XIZHU ZENG

130 Meilong Street, Shanghai, China 200237

📞 131-9807-9515 ✉ <u>xizhuceng@gmail.com</u>

Education

East China University of Science and Technology Sep. 2022 - Dec. 2024

Master of Laws in Sociology *Shanghai, China*

- GPA: 3.58/4.0 (1/34)
- Awards: First Student Scholarship (Top 5%), Outstanding Student Representative(Top 5%)
- Relevant Courses: Contemporary Sociological Theory (95), Quantitative Research Methods I (94), Digital Sociology (95), Qualitative Research Methods I (97), Social Research Method (93)

Xiangtan University Sep. 2018 - Jul. 2022

Bachelor of Laws in Sociology *Hunan, China*

- GPA: 87.76/100 (2/35)
- Awards: Outstanding Graduates (Top 10%), Outstanding Bachelor's Thesis (Top 15%)
- Relevant Courses: Introduction of Sociology(95), Social Psychology I (97), General Psychology(95)

Research Interests

Fields: digital activism, media study, social interaction, polarization, identity, digitization
Methods: computational social science(simulation, data mining), mixed methods

Publications

The Relationship Between Crowd Behavior and the Self in the Digital Age

Under review by Exploration and Free Views(in Chinese) *Independent Author*

- Summary: The interpretation of individuals acting in collectives in established research is often simplified by rational choice modeling, suspending the intrinsic dimensions of the individual and delineating a dichotomy between micro-mental processes and macro-actions and consequences. Returning to the common-sense meaning of the self, this paper argues that social media has enabled a deviation between action and the formation of identity. In digital action, the degree of self-integration of actors takes on an indeterminate character, which in turn explains the form of online collective action, thus providing an explanatory framework for online interactions and the self.

The Self in Action: Reconfiguring the Unit of Online Social Action

Presented at The 9th Lilin Forum, Beijing, 2023.10.15 *Independent Author*

- Summary: This paper analyzes the characteristics of the Internet and its formative impact on the self within the context of social action and technological assemblage. It argues that in certain Internet activities, the reflexive self—traditionally grounded in spatiotemporal continuity—is supplanted by a horizontal arrangement of symbols. This shift results in a cognitive deficit, as actions are unable to reference the individual's identity.

Works in Progress

Unveiling the Dynamics of Digital Action: Exploring Text Accumulation

Xizhu Zeng, Fangyikuang Ding

- This study is an attempt to formalize my previous theoretical exploration of the self. It introduces Text Accumulation as a mechanism for online actor engagement. It characterizes the dissemination of information across public internet platforms and its influence on actors' actions.
- In this article, I established relationships between concepts, wrote a literature review, scraped case data from social media, and participated in ABM constructions.

Insulting China in Indiscrimination? A Mechanistic Explanation Based on Agent-Based Modeling

Ruomeng Liu, Xizhu Zeng, Yizhuo Zhou

- This study combines digital vigilantism and nationalism studies to provide more detailed mechanisms of subjects under the influence of media technology while advancing the understanding of ABM as a social science explanatory methodology.
- In this article, I was fully involved in topic selection and research design. I wrote the literature reviews on digital activism and digital vigilantism, managed the project for recruiting the RAs(data collection), and created a public database for the collected data.

Trolls and Polarization: A Case Study of Online Gender Antagonism

Xizhu Zeng

- This research project uses text mining to extract discussions about a gender antagonism incident from hashtags on social media platforms. It classifies different positions and their varying levels of text accumulation.
- In this paper, I wrote a literature review, designed the research, and scraped and categorized the data.

Selected Research Experiences

Research on Digital Labor of Platform Young Knowledge Workers   Jun. 2023
National Philosophy and Social Science Project for Young Scholars Item No.23CSH084
- Conducted online interviews with 7 Tiktok users and 1 Tiktok blogger, each lasting 30-60 minutes.
- Structured interviews and symposia were conducted with platform managers, workers, and government managers of two platform companies.
- Performed data cleaning, conducted cross-tabulation analysis and statistical validation.
- Used R(ggplot2) for data visualization.

Impact of Digital Information on Residents' Income   Jun. 2023
Personal Project
- Utilized cross-sectional data from the 2020 China Family Panel Studies (N=7140).
- Applied a moderating effect model based on Grant and Sumanth's three-way interactions by Stata.
- Visualized the results using ArcGIS Pro.

Local Practice and Organizational Logic of Digitalization of Grassroots Governance   May. 2022
Outstanding Bachelor's Thesis
- Independent research, interned at the government, interviewed 12 people, and conducted five governmental colloquiums.
- Combining media studies and STS theory, this qualitative research examines the relationship between the daily usage of apps and local governance, viewing apps as an infrastructure.

The Digital Transformation of Interpersonal Relationships in Rural Areas   Jun. 2021
Provincial-level College Students' Innovation Competition Item No.S202010530040, CNY10,000
- Leader of this project, designed the research using a mixed method.
- Conducted short-term field research in two villages, performing participatory observation and unstructured interviews, followed by designing questionnaires and interview outlines.
- Collected 187 questionnaires, wrote a report, and presented at a school forum.

Honors

Outstanding Student Representative | *East China University of Science and Technology*	**2023**
Academic scholarships for freshman | *East China University of Science and Technology*	**2022**
First Student Scholarship | *Xiangtan University*	**2021**
Provincial Funding for Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition | *Hunan Province*	**2020**
Outstanding Individual of Activity for Volunteers with Services into Rural Areas | *Xiangtan University*	**2019**
Outstanding Report of Activity for Volunteers with Services into Rural Areas | *Xiangtan University*	**2019**
Top Ten Club Officers (ten from the school) | *Xiangtan University*	**2019**

Teaching Experiences

TA for Introduction to Social Research Methods | *East China University of Science and Technology*	**2023**
Instructor of a voluntary public service class on media theory | *NGO Gezhi Project*	**2023**

Skills

Technical Skills: Python, R, SPSS, Stata, HTML/CSS, LATEX, Markdown, Nvivo, ArcGIS Pro
Languages: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), German (elementary)
Tools: MS Office, ChatGPT, Llamaindex, Git(code management), Obsidian(document management), Easyspider(scrape data), Google Colab

Extracurricular

Digital Sociology Seminar   **Aug. 2023 – Feb. 2024**
Facilitator, conducted a reporting meeting once a week   *East China University of Science and Technology*

Undergraduate reading group of Sociology   **Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023**
Facilitator, organized and led the reading of sociological classics   *East China University of Science and Technology*

Student Mental Health Association   **Mar. 2019 – Mar. 2020**
President, received the school's Top Ten Club Officers Award for the year   *Xiangtan University*

The Xinshilin Academic Salon   **Aug. 2018 – Mar 2022**
Officer, moderated public forum, wrote brief reports of lectures, and produced posters   *Xiangtan University*

Online Courses

Programming for Everybody (Getting Started with Python) | *University of Michigan, Coursera*	**2024**
Social statistical analysis based on R | *Tsinghua University, Xuetang X*	**2023**
Frontier Theories in Communication Studies | *Nanjing University, Netease Open Course*	**2021**