XIN   SUN

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EDUCATION

PhD: University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands   **April.2021 - Oct.2025**

(HCI:) Trust in generative AI and user interfaces through behavioral and physiological sensing (e.g., gaze & ECG)

(NLP:) Aligning LLMs with domain expertise for explainable psychotherapeutic intervention

Thesis: From Aligned Models to Trusted Interfaces: Explainable Health Intervention and Transparent Health Information Seeking

MSc: Heidelberg University, Germany   **Nov.2017 - Jan.2020**

Major: Scientific Computing (Math & NLP)   German grades: 1.8 / 5.0 (Good Level)

BSc: Xidian University (211 Project), China   **Sep.2011 - Jul.2015**

Major: Computational Mathematics   Ranking: 15%

RESEARCH AND WORKING EXPERIENCE

National Institute of Informatics (NII), Tokyo, Japan   **May.2025 – Current**

Researcher

- Explainable and trustworthy human-LLM interaction and human-inspired AI.

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands   **May.2025 – June.2026**

Guest Postdoctoral Researcher

- Human trust and cognitive mechanism on perceiving LLM-generated information.

Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), the Netherlands   **August.2023 – April.2025**

PhD Researcher

- Development of LLMs and design of UIs with behavioral and physiological sensing for trustworthy health intervention.

Alibaba Group, New Retail Technology Group, China   **May.2020 – October.2020**

NLP Algorithm Engineer (Full-time Internship)

- Key phrases extraction and summary generation - Active learning - Data augmentation

SAP, Intelligent Data & Analytics group, Germany   **April.2019 – October.2019**

Data Scientist (Full-time Internship)

- Stochastic data forecasting - SAP HANA / Feature engineering / Data visualization

Applied Technology Research Institute of Tsinghua University, China   **July.2018 – September.2018**

Machine Learning Researcher (Full-time Internship)

- ECG data prediction and Knowledge Graph construction for heart states

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

1. *Xin Sun*, Jan de Wit, Zhuying Li, Jiahuan Pei, Abdallah El Ali, Jos A Bosch. Script-Strategy Aligned Generation: Aligning LLMs with Domain Expertise and Therapeutic Strategies for Psychotherapy ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2025)

2. *Xin Sun*, Xiao Tang, Abdallah El Ali, Zhuying Li, Pengjie Ren, Jan de Wit, Jiahuan Pei, Jos Bosch. Rethinking the Alignment of Psychotherapy Dialogue Generation with Motivational Interviewing Strategies. (Oral) International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025)

3. *Xin Sun*, Erkan Basar, Iris Hendrickx, Jan de Wit, Tibor Bosse, Gert-Jan De Bruijn, Jos A.Bosch, Emiel Krahmer. How Well Can LLMs Reflect? A Human Evaluation of LLM-generated Reflections for Motivational Interviewing Dialogues. (Oral) International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025)

4. *Xin Sun*, Lei Wang, Yue Li, Jie Li, Massimo Poesio, Julian Frommel, Koen Hindriks, Jiahuan Pei. Talking-to-Build: How LLM-Assisted Interface Shapes Player Performance and Experience in Minecraft. ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI 2025)

5. *Xin Sun*, Yunjie Liu, Jos A. Bosch, and Zhuying Li. Interface Matters: Exploring Trust Perception in Health Information from Large Language Models via Text, Speech, and Embodiment. ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW 2024)

6. *Xin Sun*, Jiahuan Pei, Jan de Wit, Mohammad Aliannejadi, Emiel Krahmer, Jos TP Dobber, Jos Bosch. Eliciting Motivational Interviewing Skill Codes in Psychotherapy with LLMs: A Bilingual Dataset and Analytical Study. International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2024)

7. *Xin Sun*, Yunjie Liu, Jan De Wit, Jos A. Bosch, and Zhuying Li. Trust by Interface: How Different User Interfaces Shape Human Trust in Health Information from LLMs. (Poster) ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2024)

8. *Xin Sun*, Isabelle Teljeur, Zhuying Li, Jos A. Bosch. Can a Funny Chatbot Make a Difference? Infusing Humor into Conversational Agent for Behavioral Intervention. ACM Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI 2024)

9. *Xin Sun*, Emiel Krahmer, Jan De Wit, Reinout Wiers, and Jos A. Bosch. Plug and Play Conversations: The Micro-Conversation Scheme for Modular Development of Hybrid CA. (Poster) ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW 2023)

10. *Xin Sun*, Jos A. Bosch, Jan De Wit, and Emiel Krahmer. Human-in-the-Loop Interaction for Continuously Improving Generative Model in CAs for Behavioral Intervention. (Poster) ACM Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2023)

