

# Xingyu (Shirley) LIU

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Experienced and passionate in human-subject experimental research design, quantitative statistical analysis, interdisciplinary research, and science communication. Specialized in understanding human social cognition. Ready to translate my research to real-life questions.

## QUALIFICATIONS

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### Research skills

- Strong skills in social experimental design and rigorous hypothesis testing using methods including surveys, A/B testing, and interviews.
- Experienced in quantitative data analysis including t-test, chi-square test, linear regression, logistic regression, multi-level modeling, and factor analyses.
- Familiar with qualitative data and mixed methods analyses such as recordings and transcripts from interviews.

### Technical skills and language skills

- Proficient in R
- Proficient in survey and experimental design using Qualtrics and Amazon Turk
- Familiar with Python and SPSS;
- Trilingual: Chinese (native); English (fluent); French (fluent, TCF: C2-highest level)

## EDUCATION

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| 2025<br>(expected) | <b>PhD in Experimental Psychology</b> <i>University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research topic: judgement and decision-making; rationality</li><li>• Advisor: Craig McKenzie</li><li>• GPA: 3.98/4.00</li></ul>        |
| 2020               | <b>MSc by Research in Psychology (Distinction)</b> <i>University of Edinburgh, UK</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research topic: well-being; perceived-control; personality; culture</li><li>• Advisors: René Möttus and Billy Lee</li><li>• GPA: N/A</li></ul> |
| 2019               | <b>B.A. in Psychology and in French (Cum Laude)</b> <i>Pomona College, Claremont, CA</i><br>GPA: 3.89/4.00   |

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|--------------|---|
| 2020-present | <b>Graduate research assistant at McKenzie Lab</b> <i>UCSD, La Jolla, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measuring how individualism and collectivism influences how policy makers set default options and how decision makers interpret them.</li><li>• Proposed psychological mechanisms that underlie first- and second-order preferences and their implications for self-control.</li><li>• Studied whether people think framing effects are mistakes; has potential implications for framing effects in medical and commercial settings.</li><li>• Tested the correlation between psychologists' perceived quality of their publications and the number of citations that these publications have.</li><li>• Collaborating with Michael McCullough (UCSD) and Moshe Hoffman (Harvard University), seeking evolutionary reasons for why people proselytize.</li><li>• Collaborated with Alice Diaz (University of Edinburgh), using personality datasets to predict life outcomes such as well-being.</li></ul> |
| 2022         | <b>Research fellow at the Institute of Practical Ethics</b> <i>UCSD, La Jolla, CA</i><br>Measured whether self-nudges can effectively increase self-control; has potential implications for designing choice environments in physical and virtual settings.   |

- 2020 **Researcher at University of Edinburgh** *Edinburgh, UK*  
Compared the link between perceived control and well-being across cultures.
- 2019 **Grantee for Rosen Travel Grant** *Pomona College, Claremont, CA*  
  - Interviewed French strikers about their sense of conformity and group identity.
  - Conducted quantitative and qualitative analyses on how culture, conformity, and group identity motivate French and American strikers differently.
- 2017 **Research Assistant at Neural and Cultural Lab** *Pomona College, Claremont, CA*  
Tested people's reaction to social norm violations in different cultures.
- 2017 **Psychology research intern at Mend, Inc.** *Santa Monica, CA*  
Transformed psychological research into blogs that offered users behavioral advice to recover from relationship breakups (<https://www.lets mend.com/>).

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed

**Liu, X.S.**, (2021). What motivates us to go on strike? Social and moral norms and their impact on strike participation in individualist and collectivist situations in western cultures. *Journal of European Psychology Students*, 12(1), pp.1–15. <http://doi.org/10.5334/jeps.507>

### Under revision

**Liu, X.S.**, & Möttus, R. (under revision). Happy and in control: exploring cultural differences in the relationship across cultures using IPIP dataset. *Personality Science*. <https://psyarxiv.com/c7wsd/>

### In preparation

1. **Liu, X.S.**, McKenzie, C.R., McCullough, M.E., Winkielman, P. (in preparation). Second-order preferences: Origins and implications.
2. **Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (in preparation). Who accepts description invariance?
3. **Liu, X.S.**, McKenzie, C.R.; Leong, L. (in preparation). Are self-nudges effective?

## CONFERENCE TALKS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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### Talk

- 2023 **Subjective Probability Utility and Decision Making (SPUDM)**  
**Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (Aug, 2023). Who accepts description invariance? Vienna.

### Posters

- 2023 **Cognitive Science (CogSci)**  
**Liu, X.S.** (July, 2023). Happy and in control. Online.
- 2022 **European Conference of Personality**  
**Liu, X.S.** (July, 2022). Happy and in control. Online.
- 2021 **Society for Judgement and Decision-making**  
**Liu, X.S.**, Leong, L., McKenzie, C. & Sher, S. (Nov, 2021). Who accepts description invariance? Online.
- 2018 **Undergraduate Conference Presentation at Pomona College**  
**Liu, X.S.** (Sept, 2018). The Psychology of Strikes. Claremont, CA.

## HONORS AND GRANTS

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### Distinctions

- 2020 Distinction for outstanding Master thesis, *University of Edinburgh*

2019      Distinction for exceptional BA thesis in Psychology, *Pomona College*

2019      Distinction for exceptional BA thesis in French, *Pomona College*

[Fellowships and research grants](#)

2022              PhD Summer Funding Fellowship at the Institute of Practical Ethics, *UCSD*

2020- Exp 2025      Katzin Fellowship for outstanding incoming PhD students, *UCSD*

2019              Sherwood Heiser Fellowship; William Lincoln Fellowship, *Pomona College*