

# Sijia “Leslie” Huang

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## EDUCATION

### Rowan University

Glassboro, NJ

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology (APA accredited)

Expected Graduation: May 2029

Advisors: D.J. Angelone, Ph.D. and Meredith Jones, Ph.D.

### Columbia University, Teachers College

New York, NY

Master of Arts in Psychology in Education: General Psychology

May 2024

### New York University Shanghai

Shanghai, China | New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Social Science (Psychology Track)

May 2022

Minor in Humanities

## HONORS & AWARDS

Rowan University Graduate Student Travel Fund (\$600)	2024
Columbia University Teachers College Scholarship (\$3,000)	2022 – 2023
NYU Shanghai Global Elite Scholar (¥120,000, approx. \$17,850)	2018 – 2022
Dean’s List for Academic Years, NYU Shanghai	2020 – 2022
Deans’ Undergraduate Research Funds at NYU Shanghai (\$1,000)	2021

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Huang, S.**, Yang, J., & Santtila, P. (2025). After the Act: After-Sex Behaviors and Their Correlates in Straight Chinese Couples. *Sexes*, 6(3), 48. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sexes6030048>
2. Li, Z., **Huang, S.**, & Santtila, P. (2025). Sexual communication in Chinese heterosexual couples: the efficacy of online Sensate Focus intervention and correlations with relational and sexual outcomes. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681994.2025.2506090>
3. **Huang, S.**, Wang, Y., Li, G., Hall, B.J., & Nyman, T.J. (2024). Effectiveness and implementation of digital interventions to alleviate depressive and anxiety symptoms for individuals on waiting lists for face-to-face psychotherapy: A systematic review. *JMIR: Mental Health*. 2024;11:e56650 doi: [10.2196/56650](https://doi.org/10.2196/56650) PMID: [39255015](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39255015/).
4. **Huang, S.**, Li, Z., & Santtila, P. (2024). The effectiveness of online sensate focus exercises in enhancing sexual function and intimacy among Chinese heterosexual couples: a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*, 50(6), 707–724. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623X.2024.2355229>.
5. Eschliman, E. L., Hoang, D., Khoshnam, N., Ye, V., Kokaze, H., Ji, Y., Zhong, Y., Morumganti, A., Xi, W., **Huang, S.**, Choe, K., Poku, O. B., Alvarez, G., Nguyen, T., Nguyen, N. T., Shelley, D., & Yang, L. H. (2024). A “What Matters Most” approach to investigating intersectional stigma toward HIV and cancer in Hanoi, Vietnam. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs*, 2024(63), 11–19. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jncimonographs/lgae002>.

6. **Huang, S.**, Nyman, T.J., Jern, P., & Santtila, P. (2023). Actual and desired masturbation frequency, sexual distress and their correlates. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 52, 3155–3170. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-023-02641-3>.
7. **Huang, S.**, Jern, P., Niu, C., & Santtila, P. (2023). Associations between sexually submissive and dominant behaviors and sexual function in men and women. *International Journal of Impotence Research*, 37, 224–232. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41443-023-00705-5>.
8. **Huang, S.**, Niu, C., & Santtila, P. (2022). Masturbation frequency and sexual function in individuals with and without sexual partners. *Sexes* 3, 229–243. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sexes3020018>.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW AND IN PREPARATION

