# Jessica **Qiu**

✉ jess.qiu@mail.utoronto.ca  |  📞 (647) 782-1888  |  👤 jessicaqiu.me

## 🎓 EDUCATION

**Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**  Sept 2023 – Aug 2025
*University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada*

**Bachelor of Science in Honours Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour**  Sept 2019 – Apr 2023
*McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada*

- **Sub-GPA: 3.93/4.00:** Dean's Honours List for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years.
- **Honours Thesis**: "The impact of low-visibility & turbidity on fish activity" supervised by Dr. Sigal Balshine. Rising turbidity levels caused by pollution is a growing concern for aquatic ecosystems. This thesis will investigate how turbidity vs. low-light conditions and stable vs. fluctuating turbidity affect fish activity and discuss methodological and ecological implications.

## ⚗ RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant**  Apr 2023 – present
*VisAge Lab, Baycrest Rotman Research Institute, Toronto, ON*

- Worked on several research projects investigating biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and fall-prevention interventions in older adults, supervised by Dr. Eugenie Roudaia.
- Assisted with study visit procedures by using EEG (electroencephalogram) to collect patient data, administering & scoring neuropsychological tests, & consolidating data in REDcap survey software.
- Prepared research ethics board (REB) documents and used MATLAB to analyze EEG data.

**Research Assistant & Lab Manager**  Apr 2022 – Apr 2023
*Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

- Responsible for the laboratory's animal care program & proactively cared for 8+ fish species by completing tasks like feeding, water quality checks, water changes, and health checks.
- Communicated effectively with team of 25+ undergraduate and graduate students working on 10+ ongoing experiments to ensure smooth operation, & planned social events to foster community.
- Assisted field crew with long-term research projects monitoring local aquatic ecosystem health.

**Research Project Student**  Jan 2022 – Apr 2022
*Social Brain, Body, & Action Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

- Worked on a research project investigating potential strategies for mitigating harm caused by racial microaggressions, supervised by Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi & Dr. Michael Jenkins.
- Helped design and pilot the study, worked closely with research team to create an experiment that would address key current EDI issues such as recognizing microaggressions & microinterventions.
- Conducted analysis on collected data and meticulously consolidated findings in a written report.

**Research Project Student**  Jan 2020 – Jan 2022
*Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

- Worked on multiple research projects investigating 1) leadership behaviour in the endangered redside dace fish, and 2) the effect of caffeine on learning in fish, supervised by Dr. Sigal Balshine.
- Improved study methodology by using Excel knowledge to facilitate more efficient data collection.
- Produced original datasets by coding behavioural data for 120+ hours per project, analyzed collected data, and presented results in 5-min talk in lab meeting.

**Research Assistant**                                                    Apr 2021 – Aug 2021
*Wilson Toxicology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

- Assisted with ongoing research projects investigating the effects of the drug metformin on larval and adult fish, supervised by Dr. Joanna Wilson & Dr. Oana Birceanu.
- Collaborated with the department of Environment & Climate Change Canada on government initiatives promoting the conservation of wildlife on Indigenous reserves.
- Trained in the use of a variety of lab instruments including the microscope, pipettes, dissecting tools, homogenizer, spectrometer, centrifuge, YSI meter, pH meter & thermal oven.

## 📑 PUBLICATIONS

Jenkins, M., Deol, A., Irvine, A., Tamburro, M., **Qiu, J**., & Obhi, S. S. (2023). Racial microaggressions: Identifying factors affecting perceived severity and exploring strategies to reduce harm. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.13003

Pathak A., **Qiu J.**, Mehdi H., Balshine S., Turko A.J. (Under Review). Should I stay or should I go? Consensus and leadership in group thermal decision-making. *Behavioural Ecology & Sociobiology. BEAS-D-21-00423*

## 💼 OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**                                     Sept 2021 – present
*Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*

- Professionally trained in effective teaching and science communication, taught 3 tutorials a week for introductory psychology classes and provided mentorship support to over 220+ students.
- Assessed students' individual needs and adapted teaching approach to meet different needs.
- Received honourable mention for the "TA of the Year Award" based on student nominations.

## 🏆 ACHIEVEMENTS & EXTRACURRICULARS

**Graphical Abstract Published in Academic Journal**                                  2022
- Published graphical abstract: (DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpa.2021.111126).

**"PNB Talks" Symposium Speaker**                                                     2021
- Placed 1st place for my talk "*Super Mario & Not-So-Super Elections: The Impact of Form Perception*".

**Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference Speaker (AOPUTC)**        2021
- Presented my poster and talk "*Simon Says: Leadership Behaviour in Redside Dace*". (poster link)
- Placed top 10% out of 200+ undergraduate thesis presentations as a 2nd year student.

**LEAP Canada Creative Director**                                                2020 - 2022
- Led creative team in developing branding, marketing materials, and website from scratch.

## ➕ SKILLS & ABILITIES

**Art & Design**: skilled in Photoshop CC, Illustrator CC, and Sony Vegas Pro for graphic design & video editing. Portfolio can be found at: jessicaqiu.myportfolio.com

**Programming**: experience in using **R**, **Matlab**, & **Excel** for data analysis & visualization.

**Bilingual**: English and conversational Mandarin.

**Research Software & Certifications:** experienced in using **BORIS** for behavioural scoring, **TRex** for automated behavioural tracking, & **AxioVision** for morphometrics. Trained in WHMIS, EOHSS Health & Safety, Animal Handling, TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Course on Research Ethics) & certified as a Nuclear Energy Worker.