Yuning Liu

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EDUCATION

Harvard University — Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., Population Health Science — Expected May 2026
- Research Interests: Social Media, Well-being, and Mental Health; Online Health Communication and Misinformation; Computational Social Science
- Dissertation: "*Well-being and Social Media Use Among Youth: Analyzing App-Specific Patterns, Activities, and Motivations*"

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health — Boston, MA
Master of Science (M.Sc.), Global Health and Population — May 2020

Peking University, Health Science Center — Beijing, China
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S.), Medicine — June 2018

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIP

Graduate Research Grant — 2024-2025
Institute of Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

Graduate Student Affiliate Dissertation Research Grant — 2024-2025
Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies

Clarence James and Sarah Bradley Gamble Scholarship — 2024-2025
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Research Travel Grant — 2023-2024
Institute of Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

Distinction Award in Teaching — 2024-2025
Department of Biostatstics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Best Thesis Award — 2020
Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Women and Public Policy Fellowship — 2019-2020
Harvard Kennedy School

Graduate Student Tuition Award — 2018-2019
Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

SELECTED PUBLICATION

Liu, Y., Klassen, G., Mee, J., Pointer, J., Baloch, M., Marciano, L., Osgood, N. (2024). User-donated screenshots analysis: feasibility of a new approach to collect objective social media app usage in

adolescents. In: SBP-BRiMS 2024.

Liu, Y., Motta, M., & Yarnell, A. (2024). Training TikTok creators in mental health communication benefits their audience, too: An analysis of TikTok user comments. Preprint in OSF. https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/p65nv

Motta, M., **Liu, Y**., & Yarnell, A. (2024). "Influencing the influencers:" a field experimental approach to promoting effective mental health communication on TikTok. Scientific Reports, 14(1), 5864.

Liu, Y., Yang, M., Zhao, C., Tan, S., & Tang, K. (2019). Self-identified sexual orientations and high-risk sexual behaviours among Chinese youth. BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health, 45(4), 255-262.

Liu, Y., Peng, T., Zhang, S., & Tang, K. (2018). The relationship between depression, daytime napping, daytime dysfunction, and snoring in 0.5 million Chinese populations: exploring the effects of socio-economic status and age. BMC Public Health, 18, 1-9.

Liu, Y., Zhao, Y., Song, H., & Tang, K. (2018). Social inequity in health awareness and its association with health service utilization in ethnic conflict regions in northeastern Myanmar. Journal of Public Health, 26, 301-308.

Liu, Y., Tang, K., Long, J., & Zhao, C. (2017). The association between hepatitis B self‑awareness and depression: Exploring the modifying effects of socio‑economic factors. Journal of Viral Hepatitis, 24(4), 330-336.

Kim, J., **Liu, Y**., Wang, W., Blossom, J. C., Dwivedi, L. K., James, K. S., ... & Subramanian, S. V. (2021). Estimating the burden of child undernutrition for smaller electoral units in India. JAMA network open, 4(10), e2129416-e2129416.

Fang, Z., **Liu, Y**., & Tang, K. (2020). The patterns and social determinants of breastfeeding in 12 selected regions in China: a population-based cross-sectional study. Journal of Human Lactation, 36(3), 436-447.

Jennings, E. A., Farrell, M. T., **Liu, Y**., & Montana, L. (2022). Associations between cognitive function and marital status in the United States, South Africa, Mexico, and China. SSM-population health, 20, 101288.

PRESENTATION

Liu, Y., Osgood, N., Marciano, L. (2024, Aug 8-10). Adolescent social media activity and wellbeing – an exploratory analysis via screenshot donation [Conference presentation]. APA 2024 Convention, Seattle, WA, United States.

Liu, Y., Marciano, L., Baloch, M., Mee, J., Pointer, J., & Osgood, N. (2024, Jun 20-24). Screenshots analysis to monitor social media use in adolescents: an example from the HappyB study [Conference presentation]. 74th Annual ICA Conference, Gold Coast, Australia.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Prof. Bryn Austin, STRIPED, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health ⟶ Boston, MA
Research Assistant ⟶ November 2023 to Present
- Develop a conceptual framework, review the literature, and apply simulation models to assess how deceptive social media designs influence eating disorder risks.

Prof. Jeffery Hall, Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University ⟶ Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant ⟶ September 2023 to Present
- Conduct a systematic review of social media motivation, activity, experience, and well-being.

Prof. Amanda Yarnell, Center for Health Communication, Harvard University ⟶ Boston, USA
Research Assistant ⟶ March 2022 to Present
- Conducted experimental studies on the impact of professional training for TikTok mental health creators on evidence-based communication and the audience's health literacy.

Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies ⟶ Cambridge, USA
Research Assistant ⟶ April 2019 to April 2020
- Conducted studies on migration and mortality in rural South Africa's elderly, child malnutrition across India's micro policy units, life expectancy disparities in the US, spatial patterns of sex ratio and migration in China, and heterogenous effects of financial difficulty on mortality.

Department of Global Health, Peking University Health Science Center ⟶ Beijing, China
Research Assistant ⟶ February 2016 to April 2018
- Led team in survey tool development, in-depth interviews, statistical analysis, and meta-analysis on various topics including the socio-economic determinants of health-seeking behavior, breastfeeding, depression, obesity, sleep, and reproductive health.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Meta (Facebook) ⟶ San Francisco Bay Area, USA
Research Scientist Intern at Demographic and Survey Science (DSS) ⟶ Summer 2022 and 2023
- Applied natural language processing (NLP) and Large Language Models (LLMs) to analyze open-ended responses in survey, conceptualized workflows, built code pipeline, and delivered a report.
- Analyzed user behavior on Ads Blindness to identify biases in advertising experiments, developed analytical frameworks, operationalized log data measurements, and compiled a report.

JPMorgan Chase Institute ⟶ Washington, D.C., USA
Data Scientist (Full time) ⟶ June 2020 to July 2021
- Conducted statistical and economic analyses on the impact of the COVID pandemic and its policy reactions on household financial well-being using transactional-level data from the Chase administrative database.
- Engage in key stages of research workflow, including task planning and control (Jira, Git), codebase creation (Python, Scala, SQL), big data processing (Spark, Hadoop), visualizations, presentation, and paper drafting.

MRC/wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit   Mpumalanga, South Africa
Visiting Researcher   Summer 2019
  - Conducted longitudinal studies on household wealth, frailty, migration, and cognition among the older population, and assisted in field data collection and database management.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation   Beijing, China
Intern   Spring 2018
  - Led analyses for case studies on financial inclusion, sex education, and agriculture trade in rural China and Africa, and directed a project on the history of family planning in China.