

# Shaozhe Cheng

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Psychology  
Zhejiang University  
866 Yuhang Tang Road, Haina Bldg. 3  
Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310058

Homepage: [chengshaozhe.github.io](https://chengshaozhe.github.io)  
Email: [chengshaozhe@gmail.com](mailto:chengshaozhe@gmail.com)

## Education

Ph.D., Psychology, Zhejiang University 2023 (expected)  
Advisors: Jifan Zhou (ZJU), Mowei Shen (ZJU), Tao Gao (UCLA)  
Dissertation: *On the nature and origins of the unique human mind: Intentional commitment under conflicting desires*

B.S., Psychology, Shanghai Normal University 2012 – 2016

## Awards and Honors

- Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Funding (96,000 RMB) 2021 – 2022
- Cognitive Science Society Diversity and Inclusion Conference Award (\$1000) 2021
- National Scholarship for Postgraduates (20,000 RMB) 2017

## Research Interests

I am interested in the unique minds that underlie human rationality and intelligence. I draw insights and methods from philosophy, psychology (cognitive, developmental, and social), and artificial intelligence to explore the nature and origins of human intentional actions and agency. My current focus is on the social-cognitive mechanisms of **intention** and **commitment**.

## Publications

### *Journal Articles*

**Cheng, S.**, Zhao, M., Tang, N., Zhao, Y., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2023). Intention beyond desire: Spontaneous intentional commitment regulates conflicting desires. *Cognition*, 238, 105513. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105513>

Zhai, S<sup>#</sup>, **Cheng, S<sup>#</sup>**, Moskowitz, N., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2023). The development of commitment: Attention for intention. *Child Development*, 00, 1–9.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13955>

<sup>#</sup> joint first author

**Cheng, S.**, Shi, B., Zhao, Y., Tang, N., Xu., H., Gao, T., Zhou J., & Shen, M. (2017) Rethinking attention: A reinforcement learning model of attention. *Chinese Journal of Applied Psychology*.

### *Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings*

**Cheng, S., Zhao, M., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2022).** Intentional commitment through an internalized theory of mind: Acting in the eyes of an imagined observer. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Cheng, S., Zhao, M., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2022).** Intentional commitment as goal perseverance in human planning [Workshop on Social Intelligence in Humans and Robots]. *The annual meeting of the Robotics: Science and Systems 2022 (RSS 2022). Virtual: Workshop RSS 2022*. <https://social-intelligence-human-ai.github.io/>

Zhai, S., **Cheng, S.**, Moskowitz, N., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2022). The development of commitment: Attention for intention. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Cheng, S., Tang, N., An, W., Zhao, Y., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2021).** Intention beyond desire: Humans Spontaneously Commit to Future Actions. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

### *In Preparation*

**Cheng, S., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (in prep).** The presentation of self: Exploring the computational and social origins of self-commitment.

**Cheng, S., Zhao, M., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (in prep).** Modeling intention as an internalized theory of mind: Acting in the eyes of an imagined observer.

**Cheng, S., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (in prep).** Viewing others as committed agents.

**Cheng, S., Zhu, J., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (in prep).** Intentions as hierarchical constraints in human planning.

### **Conference Presentations**

<sup>^</sup>Students I supervised

Zhu, J<sup>^</sup>, **Cheng, S.**, Gao T., Shen, M., & Zhou J. (2023). Viewing others as committed agents. Poster accepted at *the 2023 SPSP Annual Convention. Society for Personality and Social Psychology*.

Zhu, J<sup>^</sup>, **Cheng, S.**, Gao T., Shen, M., & Zhou J. (2023). Intention as hierarchical constraints in human planning. Poster accepted at *the 2023 VSS Annual Meeting. Vision Sciences Society*.

Zhu, J<sup>^</sup>, **Cheng, S.**, Gao T., Shui, R., Shen, M., & Zhou J. (2023). People expect others to plan with consistency to intention. Poster accepted at *the 2023 APS Annual Convention. Association for Psychological Science*.

**Cheng, S., Zhao, M., Zhu, J<sup>^</sup>, Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2022).** Intentional commitment as goal perseverance in human planning. Oral presentation at the

Workshop on Social Intelligence in Humans and Robots in the *annual meeting of the Robotics: Science and Systems 2022 (RSS 2022)*. <https://social-intelligence-human-ai.github.io/>

Zhai, S., **Cheng, S.**, Moskowitz, N., Shen, M., & Gao, T. (2022). The development of commitment: Attention for intention. Oral presentation at *the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Cheng, S.**, Tang, N., An, W., Zhao, Y., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2021). Intention beyond desire: Commitment in human action. Poster presented at *the 47th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, 6/28/21 – 7/2/21, *Virtual-SPP*.

**Cheng, S.**, Tang, N., An, W., Zhao, Y., Zhou J., Shen, M., & Gao T. (2020). Intention beyond desire: Commitment in human action. Poster presented at *the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society*, 6/19/20 – 6/24/20, *Virtual-VSS*.

**Cheng, S.**, Xu, H., Tang, N., Zhou J., Chen, H., Liang, J., Gao T., & Shen, M. (2018). Hierarchical Constrains on the Distribution of Attention in Dynamic Displays. Poster presented at *the 30th APS Annual Convention*.

## Teaching

- **Advanced Psychological Research Methods (graduate course), 2019, 2020**  
Invited Guest Lecturer, *Computational modeling in psychological research*
- **Psychology and Artificial Intelligence (undergraduate course), 2018, 2019**  
Teaching Assistant
- **Seminar on Evolutionary Psychology (for undergraduates), 2017, 2018**  
Invited Guest Lecturer

## References

Tao Gao (Departments of Psychology, UCLA), [taogao@ucla.edu](mailto:taogao@ucla.edu)

Jifan Zhou (Department of Psychology, Zhejiang University), [jifanzhou@zju.edu.cn](mailto:jifanzhou@zju.edu.cn)

Mowei Shen (Department of Psychology, Zhejiang University), [mwshen@zju.edu.cn](mailto:mwshen@zju.edu.cn)