

Marianna Zhang

she/her

email marianna.zhang@stanford.edu
 website mariannazhang.github.io
 code github.com/mariannazhang

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Psychology, *New York University* Aug 2024–present
 • Fellowship: [NSF SPRF](#): Examining the Statistics of Children's Social World (#2404708)
 • Advisors: Marjorie Rhodes & Mark Ho

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Psychology, *Stanford University* 2024
 • Dissertation: Structural thinking and its consequences: a developmental approach. ([dissertation](#))
 • Committee: Ellen M. Markman, Steven O. Roberts, Tobias Gerstenberg, Hyowon Gweon

B.A., Psychology with Honors & Minor in Philosophy, *The University of Chicago* 2018
 • Honors thesis: Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others. ([thesis](#))
 • Advisors: Daniel Casasanto & Susan Goldin-Meadow

Tutorials in Metaphor and Philosophy of Cognitive Science, *St. Catherine's College, Oxford* Autumn 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

Participant, [Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute \(DISI\)](#), *University of St Andrews* Jul 2019
Participant, [Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application \(CARLA\) Summer School](#) Aug 2018
Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück

Research Assistant, [Experience and Cognition Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Daniel Casasanto), *University of Chicago* 2014–2018
Summer Intern, [Laboratory for Developmental Studies](#) (PI: Dr. Susan Carey), *Harvard University* Summer 2016
Summer Intern, [Cognition and Development Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Frank Keil), *Yale University* Summer 2015

PUBLICATIONS

*co-first author, †student advisee

Zhang, M. Y., Liu, L.[†], & Markman, E. M. (in prep). How structural thinking shapes children and adults' reasoning about social differences and disparities.

Zhang, M. Y., Sullivan, J. N., Allums, S.[†] & Markman, E. M. (revise and resubmit). How messages common in racial-ethnic socialization affect children's reasoning about social disparities.

Asaba, M., **Zhang, M. Y.** & Leonard, J. A. (under review). U.S. Children expect and approve of adults' gender stereotypes. ([preprint](#))

Zhang, M. Y., Leslie, S.-J., Rhodes, M., Ho, M. K. (2025). Learning about the inductive potential of categories from generic statements. In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([paper](#))

Asaba, M., **Zhang, M. Y.** & Leonard, J. A. (2024). Children expect adults to hold gender stereotypes, even when they are not accurate. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([article](#))

Zhang, M. Y.*, Sullivan, J. N.*, Markman, E. M. & Roberts, S. O. (2023). Children's structural thinking about social inequalities. *Child Development Perspectives*. ([paper](#))

Zhang, M. Y., Liu, L.[†], & Markman, E. M. (2023). Let's talk structure: the positive outcomes of structural thinking. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1564–1571). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([paper](#))

Chestnut, E. K., **Zhang, M. Y.**, & Markman, E. M. (2021). "Just as good": Learning gender stereotypes from attempts to counteract them. *Developmental Psychology*, 57(1), 114–125. ([paper](#), [data](#))

Johnson, S. G. B., **Zhang, M.**, & Keil, F. C. (2016). Decision-making and biases in causal-explanatory reasoning. In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1967–1972). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. ([paper](#))

