

XIAOBAL I

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Gender: Female

Date of birth: 14.08.1982

Nationality: China



EDUCATION AND DEGREES

- Ph.D. Major in Computer Science and Engineering, at University of Oulu, Oulu. Finland. Supervised by [Matti Pietikäinen](#), and [Guoying Zhao](#).
- M.Sc. Major in Cognitive Neuroscience, at the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. Supervised by [Jia Liu](#).
- B.Sc. Major in Psychology (GPA rank 1/34), and double degree in Electronic Business, at Peking University (QS rank 14 in 2025), Beijing, China.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Chinese: native. English: proficient. Finnish: beginner.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Nov. 2023 - now: as a ZJU100 professor at School of Cyber Science and Technology, Zhejiang University (QS rank 47 in 2025). Hangzhou, China. I also work as an adjunct professor (Docent) at the Center for Machine Vision and Signal Analysis, University of Oulu, Finland. My research area is computer vision and machine learning. More specifically, I work on developing computational methods for analyzing facial images and videos for understanding human status via, e.g., facial expression recognition, micro-expression recognition, remote physiological signal measurement, and related applications in multidisciplinary fields including affective computing, healthcare, biometrics, Deepfake detection, and so on.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Sep. 2020 – Apr.2023: as a tenure track Assistant Professor in Center for Machine Vision and Signal Analysis (CMVS), Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE), University of Oulu, Finland. Moved to Hangzhou, China in November 2022 due to family issues.

Oct. 2017 – Aug.2020: as a post-doc researcher in CMVS, University of Oulu. I am an Academy of Finland awarded post-doc for Sep.2019-Aug.2022.

May. 2011 – Sep. 2017: as a PhD student in CMVS, majored in computer vision.

Feb. 2009 – Apr. 2011: as a PhD researcher at department of Industrial Management and Engineering, University of Oulu. Changed my PhD major to CMVS due to change of research interest.

Sep. 2004 - Oct. 2008: as a master student (entrance-exam-exempted) at the State key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Science, of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. I moved to Oulu, Finland in Nov 2008 due to marriage.

RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANTS

- 01.12.2023 – 30.11.2026: National Key Research and Development Program, China
 - “Abnormal Events detection and analysis of cross border data transfer”
 - CPI: Meng Luo, Sub-project-PI: Xiaobai Li, 587 700 euros.
- 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2025: University of Oulu, Eudaimonia Oulu funding
 - “Identification of optimal gaze patterns and support obtained from facial expressions in enhancing speechreading in children with and without impaired hearing”
 - Co-PI: Xiaobai Li (& Kerttu Huttunen), 452 000 euros. Score 5.5/6, rank 3/43 in panel.
- 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2024: Academy of Finland, Academy ICT project

- “Trustable faces: Face data integrity against digital and physical attacks (TrustFace)”.
- Co-PI: Xiaobai Li (& Guoying Zhao), 457 658 euros. Score 6/6, rank 2/66 in panel.
- 04.01.2021 – 31.08.2023: The Finnish Work Environment Fund, consortium project
 - “Reducing strain and increasing gain of remote work group meetings with physiological indicators: PhInGain”.
 - PI: Xiaobai Li, amount: 102 254 euros.
- 01.09.2019 – 30.08.2022: Academy of Finland, post-doc position funding
 - “6+E: Understanding non-typical emotions from facial videos with multimodalities”.
 - PI: Xiaobai Li, 363 900 euros, score 6/6, rank 2/24 in panel.
- 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019: one year funding from ‘Class 18’ - Training Program for Science Leadership’, University of Oulu.
 - Co-PI, amount: 8 000 euros.
- 01.09.2018 – 30.08.2022: University of Oulu, InfoTech Oulu funding
 - “Towards Reading Micro-Expressions in the Real World”
 - PI: Prof. Guoying Zhao, 440 000 euros.
 - As a main contributor for proposal writing and then as the Project Manager.
- 01.10.2016 – 30.08.2018: Academy of Finland, Academy Key Project
 - “Cardiac beat to beat variability analysis from remote videos for health service (CAVA)”
 - PI: Prof. Guoying Zhao, 300 000 euros.
 - As a main contributor for proposal writing, and then as the Project Manager.
- 01.01.2012 – 31.12.2015: Doctoral (personal) grants from InfoTech Oulu, 4-years of 80 000 euros.
- 01.01.2011 – 31.12.2011: Doctoral (personal) grants from Finnish culture foundation, 21 000 euros.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Two book chapters, and 68 peer reviewed articles published in international journals and conferences with a Google **h-index of 38 and total citations of 7800+ times** (by August 2024), among which four papers were cited more than 500 times, including multiple papers in top journals and conferences, e.g., IEEE TPAMI, TAFPE, IJCV, CVPR, ECCV, and so on. I have one US patent for “Automated recognition algorithm for detecting facial expressions”. Patent No: #8848068. I also worked as the main researcher in building five datasets.

Social impact and Media: My work on micro-expression analysis (X. Li et al, 2018, IEEE TAC) was reported by MIT Technology Review (<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/543501/machine-vision-algorithm-learns-to-recognize-hidden-facial-expressions/>), and followed by DailyMail in UK, Technology Discovery TV in Canada, and Tencent Technology in China. The research was interviewed as a YLE (Finnish national media) spotlight video report (<https://areena.yle.fi/1-3797252>). My research on remote physiological signal measurement was reported twice by Kaleva.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023. Young talent program of Zhejiang Province, China
- 2022. Best Associate Editor award 2022, Image and Vision Computing, Elsevier.
- 2020. Best student paper award (supervised student paper), IEEE Finland section.
- 2020. The 1st prize on ChaLearn face anti-spoofing challenge in CVPR 2020 conference.
- 2019. Science Leadership Certificate, University of Oulu.
- 2019. Postdoc position, Academy of Finland.
- Most remembered poster with ICCV 2011

OTHER ACADEMIC MERITS

- IEEE senior member, ELLIS member.

- Leading chair of ‘The Remote Physiological Signal Sensing (RePSS) Challenge & Workshop’ series, in CVPR 2020, ICCV 2021, and IJCAI 2024.
- Co-chair of ‘The Micro Expression Grand Challenge (MEGC) Workshop’ series, in FG 2020, ACM MM 2021-2024.
- Co-chair of the ‘Micro-Action Analysis Grand Challenge’, in ACM MM 2024.
- Technical Committee Chair for ICASSP 2024 conference for the track ‘Learning from Multimodal Data’.
- Reviewer for: IEEE TPAMI, TMM, TIP, TAFFC, TCSVT, TIFS, TBME, IVC, Neurocomputing, PLOS ONE, Frontiers Psychology, PR, PRL, CVPR, ICCV, AAAI, FG, ICPR, ICMI.
- Associate Editor (AE) for journals of IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology, and Image and Vision Computing.
- Guest Editor for Pattern Recognition Letters Special Issue on ‘Face-based Emotion Understanding’.