

JIAAO YU

Email: yu.jiaao1@northeastern.edu

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Northeastern University, Boston, US <i>Ph.D.</i> in Sociology Supervised by Dr. Cassie McMillan	09/2024 - present
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK <i>M.Sc.</i> in Psychology (Merit) Supervised by Dr. Stephanie Burnett Heyes	09/2020 - 10/2021
Chung Yuan Christian University, Taoyuan, Taiwan <i>B.Sc.</i> in Psychology	09/2016 - 06/2020

RESEARCH INTEREST

- Social Networks
- Bullying and Delinquency
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Computational Social Science

PUBLICATIONS (* = Equal Authorship)

- Wang, J. *, **Yu, J. ***, Du, X., Yin, C., Zhang, Z., Duan, Y., & Chen, R. (2025). Understanding Social Influence of Non-Suicidal Self-Injury: The Interplay of Peer Networks and Adolescent Behavior. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 1-14.
- Wang, J., Wei, Z., Jia, L., **Yu, J.**, Wang, Y., Meng, Y., ... & Chen, R. (2024). Can digital self-harm relate to suicidal thoughts and behaviors beyond physical self-harm?. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 149(3), 256-266.
- Qu, D. *, Liu, D. *, Cai, C. *, Zhang, X., **Yu, J.**, ... & Chen, R. (2023). Process model of emotion regulation-based digital intervention for emotional problems. *Digital Health*, 9, 20552076231187476.
- Qu, D. *, Wen, X. *, Liu, B. *, Zhang, X., He, Y., Chen, D., Duan, X., **Yu, J.**, ... & Chen, R. (2023). Non-suicidal self-injury in Chinese population: a scoping review of prevalence, method, risk factors and preventive interventions. *The Lancet Regional Health-Western Pacific*, 37.

WORKING PAPERS (* = Equal Contribution)

- McMillan, C., **Yu, J.**, & Veenstra, R. "Tribulation and triumph in romantic rivalries: How adolescent love triangles can inspire social rewards." *Manuscript completed*.
- McMillan, C., Pachucki, M., **Yu, J.**, ... & Levy, D. "Network threats to causal inference: Variations in network position by participation in randomized controlled trials." Invited to submit to special issue on Causal Network Analysis at *Social Networks*
- **Yu, J.** "Comparing different targetting strategies for network-based conflict interventions." *Analyses in progress*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- McMillan, C., **Yu, J.**, & Veenstra, R. 2025. "Tribulation and triumph in romantic rivalries: How adolescent love triangles can inspire social rewards." Accepted for presentation at the *annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2025, Chicago, IL*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research assistant at *Northeastern University, Boston, US*

Advisor: Dr. Cassie McMillan

- ***Simulation Analyses to Optimize Health Interventions*** 01/2025 – present
 - Participated in a National Institute of Aging (NIA) funded project through research project preparation, literature review, quantitative data analysis, and manuscript writing.
 - Developed, parameterized, and calibrated a SAOM to simulate a network of midlife employees from a socioeconomically diverse workforce, providing a theoretical basis for behavior interventions.
- ***Dislike among Romantic Competitors in Adolescence*** 09/2024 – present
 - Research project preparation, literature review, quantitative data analysis, and manuscript writing.
 - Analyzing data using ERGM to explore the dynamics of dislike between various romantic competitors and the potential benefits derived from these rivalries.

Research assistant at *School of Public Health, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China*

Advisor: Dr. Runsen Chen

Adolescent Cohort-Related Experience

- ***Research on adolescent social networks and mental health (lead)*** 09/2022 – 05/2024
 - Led project design, questionnaire and experimental design, data collection, cleaning, and both cross-sectional and longitudinal social network analyses.
 - Collected peer nominations and data on bullying, self-harm, suicide, parenting styles, depression, anxiety, etc., from over 40,000 Chinese primary and secondary school students; preliminary findings indicated a positive correlation between closeness of friends and frequency of NSSI.
- ***Research on Chinese adolescent mental health cohort study*** 09/2022 – 08/2024
 - Participated in designing and implementing a self-developed questionnaire system and contributed to collecting and analyzing baseline data from over 140,000 adolescents.

Intervention-Related Experience

- ***Research on Online mental health intervention*** 05/2022 - 08/2022
 - Contributed to the design and development of a mental health online app; pilot study results showed *significant reductions in depression and anxiety symptoms, along with improvements in emotional regulation and sleep quality*.
- ***Additional experience related to psychological intervention*** 05/2022 - 05/2023
 - Designed an online mindfulness intervention and participated in a “life gatekeeper” training program for teachers to prevent self-harm and suicide among adolescents.

Teasing and Aggression in Adolescent Social Network (Dissertation) 09/2020 - 10/2021

Advisor: Prof. Stephanie Burnett Heyes

- Use multivariate cluster analysis as a data-driven approach for creating composite social ties.
- Investigate the relationship and interaction between adolescents’ teasing behavior, relationship strength and category, and gender.
- This study found that *female respondents reported more incidences of unilateral and bilateral teasing than male subjects*.

GRANTS

- Summer Sociology Research Grants, *Northeastern University* 2025 Summer

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- SOCL1101: Introduction to Sociology (TA), *Northeastern University*

2024 Fall

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- American Sociological Association

RESEARCH-RELATED INTERNSHIP

Intern of First Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine 05/2020 -07/2020

- Conducted psychological tests (e.g. Webster intelligence tests, MCCB tests, etc.) and physiotherapy (e.g. TMS and TDCS) for patients.
- Assisted psychotherapist in psychotherapy of patients.

SKILLS

- Tools and Software
 - Social network analysis (Advanced): ERGM, SAOM, Gephi, Ucinet, PNet
 - Others: R (Proficient), SPSS (Proficient), Python (Basic)