	2024
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](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
Cognitive Science Society, Montreal   2019
Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, Technical University of Berlin [pdf](pdf)   2019
Annual Meeting of Vision Science Society, Florida   2015
International Symposium on Decision Making and Brain Research, Beijing   2014

TEACHING
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

SOLID PROGRAMMING SKILLS
Python, Matlab, and R for statistical analysis

SUMMER SCHOOLS
Interactive Telecommunication Program   2025
Neuromatch Academy: Deep Learning   2021
Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience   2016

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
Ad Hoc Reviewing
Psychological Review
Cognitive Computational Neuroscience
Cognitive Science Society

Science Communications:
Peipei's life Blog: How to apply cognitive science to our daily lives?   2017-2025
Workshop: Stories behind our Ph.D. journeys (special seminars during the pandemic)   2021
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 (weijima@nyu.edu), Professor, New York University