

# Marianna Zhang

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Primary: Development of categories and concepts, language and thought  
Secondary: Identity over time, word learning, pragmatics, metaphor, non-literal language

## EDUCATION

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Sep 2018 – present (expected 2023) PhD student in Developmental Psychology  
**Stanford University**, Palo Alto, CA  
• Adviser: Ellen Markman

2014 –2018 Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Psychology, Minor in Philosophy  
**The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
• GPA: 3.85/4.00 (Psychology: 3.85, Philosophy: 3.89)  
• Honors thesis: Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others.  
• Advisers: Daniel Casasanto & Susan Goldin-Meadow

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

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Jul 2019 Participant in [Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute \(DISI\)](#)  
Organized by **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**  
Hosted by The University of St. Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland

Aug 2018 Participant in [Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Application \(CARLA\) Summer School](#)  
Institute of Cognitive Science, **University of Osnabrück**, Osnabrück, Germany

Michaelmas 2016 Visiting Student in Psychology and Philosophy  
**St Catherine's College, University of Oxford**, Oxford, England

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Oct 2014 – Jun 2018 **Research Assistant**  
[Experience and Cognition Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Daniel Casasanto), *The University of Chicago*  
• Found that mental imagery and language processing about the actions of others involves simulation of others' bodily perspective in an embodied cognition fMRI study (honors thesis).  
• Established that language processing about one's own actions involves simulation of one's own bodily experience in an embodied cognition tDCS study.  
• Examined whether loudness affects perception of temporal duration in a study testing a cross-domain mapping proposed by metaphor theory.

Jun – Aug 2016 **Summer Research Intern**  
[Laboratory for Developmental Studies](#) (PI: Dr. Susan Carey), *Harvard University*

- Investigated formal explanations and domain information as potential sources of information in how children and adults develop representations of natural kinds.
- Presented a poster, presented work-in-progress talks at lab meetings, and ran sessions of a cognitive science reading group.

Jun – Aug 2015

**Summer Research Intern**

[Cognition and Development Lab](#) (PI: Dr. Frank Keil), *Yale University*

- Established that a decision-making context reduces particular biases in causal reasoning, such as the latent scope bias.
- Studied what strategies are used in comparing explanations, and whether we evaluate explanatory candidates by iterative comparison.
- Presented biweekly work-in-progress talks at lab meetings.

HONORS AND AWARDS

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2019	<a href="#">Diversity Travel Award</a> , Cognitive Development Society (CDS)
2019	<a href="#">Norman H. Anderson Research Award</a> , Department of Psychology, Stanford University
2018	<b>Phi Beta Kappa</b> , The University of Chicago
2018	<b>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Award, Honorable Mention</b>
2018	<b>Regina Casper Fellow</b> , <a href="#">Stanford Graduate Fellowship in Science &amp; Engineering</a> , Stanford University
2017	<a href="#">Earl R. Franklin Research Fellowship</a> , Department of Psychology, The University of Chicago
2016	<a href="#">Student Leadership Recognition and Access Award</a> , Student Government, The University of Chicago
2015, 2016, 2018	<b>Dean's List</b> , The University of Chicago (ineligible 2017)
2014	<a href="#">University Merit Scholarship</a> , The University of Chicago
2014	<b>National Merit Scholar</b> , National Merit Scholarship Corporation
2014	<b>AP Scholar with Distinction</b> , College Board

PUBLICATIONS

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- Gijssels, T., **Zhang, M. Y.**, Lucero, C., Berman, M. G., & Casasanto, D. (2019). Understanding language about other people's actions. In *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnson, S.G.B., **Zhang, M.**, & Keil, F.C. (2016). [Decision-making and biases in causal-explanatory reasoning](#). In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1967–1972). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

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- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. (2019). Essentially blocked: the role of structural factors in blocking essentialism. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Zhang, M. Y.** & Markman, E. M. (2019). Essentially blocked: the role of structural factors in blocking essentialism. Talk presented at Stanford University Department of Psychology Developmental Area Brownbag, Stanford, CA.
- Zhang, M. Y.**, Gijssels, T., & Casasanto, D. (2018). Perspective-taking in mental imagery of the actions of others. Poster presented at the University of Chicago Department of Psychology Honors Day Symposium, Chicago, IL.

**Zhang, M.,** Haward, P., & Carey, S. (2016). Sources of information in the acquisition of principled properties. Poster presented at the Harvard University Laboratory for Developmental Studies Summer Internship Poster Day, Cambridge, MA.

#### TEACHING

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- Sep 2019 – Mar 2020 **Teaching Fellow for Psychology 1**  
[Psychology One Program](#), Department of Psychology, *Stanford University*
- Sep 2013 – Jun 2014 **Teaching Intern for English 10**  
Department of English, *Hunter College High School*
- Taught classes 2-3 times every semester. Graded assignments and held office hours.
  - Developed lesson plans, curriculum plans, assignment prompts, and an essay writing resource that is still being circulated by the department. Awarded the English Department Award for Service to the Department.