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1. **Huang, S.**, Brunwasser, S., Jern, P., Lassiter, J.M., Jones, M., & Angelone, D.J. [In preparation] Sexual dysfunction as a predictor of sexual violence perpetration among Finnish men and women.
2. **Huang, S.**, Santtila, P., J.M., Jones, M., & Angelone, D.J. [In preparation] Online Sexual Interventions in Enriching Couple's Sex Life: A Narrative Review.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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1. Angelone, D.J., Mitchell, D., Wells, B.E., Korovich, M., Bettinelli, M., **Huang, S.**, & Shirley, J. (2025, Nov. 16). *Examining Factors Influencing Sexual Violence Risk Perception in Men Who Have Sex with Men on Dating and Sexual Networking Apps*. Symposium to be presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality; Philadelphia, PA.
2. **Huang, S.**, Korovich, M., Angelone, D.J., Mitchell, D., & Wells, B.E. (2025, Nov. 16). *Associations between Sexual Self-Esteem, Dating Motives, and Risk Perception*. Paper to be presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality; Philadelphia, PA.
3. **Huang, S.**, Shank, F., Korovich, M., Arigo, D., Jones, M., & Angelone, D.J. (2024, Nov. 16). *Associations between college sexual hookup behavior and eating disorders*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality; San Diego, CA.
4. Li, B., **Huang, S.**, Daneils, L., Cai, B., Phillips M., & Yang, L.H. (2024, Aug. 8). *Demographic and clinical characteristics of Chinese schizophrenia patients assessed by MCCB*. Poster presented at the 2024 American Psychological Association Conference, Division 40 – Society for Clinical Neuropsychology. Seattle, USA.
5. **Huang, S.** & Santtila, P. (2023, Aug. 8). *The effectiveness of online sensate focus exercises in enhancing sexual function and intimacy among Chinese heterosexual couples*. Poster presented at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the International Academy of Sex Research; Montreal, Canada.
6. **Huang, S.** & Santtila, P. (2023, Apr. 28). *Can online sensate focus exercises enhance sexual and relationship satisfaction among Chinese heterosexual couples?* Poster presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Institute of Psychological Science and Practice at Columbia University Teachers College. New York, USA. Awarded for Outstanding Poster.
7. **Huang, S.** & Santtila, P. (2021, Nov. 6). *How Does Sexual Dysfunction Relate to Relationship and Sexual Satisfaction among Chinese Adults?* Poster presented at Fall 2021 Undergraduate

Research Symposium. NYU Shanghai, China. Awarded for Best Research Project in Liberal Arts & Business.

8. **Huang, S. & Santtila, P.** (2020, Dec. 14). *How Do Chinese Parents Perceive Sex Education Program at Elementary Schools?* Poster presented at Fall 2020 Empirical Research Practice Symposium. NYU Shanghai, China.

## **Clinical Experience**

### **Practicum Extern at Cooper University Hospital** **Camden, NJ**

*Integrated Ambulatory Care (Outpatient Rotation)*

*in the Center for Comprehensive Health* (Supervisor: Dr. Michael DeAngelo) Jul 2025 – Present

- Provide psychotherapy utilizing CBT techniques for patients with HIV or other chronic infectious diseases.
- Conduct initial clinical interview and mental health assessment.
- Lead weekly manual-based Smoking Cessation group therapy.
- Assist inpatient consult for newly admitted patients who are HIV+.
- Participate in weekly didactics, case presentation, and group supervision.

### **Student Counselor for Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), NYU Shanghai** **Shanghai, China** (PI: Dr. Gu Li) Feb 2023 – Feb 2025

- Provide online feedback for Chinese gay men who are going through adapted CPT intervention, under the supervision of licensed psychologist Dr. Thomas Nyman.
- Code the accuracy of self-identified maladaptive thoughts and propose thought-challenging questions.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **ASSeRT Lab, Rowan University** **Glassboro, NJ**

*PhD Student* (PI: Drs. D.J. Angelone and Meredith Jones)

Aug 2024 – Present

Lab website: <https://www.rowanassert.com/>.

#### Sexual Dysfunction and Sexual Violence Perpetration Study

- Conduct research on sexual dysfunction, trait anger, and sexual violence perpetration.

#### Intoxication and Aggression Study

- Assist The Manhattan Project, investigating the impact of alcohol intoxication on male aggression in laboratory paradigms.

#### Barriers of Engaging in Healthcare among Young Moms

- Lead a qualitative study about young moms' experiences in healthcare, code interview transcripts, identify themes, and conduct thematic analysis.
- Mentor a coding team of 5 students.

#### Mentor Experience

- Mentor 4 undergraduate students and provide training in data cleaning using syntax in SPSS.

### **Sex Research, NYU Shanghai** **Shanghai, China** *Co-Investigator* (PI: Dr. Pekka Santtila) Oct 2020 – Aug 2024

#### Sensate Focus Sex Therapy Study

- Completed IRB application, including a Randomized Control Trial study protocol, subsequent amendments, and annual reports.
- Developed 11 animation videos demoing Sensate Focus Exercises, based on the sex therapy model proposed by Masters and Johnson.