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

-
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Leslie, S.-J., Rhodes, M., Ho, M. K. Learning about the inductive potential of categories from generic statements.
 Talk at Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA. ([slides](#)) 2025
 Poster at Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Cornell University, NY. 2025
 Poster at Essentialism in the Human Mind conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA. ([poster](#)) 2025
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Sullivan, J. N., Allums, S. & Markman, E. M. How White parents' conversational approaches affect children's reasoning about racial disparities.
 Symposium talk at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Minneapolis, MN. 2025
 Poster at Origins of the Social Mind preconference, Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP), online. 2025
 Invited talk at Social and Moral Cognition Lab (PI: Larisa Solomon), Columbia University. 2024
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Limitations and future directions in studying structural thinking in young children.
 Talk at Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA. ([slides](#)) 2024
- Asaba, M., **Zhang, M. Y.** & Leonard, J. A. Children's representations of others' gender biases.
 Symposium talk at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Minneapolis, MN. ([slides](#)) 2025
 Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([abstract](#)) 2023
 Poster at Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. 2023
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Popat, A. K., Santos, M., Mottl, P. R., Bian, L. & Markman, E. M. Language frequently used in best-selling storybooks can thwart their intent to inspire girls.
 Poster at Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Madison, WI. ([poster](#)) 2022
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Let's talk structure: the positive consequences of structural thinking.
 Invited talk at Genericity, Stability, and Structural Interactions workshop, CSU East Bay. 2024
 Invited talk at Conceptual Development & Social Cognition Lab (PI: Marjorie Rhodes), New York University. 2023
 Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([poster](#), [paper](#)) 2023
 Talk at Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP), Pittsburgh, PA. 2023
 Invited talk at Developmental Psychology Colloquium, University of California-Santa Cruz. 2022
 Poster at the Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) conference, San Francisco, CA. ([poster](#)) 2022
 (received Graduate Poster Award, Runner-Up)
 Talk at Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), virtual. 2022
 Talk at Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology conference, virtual. 2021
 Invited talk at Leonard Learning Lab (PI: Julia Leonard), Yale University. 2021
 Poster at Cognitive Science Society, virtual. ([abstract](#), [poster](#)) 2021
 Talk at Developmental Psychology Area Brownbag, Stanford University. ([talk](#)) 2021
 Invited talk at Causality in Cognition Lab (PI: Tobias Gerstenberg), Stanford University. 2020
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. Essentially blocked: the role of structural factors in blocking essentialism.
 Poster at Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY. ([poster](#)) 2019
 Talk at Developmental Psychology Area Brownbag, Stanford University. 2019
- Gijssels, T., **Zhang, M. Y.**, Lucero, C., Berman, M. G., & Casasanto, D. Understanding language about other people's actions.
 Poster at Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, QC. ([abstract](#)) 2019
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Gijssels, T., & Casasanto, D. Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others.
 Poster at the University of Chicago Psychology Honors Day Symposium, Chicago, IL. ([poster](#)) 2018
- Zhang, M.**, Haward, P., & Carey, S. Sources of information in the acquisition of principled properties.
 Poster at Harvard University Laboratory for Developmental Studies Summer Internship Poster Day, Cambridge, MA. ([poster](#)) 2016

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

*termination under appeal

Postdoctoral Travel Grant, Arts & Science, <i>New York University</i> (\$700)	2025
SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (SPRF) , (\$160,000 for intended 2 years)	2024–2025*
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, <i>National Science Foundation</i>	
Graduate Dissertation Fellowship , Clayman Institute for Gender Research, <i>Stanford University</i>	2023–2024
Graduate Research Opportunity, School of Humanities & Sciences, <i>Stanford University</i> (\$3,000)	2022
Summer Collaborative Research Fellowship, Stanford Impact Labs, <i>Stanford University</i> (\$4,000)	2022
Research Data Grant, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, <i>Stanford University</i> (\$1,500)	2021
Norman H. Anderson Research Award , Department of Psychology, <i>Stanford University</i> (\$2,000 x2)	2019, 2023
Regina Casper Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science & Engineering , <i>Stanford University</i>	2018–2021
Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship, <i>Ohio State University</i> (3 years, declined)	2018
Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind, <i>University of Oslo</i> (declined)	2018
Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention , <i>National Science Foundation</i>	2018
Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship , Department of Psychology, <i>The University of Chicago</i> (\$3,000)	2017
University Merit Scholarship , <i>The University of Chicago</i>	2014–2018