#### MENTORING AND OUTREACH

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- Oct 2019 – present **Research Mentor**, Department of Psychology, *Stanford University*  
Melissa Santos (Undergraduate, Stanford University)
- Oct 2019 – present Alanna Sun (Undergraduate, Stanford University)
- Jun – Aug 2019 Aarthi Popat (Undergraduate, Stanford University)  
[Psych-Summer Research Program](#)
- Jun – Aug 2019 Kristine Cho (Undergraduate, Pomona College)  
[Center for the Study of Language and Information \(CSLI\) Summer Internship Program](#)
- Oct 2018 – present **Mentor**  
[Women in STEM Mentoring Program](#), *Stanford University*
- Mentoring a female Stanford undergraduate student from an underrepresented background interested in graduate school in the sciences.
- Oct 2018 – present **Penpal**  
**Ambassador to the Department of Psychology** (Jul 2019 – present)  
[Stanford Science Penpals](#), *Stanford University*
- Exchanging letters with a low-income student at a Chicago-area middle school interested in science.
- Sep 2015 – Dec 2017 **Events Manager**  
[The Think Tank](#), *The University of Chicago*
- Taught underrepresented elementary and middle school students about the brain (e.g. neuroplasticity) and growth mindset at local schools and science festivals.
  - Organized outreach events on campus, in neighborhood schools, and at nationwide fairs to promote diversity in the sciences.
- Sep 2013 – Jun 2014 **Writing Tutor**  
Writing Center, *Hunter College High School*
- Nominated by a teacher to be one of the inaugural writing tutors; assisted high schoolers with writing for humanities and social sciences classes.

#### PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

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- Jul 2019 – present **Member, Diversity Committee**  
Department of Psychology, *Stanford University*

- Jun 2019 – present     **Co-organizer, Developmental Area Brownbag talk series**  
Department of Psychology, *Stanford University*
- Feb – Mar 2019     **Reviewer, Summer Internship Admissions Committee**  
[Center for the Study of Language and Information \(CSLI\)](#), *Stanford University*
- Jun 2017 – Jun 2018     **Chair, Student Advisory Board**  
Cognitive Science Program, *The University of Chicago*
- Organized a group of undergraduates to work with a faculty member to establish a cognitive science program, including an undergraduate workshop, public talk series, and an undergraduate major.
- Mar 2016 – Jun 2018     **Faculty Liason**  
**Peer Mentor**  
[Psi Chi \(UC Psych\)](#), *The University of Chicago*
- Organized and advertised quarterly psychology talks by faculty speakers.
  - Mentored undergraduates by providing advice about the psychology major, the department, research involvement, resources, and professional development.

## LEADERSHIP

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- 2008 – present     **Co-President** (Jun 2019 – present)  
[Quiz Bowl](#), *Stanford University*
- Vice President of Club Activities** (May 2017 – Jun 2018)
- Treasurer** (May 2015 – Jun 2016)  
[College Bowl](#), *The University of Chicago*
- Captain, Head Editor** (May 2012 – Jun 2014)  
[Quiz Bowl](#), *Hunter College High School*
- Organizing trips to quizbowl tournaments across the country.
  - Managing club communication, hosting events, and creating recruitment materials.
  - Negotiated and managed a budget on the order of tens of thousands of dollars for a prestigious and fast-growing team. Launched a pilot financial aid program, an anonymous club atmosphere survey, and advice materials for newcomers.
  - Oversaw the production, editing, and distribution of a set of quizbowl questions to tournaments nationwide. Conducted outreach to teams in the region.
- Jul 2014 – present     **PACE Representative to Climate Action Committee** (Jul 2019 – present)
- Member of Event Management & Outreach Committees** (Jul 2019 – present)
- Director of Communications** (Jul 2015 – Aug 2017)
- Member of Question Set Certification Committee** (Sept 2014 – Sept 2015)
- Staff Coordinator** (Oct 2014 – Jul 2015)  
[Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence](#)
- Developing an action plan in tandem with multiple other quizbowl organizations for reducing the carbon footprint of our activities.
  - Proposing and working on projects for improving diversity and inclusion in the quizbowl community, including a code of conduct for a national tournament, a directory of quizbowlers from underrepresented backgrounds, and more.
  - Produced outreach campaigns and press releases, and served as the public face for a national 501(3)(c) nonprofit.
  - Reviewed and certified the quality of high school quizbowl question sets.

- Recruited and coordinated travel for more than a hundred staff for a national quizbowl tournament.

Nov 2014 – Jun 2018 **Financial & Publicity Director** (May 2017 – Jun 2018)

**Dancer**

[\*Rhythmic Bodies in Motion\*](#), *The University of Chicago*

- Managed a budget and fundraising campaigns for a dance company. Spearheaded outreach to students from low-income backgrounds and with limited previous dance experience.

## LANGUAGES

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**English** (Native)

**Mandarin Chinese** (Near-native listening and speaking, intermediate reading and writing)

**Spanish** (Intermediate)