

Karen Yi

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EDUCATION

Computational Analysis and Public Policy, M.S.,
University of Chicago (Sep. 2023 - Present)

Psychobiology B.S., University of California at Los Angeles (Sep. 2018 - Jun. 2022)

Education Minor • Computing Focus • GPA: 3.9

EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist Assistant, American Institutes for Research (Sep. 2022 - Present)

- Used natural language processing, large language models, and topic modeling techniques in Python to read and analyze over 10,000 research abstracts from PDFs and research APIs. Created time series to track trends in education research at various agencies (`nltk`, `tika`, `requests`, `spacy`)
- Cleaned log data for students taking the math portion of the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) (over 100,000 observations). Created accessible documentation for data users (`bookdown`, `data.table`)
- Applied ANOVA to analyze whether OpenAI's Whisper algorithm discriminated against students of protected groups (e.g., English Language Learner) while transcribing oral reading assessment
- Reduced script length by 30% for dashboard that displays results of school climate survey in Nevada schools (`shiny`)

Peer Learning Facilitator, Academic Advancement Program (Sep. 2021 - Sep. 2022)

- Prepared and facilitated psychological statistics and research methods learning sessions provided free of charge to over 60 historically underserved students
- Coordinated with course instructors, underwent professional development and continuing instructional review, and collaborated with other PLFs to provide welcoming learning environment

Research Assistant, Los Angeles Education Research Institute (Jun. - Sep. 2021)

- Worked with education research team at UCLA to analyze how COVID impacted LAUSD students. Used Stata to clean large dataset (over 100,000 observations) analyzing responses to annual school climate survey

Legislative Affairs Intern, California Department of Education (Apr. - Jun. 2021)

- Created meeting and policy briefings in order to inform State Superintendent of Public Instruction

about relevant California education policy, organizations, and legislators

- Synthesized recent state educational news into a newsletter presented to legislators' offices

Research Assistant, UCLA Teaching and Learning Lab (Oct. 2020 - Dec. 2021)

- Worked with advisor to implement a virtual experiment focused on improving outcomes for underrepresented students in computer science
- Evaluated study results using qualitative and quantitative methods in R
- Provided feedback on research methods of researchers from across U.S. in weekly meetings

UI/UX Designer, UCLA Depression Grand Challenge (Nov. 2019 - Oct. 2020)

- Collaborated with marketing/web design team at UCLA STAND to create mental health screening and tracking service available to undergraduate students
- Designed graphics used internally and externally to visualize complex data storage structures and research designs using Drupal and Figma

SKILLS

Software (in order of proficiency): R, Python, Figma, Microsoft/Google, HTML/CSS, Airtable, Bash, Git, Photoshop/Illustrator, Qualtrics, C++, Stata, MATLAB
Languages: intermediate Mandarin

ACHIEVEMENTS

Carolyn D. Smith Education Award, Spring 2020

Presidential Public Service Fellow, Spring 2020

UCLA Undergraduate Research Fellow, 2020

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Graphic Designer, ACM Teach LA Playnet Learning Lab (Winter 2021)

- Created over 50 graphics for introductory computer science activity geared towards elementary-school students
- Consulted with developers to incorporate features for accessibility and educational psychology

Tutor, Pritzker Center Bruin Tutor Network (Fall 2020 - Spring 2023)

- Tutored foster youth in math and English in twice-weekly sessions. Prepared worksheets and communicated with social worker team, teachers, and successive foster parents.