HONORS & AWARDS

Postdoctoral Travel Grant, Arts & Science, <i>New York University</i>	2025
Myra Strober Prize for newsletter writing, Clayman Institute for Gender Research, <i>Stanford University</i>	2024
Albert H. and Barbara R. Hastorf Teaching Award , Department of Psychology, <i>Stanford University</i>	2024
Diversity Travel Award, <i>Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP)</i>	2023
James W. Lyons Award for Service , Dean of Students Office, <i>Stanford University</i>	2023
Graduate Feminist Award , Vice Provost for Graduate Education/Women's Community Center, <i>Stanford Univ.</i>	2022
Graduate Poster Award Runner-Up, <i>Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)</i>	2022
Diversity Travel Award , <i>Cognitive Development Society (CDS)</i>	2019
Phi Beta Kappa, <i>The University of Chicago</i>	2018
Student Leadership Recognition and Access Award , Student Government, <i>The University of Chicago</i>	2016
Dean's List, <i>The University of Chicago</i> (ineligible 2017)	2015, 2016, 2018

TEACHING

*online

Guest Lecturer

Gender and Language in Society (ANTHRO 154Q), <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	Autumn 2024
Language, Gender, & Sexuality (LINGUIST 156/FEMGEN 156X), <i>Stanford University</i>	Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant (7x), *Stanford University*

Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, Engineering, and Environment (HISTORY/FEMGEN 44Q)	Spring 2024
Advanced Research / Honors Program (PSYCH 198)	Autumn 2022

- Taught workshops on research and professional skills in a small seminar class.

Introduction to Developmental Psychology (PSYCH 60)	Spring 2021*, Summer 2021*
---	----------------------------

- Taught a guest lecture on language and thought in a large lecture class.
- Graded problem sets and major assignments, and met with students in office hours.

Introduction to Psychology (PSYCH 1)	Autumn 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2020*
---	--

- Taught 2 weekly sections of 12-20 students each quarter & graded assignments.
- Developed an online teaching guide for sections during an emergency pivot to online teaching.
- Invited back in a two-quarter teaching program for a third quarter of teaching.

Internship Coordinator, *Stanford University*

CSLI Summer Internship , Center for the Study of Language and Information	2020, 2022
Psych-Summer Research Program , Department of Psychology	2023
• Designed mentorship contracts, mentor training, orientation, weekly workshops, and other events for interns.	

Mid-Quarter Teaching Consultant , Introduction to Psychology, <i>Stanford University</i>	2021–2024
---	-----------

Graduate Teaching Consultant , Center for Teaching & Learning, <i>Stanford University</i>	2020–2023
--	-----------

Graduate Teaching Consultant Coordinator, Center for Teaching & Learning, *Stanford University* 2021–2023

- Provided individualized teaching feedback to graduate students across the university.
- Trained and managed a team of more than a dozen graduate teaching consultants.
- Evaluated graduate student needs using focus groups and surveys, co-wrote a funding proposal for a graduate teaching certificate program, launched a university-wide teaching helpline for teaching-related questions, developed a grant fund for graduate students to develop teaching-related events and resources.
- Designed & lead workshops, on e.g., student engagement, group work, leading discussions, inclusive pedagogy:

Modell, A. & **Zhang, M. Y.** TA Orientation Any Time: A Self-Paced, Asynchronous Canvas Course.

Poster (IdeaLab) at Academic Technology Expo (ATXpo), *Saint Mary's College*. 2023

Talk at TEACH symposium, *Stanford University*. 2023

Zhang, M. Y. & various co-facilitators. Leading discussions in the humanities & social sciences.

Invited workshop for TA Orientation, *Stanford University*. Winter 2021*, Autumn 2021*, Autumn 2022

Asynchronous course module for TA Orientation Anytime, *Stanford University*. 2023

Zhang, M. Y. Engaging students in the classroom.

Invited workshop for Psychology TA Orientation, Psychology, *Stanford University*. 2022, 2023

Zhang, M. Y. & Guzman, K. Making groups work in class.