- Pre-screened 1,231 Chinese participants for Sensate Focus intervention through three waves, assessing sexual dysfunction, relationship and sexual satisfaction, and sexual script.
- Facilitated the longitudinal experimental intervention, post-test, and three months follow-up assessments with 19 couples in the experimental group, 24 couples in the waitlist control group.
- Employ various statistical analyses in SPSS and R, including syntax, Pearson Correlation, Independent-Sample *t*-test, Paired-Sample *t*-test, Cronbach's alphas Reliability test, ANOVA, ANCOVA, Repeated Measures, and Linear Mixed-effects Model.

#### Masturbation, Sexual Distress, and Sexual Function Study

- Analyzed data on masturbation frequency and related sexual distress from a Finnish population-based datafile, including 12,271 participants that Dr. Santtila previously collected.
- Explored the correlated factors and etiology of sexual distress.
- Conducted statistical analyses in SPSS, including Chi-square, Linear Regression, and General Estimated Equations.
- Discussed implications of clinical diagnosis of compulsive sexual behavior, particularly problematic masturbation.

#### Paraphilia and Sexual Dysfunction Study

- Investigated the association between paraphilia, especially BDSM interest and related behavior, and sexual function among Finnish people.
- Combined and analyzed three data sets that Dr. Santtila and his colleagues previously collected, with 29,821 participants in total.

#### Sex Education in China Study

- Investigated Chinese parents' attitudes towards sex education, focusing on parents with children in elementary schools.
- Designed an online survey using Qualtrics and recruited 182 participants.
- Analyzed the correlation between parents' overall supportiveness of sex education and delivery method, specific teaching contents, and other statements about sex education.
- Performed in Professor Santtila's weekly research seminar from 2021 to 2022, collaborated with ECNU graduate student working on sex research, engaging in discussions covering a wide range of topics, including early ejaculation, ginger's impact on sex drive, obesity and sexuality, internalized homophobia, and the interplay between sexual arousal and the feeling of disgust.

#### **Maternal and Reproductive Psychology Lab, Columbia University**

**New York, NY**

*Research Assistant* (PI: Dr. Aurelie Athan)

Feb 2024 – Jul 2024

- Completed training in Sex Education Initiative
- Assisted qualitative analysis about Reproductive Life Planning

#### **Digital Mental Health, NYU Shanghai**

**Shanghai, China**

*Research Assistant* (PI: Dr. Thomas Nyman)

May 2023 – May 2024

- Conducted literature review on the effectiveness of digital intervention for people waiting for face-to-face therapy.
- Performed articles searching in PubMed, PsycINFO, Cochrane, and Web of Science.
- Developed study protocol and completed pre-registration in OSF.
- Completed abstract and title screening for 7088 articles using Covidence.
- Assisted full-text review for 23 articles and conducted data extraction.

#### **Loss, Trauma, and Resilience Lab, Columbia University**

**New York, NY**

*Research Assistant* (PI: Dr. George Bonanno)

Feb 2023 – May 2024

- Investigated coping mechanisms in response to challenging life experiences, with a specific focus on individuals who engage in nonsuicidal self-injurious (NSSI) behaviors and those who do not.
- Managed the study email inbox and coordinated participants scheduling on a weekly basis.
- Assisted pre-data processing, including stamping, editing, and transcribing of the recorded interviews with the participants.

### **Culture, Stigma, and Psychosis Lab, Columbia University**

*Research Assistant* (PI: Dr. Lawrence Yang)

**New York, NY**

Oct 2022 – May 2024

#### Psychosis in China Study

- Conducted research on cognition across the lifespan in untreated psychosis in China.
- Reviewed 61 articles about MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery (MCCB), 45 in Chinese and 16 in English.
- Extracted data on 79 columns for each article.
- Assisted data cleaning and data extraction training for new research assistants.
- Led poster preparation for 2024 APA Conference, entitled “Demographic and clinical characteristics of Chinese schizophrenia patients assessed by MCCB.”
- Assisted in compilation of grant proposals via conducting literature reviews on the association between antipsychotic medications and accelerated aging, as well as mediators of cognitive deficits in schizophrenia.

