

TIANQI KOU

The Pennsylvania State University

College of IST

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RESEARCH AREAS

Accountability and Injustice in Machine Learning Research Communication; Machine Learning Technology Impact Communication; Research Reform; Tech Policy; Philosophy of Science; Science and Technology Studies (STS)

APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

LOGIC(S)

2024- Liberal Tech Scholar
Fact Checker

Center for Socially Responsible Artificial Intelligence, Penn State University
2022- Student Affiliate

Critical Technocultures Lab, Georgia Institute of Technology
2023- Visiting Scholar

Apteo
2019-21 Machine Learning Engineer
(Industry Employment)

EDUCATION

2021- M.S., Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University
Information Science (Chair: Dr. Dana Calacci)

2017-19 M.S., Dean's Fellowship, Fordham University
Computer Science (Advisor: Dr. Yijun Zhao)

2013-17 B.S., with high honors, Harbin Institute of Technology, Monash University
Economics

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Sloan Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow Finalist

2024 Liberatory Tech Scholar Fellowship, LOGIC(S)

2024	Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching Support, Penn State IST
2024	FACCT Student Travel Award
2023	Dean's Travel Award, Penn State IST
2022	Microsoft PhD Research Fellowship Nomination, Penn State IST
2019	Graduate Academic Achievement Award, Fordham University
2017-19	Dean's Fellowship, Fordham University
2016-17	Chinese Scholarship Council First Class Scholarship
2013-17	National People's Scholarship

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

1. "Path to New Forms of Machine Learning Accountability: Identifying Gap and Challenges in Designing for the Implementation of Social Claim Replicability." (w/ Dana Calacci)
2. "What is the Hype? A Relational Conception: Demonstration Using Four Machine Learning Based Policing Tools." (w/ Dana Calacci, Nasser Eledroos, and David Gray Widder)

PUBLICATIONS

Note: In computer and information science, papers published in major conference proceedings are double-anonymously peer reviewed and recognized as equivalent research contributions to journal articles.

Articles and proceedings

1. **Tianqi Kou**, Dana Calacci, and Cindy Lin. "Dead Zone of Accountability: Why Social Claims in Machine Learning Research Should Be Articulated and Defended." *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES)*, 2025, forthcoming. [acceptance rate 33%]
2. **Tianqi Kou**. "From Model Performance to Claim: How a Change of Focus in Machine Learning Replicability Can Help Bridge the Responsibility Gap." *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FACCT)*, 2024, Pages 1002 - 1013. [acceptance rate 24%]

Preprints

3. **Tianqi Kou**. "A Quantitative Machine Learning Approach to Master Students Admission for Professional Institutions." [available upon request]

FUNDING

[can i put Matt's funding here?]

TALKS / PANELS / WORKSHOPS/Symposiums

- 2025 Hype Studies Conference; Barcelona, Spain.
Panel Chair: (AI) Hype: Power and Resistance
Accepted Abstract: "Relational Conception of Hype in AI-based Tools in Policing"

- 2024 Digital Life Initiative, Cornell Tech, NYC.
Reading Group Speaker Series invited talk.
“Claim Replicability and the Responsibility Gap.
- 2024 Institute for Computational and Data Sciences / Accepted Poster
- 2024 Queer Graduate Student in STEM, Penn State College of Engineering.
- 2023 Institute for Computational and Data Sciences / Accepted Poster
- 2023 Philosophy of Science Meets Machine Learning; University of Tübingen, Germany.
Accepted abstract. “The Function of Replication Studies in Machine Learning Research.”
- 2022 Workshop on the Reproducibility Crisis in ML-based Science, Princeton University.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2025 [UPCOMING] AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society / Author
Hype Studies Conference, Barcelona, Spain. / Author
Privacy Law Scholars Conference, Los Angeles, CA. / Attendee
- 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.
/ Author
Northeast HCI, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA / Attendee
- 2023 Association for Library and Information Science Education, Pittsburgh, PA / Attendee

TEACHING

Penn State University

[add community ai evaluation?]

IST 402: Emerging Issues and Technologies / Teaching Assistant

DS 200: Intro to Data Science / Teaching Assistant

IST 230: Language, Logic, and Discrete Mathematics (three times) / Teaching Assistant

DS 310: Machine Learning / Teaching Assistant

Fordham University

CIC S5800: Machine Learning (two times) / Teaching Assistant

SDGB 7844: Statistical Methods and Computation II / Teaching Assistant

Harbin Institute of Technology, eHealth Research Institute

Intro to Python and R for Digital Health / Instructor Assistant

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2025 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society / Reviewer
ACM Conference on Fairness Accountability and Transparency / Program Committee
Big Data & Society / Reviewer