Invited workshop for Teach the Teachers, School of Earth, *Stanford University* (cancelled). 2022

Zhang, M. Y. & Williams, L. Student engagement online.

Invited workshop for TA Seminar, Civil and Environmental Engineering, *Stanford University*. 2020*

MENTORING & OUTREACH**Research Mentor** (13 students)

- Train and mentor undergraduate research assistants in developmental research and career development.
- Mentor honors thesis students[†] in applying for funding and conducting independent research.
- Lead weekly workshops on skills and professional development.

Neela Rao (NYU) 2025–present

Brenda Chavez-Olguin (BA, NYU) 2024–2025

Emily Rinehart (BA, Stanford → PhD student in School Psychology, Oregon) 2023–2024

Sachin Allums (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, Stanford) 2022–2024

Linda Liu (BA, Stanford → English Teaching Assistant, US Fulbright Program) 2022–2024

Kamilah Cole (BA, UC Berkeley) 2022

Amy Miyahara[†] (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, Notre Dame) 2021–2023

Natalie Sarmiento (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, UW-Madison) 2021–2022

Alex Riklin (BA, Stanford) 2021–2022

Mercedes Muñoz (BA, Boston University → PhD student in Psychology, Duke) 2020–2021

Melissa Santos[†] (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, Yale) 2019–2021

Aarthi Popat[†] (BA, Stanford → lab manager in Psychology, UCSD) 2019–2021

Alanna Sun (BA, Stanford) 2019–2020

Kristine Cho (BA, Pomona → PhD student in Marketing, UC Berkeley) 2019–2020

Mentor for psychology PhD applicants

[Project SHORT](#) (2021–present), [Application Statement Feedback Program \(ASFP\)](#) (2021–present), Stanford Psychology [Paths to PhD](#) (2019–2023), Stanford Women's Community Center [Women in STEM Mentoring](#) (2018–2020)

Science outreach and education for middle schoolers from underrepresented backgrounds

[Stanford Science Penpals](#) (2018–2020), [The Think Tank](#) educator & events manager (2015–2017; [media coverage](#))

Science communication

Zhang, M. Y. (2024). The structural burden of men's declining social networks. *Gender News*. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University. ([article](#))

Zhang, M. Y. (2023). Gender stereotypes contribute to misperceptions of gender norms across the world. *Gender News*. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University. ([article](#), received the [Myra Strober Prize](#))

Zhang, M. Y. (2023). The fundamental moral dilemma faced by public experts. *Gender News*. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University. ([article](#))

ACADEMIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

For the discipline

Ad hoc reviewer

Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, *Psychological Science* (co-reviewer), Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD), Society for Philosophy & Psychology (SPP)

For New York University

Organizer, Computational Social Cognition reading group

fall 2024

For Stanford University

Diversity Committee, Department of Psychology

2019–2020

- Conducted the first systematic documentation of graduate admission practices across areas of the department, as part of a committee initiative assessing diversity in graduate admissions.
- Twice co-organized an annual public event, [Paths to PhD](#), to communicate information about psychology graduate school and the application process to those from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Co-designed a department climate survey and transparency document for accountability to stakeholders.
- Created & maintain professional development resources, e.g., alumni & funding databases, for graduate students.

Cognitive/Developmental Faculty Search Committee, Department of Psychology

2021–2022

Developmental Area Graduate Admissions, Department of Psychology

2019–2020, 2021–2022

Developmental Area Graduate Interview Weekend, Department of Psychology

2022, 2023

Developmental Brownbag Seminar & Journal club, Department of Psychology

2019–2020

For the University of Chicago

Student Advisory Board, Cognitive Science Program

2017–2018

- Organized a group of undergraduates from psychology, philosophy, and linguistics to work with a faculty member on creating a cognitive science undergraduate major, which launched during the 2022–23 school year.

Faculty Liaison & Peer Mentor, Psi Chi (UC Psych)

2016–2018