#### Cancer, HIV, and Mental Health in Vietnam Study

- Examined stigma of cancer, HIV, and mental health in people living with HIV in Vietnam.
- Coded related qualitative data (i.e., interviews) based on the codebook.
- Assisted scale development for interview transcripts, discussed with others to come up with scale items based on the key qualitative themes, identified relevant quotes in the interviews.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor**, *College of Science and Mathematics at Rowan University*

- Essentials of Psychology Fall 2025

**Learning Assistant**, *College of Science and Mathematics at Rowan University*

- Physiological Psychology Spring 2025
- Abnormal Psychology Fall 2024

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

1. **PsyPost**, Feb 2025, “Low user engagement limits effectiveness of digital mental health interventions.” <https://www.psypost.org/low-user-engagement-limits-effectiveness-of-digital-mental-health-interventions/>
2. **NYU Shanghai Center for Global Health Equity**, Nov 2024, “New Review Reveals Limited Effectiveness of Digital Mental Health Interventions for Individuals Awaiting Psychotherapy.” <https://cghe.shanghai.nyu.edu/news/new-review-reveals-limited-effectiveness-digital-mental-health-interventions-individuals>
3. **PsyPost**, Nov 2023, “Study uncovers subtle links between BDSM practices and sexual well-being.” <https://www.psypost.org/study-uncovers-subtle-links-between-bdsm-practices-and-sexual-well-being/>
4. **PsyPost**, Oct 2023, “Large study unpacks the complicated nature of ‘problematic masturbation.’” <https://www.psypost.org/large-study-unpacks-the-complicated-nature-of-problematic-masturbation/>

## LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

**Orientation Ambassador, Office of Student Life at NYU Shanghai** Apr 2021 – Oct 2021

- Served as a peer mentor for a group of 17 NYU Shanghai freshmen from 6 different countries.
- Hosted an informative session titled “Let’s Talk about Sex | Sexual Misconduct.”
- Facilitated 7 diversity and inclusivity dialogues for the group to foster a healthy community, discussing topics such as food, language, socializing, and resilience.
- Provided advice on life, academic, and career planning, supporting freshmen in transitioning smoothly to life at NYU Shanghai.

**Student Worker, Student Health Center at NYU Shanghai** Oct 2018 – May 2019

- Created articles about health and wellness using online platform Xiumi for WeChat Official Accounts, reaching an average of 200 out of 1200 viewers in the NYU Shanghai community.
- Designed weekly newsletter emails for the NYU Shanghai community using Mailchimp.
- Promoted lectures, events, workshops, and activities about health to encourage healthy lifestyles within the NYU community.

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCES

**Peer Review for Academic Journals**

- *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*: 1 review in 2024; 3 review in 2025
- *Nature Partner Journals (NPJ) Women’s Health*: 1 review in 2024
- *BMC Psychiatry*: 1 review in 2024
- *BMC Women's Health*: 1 review in 2024

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality	Jul 2024 – Present
American Psychological Association	Sep 2023 – Present
Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology	Feb 2023 – Present
International Academy of Sex Research	Jan 2023 – Present
American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapist	Jan 2023 – Present

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

**Columbia University Teachers College Dean’s Grant for Student Research** Nov 2022

*Can Web-based Sensate Focus Exercises Enhance Sexual and Relationship Satisfaction?*

PI: Sijia Huang, BA

Amount Requested: \$2,000

Status: Not funded

**NYU Shanghai Deans’ Undergraduate Research Funds** May 2021

*Can Web-based Sensate Focus Exercises Enhance Relationship Satisfaction?*

PI: Sijia Huang

Amount Requested: \$1,000

Status: Funded

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sex Education Initiative at Teachers College	Feb 2024 – Mar 2024
Social Emotional Learning at ThinkHuman.TV	Sep 2023 – Dec 2023
Yale Psychology’s Sneak Peek Program	Jul 2023 – May 2024

NextGen Psych Scholars Program (NPSP) at University of Minnesota

Jun 2023 – May 2024

## SKILLS

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**Language:** English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native), Sichuanese (native)

**Data Analysis and Online Methods:** R, SPSS, Eye-tracking (TOBII, Gazepoint, ELAN), Qualtrics, EndNote, Zotero, Covidence, Web design using Github and Squarespace