

# **Xiyu Cao** Ph.D. Candidate

xiyucao07@gmail.com  
xiyu.cao07@connect.um.edu.mo  
<https://xiyuuu07.github.io/xiyu/>

## **EDUCATION**

**Department of Communication, University of Macau** Taipa, Macau, China  
*UM-funded, Ph.D candidate in Communication* 2022–2026

- Advisor: Prof. Todd L. Sandel
- QE Committee: Richard Fitzgerald, Haiyan Wang, Todd Sandel
- 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, Univeristy 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.** (2023). “Making Our Idols Mainstream!: Incorporation of Subculture and Fandom Practice in China,” presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference.

**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. & 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.

## 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 writer at leading Chinese medical media and journalist at business magazines (circulation 150,000+), focusing on women's rights and healthcare, with articles surpassing 100,000 views.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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