

NYU graduate student pursuing a degree in urban data science, specializing in remote sensing, spatial analytics, and environmental research. Advocate for light pollution control. Experienced with startups and NGOs.

SKILLS

Machine Learning | Spatial Analytics | Causal Inference | Remote Sensing: Hyperspectral & LiDAR

**Tools:** Python | R | MATLAB | Java | Google Earth Engine | ArcGIS Pro | QGIS | CloudCompare | Tableau | Alteryx

EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY

Expected May 2026

- **MS, Applied Urban Science and Informatics**, Center for Urban Science + Progress (CUSP), Tandon
- **Honors:** Tandon’s highest merit scholarship | CUSP Experiential Scholars
- **Capstone:** Urban Colocation Intelligence: Mapping Amenity Clusters and Dependency Networks Using Open-Source POI Data (Project Sponsor: Foster + Partners & NYU)
- **Activities:** American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) NYU Chapter (Treasurer) | NYC Geospatial Information Systems and Mapping Organization (GISMO) (Student & Open Tech Committee) | Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Urban Remote Sensing Team (Aerial Hyperspectral Image Analysis) | Public Data Challenge (Finalist) | Global Data Dive (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) | Tandon Capstone Competition (Selected)
- **Volunteers:** Climate Week NYC | World Environment Day | NYC School of Data | CityCamp NYC

Columbia University, New York, NY

Jul 2021

- **Graduate Certificate in Advanced Business**

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

May 2019

- **BS, Mathematics | BS, Information Science and Technology**
- **Minors:** Statistics and Data Science | Finance | Computer Science
- **Certificate:** Entrepreneurship and New Venture Development
- **Honors:** Academic Distinction | Dean's List with Distinction | Dean's List | Director's List
- **Activities:** Arizona Chinese Culture Club (Co-founder & VP) | Association of Chinese Students and Scholars (Marketing Director) | McGuire New Venture Development Program (Finalist) | Putnam Mathematical Competition | Hack Arizona | Design Thinking Challenge

EXPERIENCES

DarkSky International, Tucson, AZ

Mar 2015 - Present

New York & Beijing Chapter Leader

Oct 2023 - Aug 2024

Information Technology Manager & Regional Engagement Associate

- Managed IT infrastructure to improve efficiency; provided support for staff and advocates.
- Led advocacy efforts for light pollution control in New York State and in China.
- Established China’s first International Dark Sky Community in Shenzhen.

China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Shenzhen, China

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

Intern (Research Center for Urban Lighting Planning and Design)

- Contributed to citywide lighting master plans and participated in public lighting art installation projects.
- Co-drafted the *Urban and Rural Dark Sky Places Planning Standards*.

Eco Green Recycle Corp., San Juan, Puerto Rico

Aug 2019 - Aug 2023

Manager

- Supervised daily operations; employed data-driven strategies to enhance production & financial performance.

**National Museum of Mathematics, New York, NY**

*Intern*

Jun 2018 - Aug 2018

- Alternated between roles in administration, museum docent, and retail assistant.

**Arizona/NASA Space Grant Consortium, Tucson, AZ**

*Research Intern (ASCEND! Program)*

Sep 2014 - May 2016

- Member of a statewide aerospace student program, design-build-fly-operate-analyze small payloads for launch from high altitude (100,000 feet) weather balloons.

**National Astronomical Observatories (NAOC), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China**

*Research Intern*

Jun 2015 - Jul 2015

- Participated in a sky survey research project, learned data processing, and studied professional telescope operations on-site.

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**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

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**Author:**

- Li, R. (2022, June 20). Dark Sky State: Arizona, US, *Chinese National Astronomy*, 16(6), 30-33.

**Organizer, Planning Committee, & Host:**

- DarkSky Global Conference, *Virtual, 2021 & 2023*
- Forum for the Dark and Quiet Sky Protection, International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), *Hebei, China, 2023*
- International Dark Sky Week x NYU CUSP, *New York, NY, 2025*
- Climate Week NYC x SEE the Future Forum: Entrepreneurship and Coalition-Building for Global Climate Action, *New York, NY, 2025*

**Interviewee:**

- Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (UABB) of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, *2022*
- *News and Science*, Hunan TV, *2024*
- Island Stars, *2025*
- New York Times, *2025*

**Invited Speaker:**

- Student Seminar, National Astronomical Observatories (NAOC), CAS, *Beijing, China, 2015*
- Academic Salon, Youth Innovation Promotion Association, NAOC, CAS, *Beijing, China, 2022*
- “Under One Sky” Live Event, UABB of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, *Guangdong, China, 2022*
- Forum for the Dark and Quiet Sky Protection, IYBSSD, *Hebei, China, 2023*
- The Fifth Star Party of the Yangtze River Delta, *Zhejiang, China, 2023*
- Hangzhou High School, *Zhejiang, China, 2023*
- Ningbo Haishu District Government, *Zhejiang, China, 2023*
- Yangzhou Urban Lighting Management Office, *Jiangsu, China, 2023*
- Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Dark Sky Astronomy Festival, *Guangdong, China, 2024*
- Brooklyn Heights Garden Club, *New York, NY, 2025*
- Dark Sky and Territorial Spatial Planning (class), Guangzhou University, *Guangdong, China, 2025*

**Speaker, Poster, & Lighting Talk:**

- DarkSky Global Conference, *Phoenix, AZ, 2015 / Tucson, AZ, 2016 / Boston, MA, 2017 / Salt Lake City, UT, 2018*
- NYC Open Data Week x GISMO, *New York, NY, 2025*
- Tandon Capstone Showcase, *New York, NY, 2025*
- CUSP Summer Research Showcase, *New York, NY, 2025*