

XiYu Cao

Ph.D. Candidate

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EDUCATION

Department of Communication, University of Macau

Taipa, Macau, China

UM-funded, Ph.D candidate in Communication

2022–2026

- Committee: Todd L. Sandel (Supervisor), Richard Fitzgerald, Haiyan Wang
- Research area: Digital intimacy, platform studies, and infrastructure
- Proposed dissertation: *Unsettled loving: The platformization of female dating practice in contemporary China*

School of Journalism and Communication, University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Beijing, China

MA. in Journalism

2019–2022

- Thesis: *From Vision to Drosscape: The Infrastructuralization of Facial Recognition Access Control in China* (Awarded Outstanding Thesis)

Department of Agricultural Economic Management, Agricultural University of Hunan

Changsha, China

BA. in Agricultural Economic Management

2014–2018

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Cao, X., & Sun, P. (2024). "Creating the beta-infrastructure: Facial recognition terminals and social management during and after COVID-19 in China." *New Media & Society*, 14614448241250033. (SSCI, Q1)

Cao, X., & Sun, P. (2025). "Platformed Ritual in Emotions: (Dys)functional Construction of Intimacy in Digital Dating in China." *Social Media + Society*, 11(1), 20563051251313661. (SSCI, Q1)

Academic Services

Peer reviewer for *Information Communication & Society* (1 review), *New Media & Society* (3 reviews), and International Communication Association (2 reviews)

Conference Presentation

Cao, X. & Sandel, T. (Top Paper, 2025). "Personal mourning in "home letter": Contextualization, living-dead communication, and co-constructed afterlife," will be presented at the National Communication Association 111th Annual Convention.

Cao, X. (2024). "Platformed Ritual in Emotions: (Dys)functional Construction of Intimacy in Digital Dating in China", presented at the 5th Academic Workshop on Platform Studies.

Cao, X. (2023). "Making Our Idols Mainstream!: Incorporation of Subculture and Fandom Practice in China," presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference.

Book Chapters

Sun, P., & Cao, X. (2024). "Review on Woman studies and Media studies (2016-2020)"
In Du, J., & Mi, R., Eds. *Yearbook of Women's Studies in China (2016-2020)*. Beijing:
Social Sciences Academic Press.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Macau

Undergraduate Courses 2022–present

- Intercultural Communication (2 sessions)
- Media and Society

Graduate Courses 2022–present

- Academic Writing and Scholarship
- Special Topics on Communication Research

Graded papers and presentations, gave tutorials, presented lectures, and organized discussions

RESEARCH METHODS AND SKILLS

Research method: Qualitative interviews, digital ethnography, multimodal critical discourse analysis, narrative analysis.

Skills: Experienced in Python, SPSS, web design, and video editing.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Former part-time writer at leading Chinese online medical media (with articles over 100,000 views) and journalist at business magazines (circulation 150,000+), focusing on women's rights and healthcare.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Communication Association, National Communication Association, International Chinese Communication Association