11. **_Xin Sun_**, Boris Schmitz, and Jos A. Bosch. TIMELY: Providing In-Time Support for Cardiovascular Rehabilitation with 'Patients and Practitioners in the Loop'. (Poster) ACM Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2023)
12. **_Xin Sun_** et al. Virtual Support for Real-World Movement: Using Chatbots to Overcome Barriers to Physical Activity. Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications (HHAI 2023)
13. **_Xin Sun_** et al. The "Label Effect": Source Bias and Alignment in Trust Assessment by Human and LLM-as-a-Judge. (Submitted to and under review by ACL 2026)
14. **_Xin Sun_** et al. Trustworthy AI for Mental Health Support: Survey and Position for Multi-Party Stakeholders. (Submitted to and under review by ACL 2026)
15. Zhuying Li, Yishu Wang, Yan Wang, **_Xin Sun_**. Zenergy: Designing Taoist-Inspired Transformative Nature Imagery for Everyday Empowerment. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2026)
16. Zhuying Li, Ziteng Zhang, **_Xin Sun_**, Yan Wang. Digital Spirituality in Mainland China: Understanding Online Practices for Designing Culturally Relevant Spiritual Experiences. ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW 2026)
17. Yuto Mandai, Katie Seaborn, Tomoyasu Nakano, **_Xin Sun_**, Yijia Wang, Jun Kato. Super Kawaii Vocalics: Amplifying the "Cute" Factor in Computer Voice. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2025)
18. Xiao Tang, Zhuying Li, **_Xin Sun_**, Xuhai "Orson" Xu, Min-Ling Zhang. ZzzMate: Designing an Empathetic Chatbot for Addressing Self-Conscious Emotions for Sleep Adherence. (Poster) ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2025)
19. Xiao Wang, Jiahuan Pei, Diancheng Shui, Zhiguang Han, **_Xin Sun_**, Dawei Zhu, Xiaoyu Shen MultiJustice: A Chinese Dataset for Multi-Party, Multi-Charge Legal Prediction. CCF International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Chinese Computing (NLPCC 2025)
20. Jiahuan Pei, Fanghua Ye, **_Xin Sun_**, Wentao Deng, Koen Hindriks, Junxiao Wang. Conversational Education at Scale: A Multi-LLM Agent Workflow for Procedural Learning and Pedagogic Quality Assessment (EMNLP 2025)
21. Zhuying Li, Si Cheng, Zhenhuan Chen, **_Xin Sun_**, Jiatong Li, Ding Ding. SleepyFlora: Supporting Sleep Sharing and Augmentation over a Distance for Social Bonding across Time Zones. (Poster) ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW 2023)
22. Benjamin Beilharz, **_Xin Sun_**, Sariya Karimova, and Stefan Riezler. LibriVoxDeEn-A Corpus for German-to-English Speech-Translation and Speech Recognition. International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2020)

JOURNAL & BOOK PUBLICATIONS

1. **_Xin Sun_**, Rongjun Ma, Shu Wei, Pablo César Garcia, Jos A. Bosch, Abdallah El Ali. Understanding Trust Perception in AI-Generated Information with Behavioral and Physiological Sensing (_Eye-tracking and Physiological Study_). International Journal of Human-Computer Studies.
2. **_Xin Sun_**, Rongjun Ma, Xiaochang Zhao, Janne Lindqvist, Jan de Wit, Zhuying Li, Abdallah El Ali, Jos A.Bosch. From Agents to Interfaces: Understanding Trust in Health Information from Conversational Search. Behavioral & Information Technology.
3. Gert-Jan de Bruijn, Divyaa Balaji and **_Xin Sun_**. Book: "Chapter 16 Chatbots for health communication". Book: Health, Media, and Communication, De Gruyter Mouton, 2025.
4. Zhuying Li, Yan Wang, **_Xin Sun_**. Integrating Culture in Human-Food Interaction: A Study of Cultural and Creative Food Experiences and Technological Interactions. International Journal of Human-Computer Studies.
5. Xiao Tang, Zhuying Li, **_Xin Sun_**, Xuhai "Orson" Xu, Min-Ling Zhang. ZzzMate: Designing an Empathetic Chatbot for Addressing Self-Conscious Emotions for Sleep Adherence. International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction.
6. Mirela Habibovic, Emma Douma, Hendrik Schäfer, Manuela Sestayo-Fernandez, Tom Roovers, **_Xin Sun_**, ... Boris Schmitz. A patient-centered risk prediction, prevention and intervention platform to support the continuum of care in coronary artery disease using eHealth and artificial intelligence. Journal of Medical Internet Research (SCI-1)

FUNDING PROJECTS

1. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Project "Sythetiq Text" (2025) 3.3 Million USD, as contributor.
2. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Project "Social AI" (2025) 20 Thousand USD, as contributor.
3. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grant for Young Scientists (2025), applied as PI.
4. Wellcome Trust Project "VR and LLM for Psychosis" 4 Million USD (first round 40K USD has been awarded), as co-PI.
5. EU Horizon 2020 Project "TIMELY" (2021-2024) 6.5 Million USD, as co-PI and contributor.

REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

- As a reviewer in the area of HCI: CHI; CHI Play; CUI; Frontiers-in-Physiology; International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction; International Journal of Human-Computer Studies; Behaviors and Information Technology;
- As a reviewer in the area of NLP: ACL ARR; COLING; TOIS (Journal);

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025.07-2026.04 Sijin Qin. Master Internship in Computer Science. University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2025.07-2026.04 Leonardo Petrilli. Master Internship in Computer Science. National Institute of Informatics (NII), Japan.
- 2023.09-2024.02 Isabelle Teljeur. Master Thesis in Brain and Cognition. University of Amsterdam. _Published in ACM CUI 2024_
- 2022.09-2023.10 Sofya Selivanova; Isa de Vries. Master Thesis in Clinical Psychology. University of Amsterdam.
- 2022-2025 Alicia Dräger; Lan Dang; Nora Zouli; Dimosthenis Casula; Arathy Navaratnam; Anna Popp; Franziska Knopp; Giovanni Busini; Jan Wesołowski; Lotte Stemerding. Bachelor Thesis in Psychology. University of Amsterdam.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Programming: Python / JavaScript / SQL / PyTorch / Machine & Deep learning / Web & APIs & Agents development
Data Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative / Behavioral and Physiological data
User Study: Qualitative Interview, Survey, Behavior and Physiological Study (e.g., Eye-tracking, ECG, EDA)
Speaking language: Mandarin Native - English C1 - German B1