

YIXIAO SUN

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Update: February 2025

EDUCATION

Michigan State University

Ph.D. in Communication

Advisor: Dr. David M. Markowitz

East Lansing, MI

2025–

Nanjing University

M.A. in Communication

Advisor: Prof. Cheng-Jun Wang; GPA: 4.00/4.00

Nanjing, China

2022–2025

Sichuan International Studies University

B.A. in Internet and New Media (graduated with honors)

Advisor: Prof. Hao Liu; GPA: 3.96/4.00

Chongqing, China

2018–2022

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [2] Chen, Z., Yu, W., **Sun, Y.**, Wang, C.J.*, & Liu, X.F.* (2025). The Dark Side of the Internet: Fueling Misinformation in the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election. *Communication and the Public*. Online First in March 2025.
- [1] **Sun, Y.**, Yan, X.F., Zhang, Y., Chen, J., Chen, Z.*, & Wang, C.J.* (2024). Globalization in International Tensions: The Impact of Military Conflicts on the Cultural Orientations of Multinational Corporations' Advertising in Modern China (1932–1937). *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 17(4), 452–470.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [6] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (2024). Authoritarians in Response to Societal Crises: Reciprocal Dynamics of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, COVID-19 Fear and Prevention Belief. Paper presented at *the 110th Annual National Communication Association (NCA) Conference*, New Orleans, LA. [Top Paper Award]
- [5] **Sun, Y.**, Fei, Y., & Yu, C. (2024). Resource Exchange, Perceived Social Support, Companionship and Intimacy: Characterizing the Social Relationship Between Users and ChatGPT. Paper presented at *the 110th Annual National Communication Association (NCA) Conference*, New Orleans, LA. [Top Student Paper Award]
- [4] **Sun, Y.** (2024). Building Identity Through Narratives: Who Voices Dissent Within the Party?. Paper in Progress presented at *the 110th Annual National Communication Association (NCA) Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
- [3] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Chen, Z., & Wang, C.J. (2024). How Emotion and Narrative Foster Resilience in Adversity: The Case of Large-Scale Online Donations during COVID-19. Paper presented at *the 110th Annual National Communication Association (NCA) Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
- [2] **Sun, Y.**, Yan, X.F., Zhang, Y., Chen, Z., & Wang, C.J. (2023). From Imperialism to Cultural Imperialism: Localized Versus Globalized Advertisements of Imported Commodities in China (1932–1937). Paper presented at *the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Toronto, Canada.

- [1] Zhang, Y., Lu, G., **Sun, Y.**, Chen, Z., & Wang, C.J. (2023). Traversing the Valley of Despair in Affective Mobilization: Issue Engagement, Emotion, and Online Donation on Sina Weibo During the Outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at *the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Toronto, Canada.

UNDER REVIEW

- [4] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* (Under Review). Bipolarity of Positive and Negative Affects: Contemporaneous Network Relations of Nuanced Affect States.
- [3] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* (Under Review). Authoritarians in Response to Social Crisis: Reciprocal Dynamics of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, COVID-19 Fear and Prevention Belief.
- [2] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**[†], & Wang, C.J.* (Revise and Resubmit). Unraveling the Shape of Social Media Narratives: Analyzing the Effects of Online Interaction and Narrative Structure on Attention to Digital Asset Transactions. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*. [co-first author[†]]
- [1] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Lu, G., Chen, Z.*, & Wang, C.J.* (Revise and Resubmit). Let Us Not Wallow in the Valley of Despair: The Role of Emotion, Panic, and Sympathy Discourses in Promoting Productive Actions. *International Journal of Business Communication*.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [4] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* Measuring Agency Through Text and Language Data: Validating Two Distinct NLP Approaches, Riveter and LIWC, Across Diverse Scenarios.
- [3] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* Agency and Meaning in Life as Conscious Experiences in Shaping Emotions.
- [2] **Sun, Y.**, & Wang, C.J.* How Narrative Identity Exposes Your Political Ambitions: Unraveling the Relations Between Agency, Communion, and Dissent Voting Behavior of U.S. Congressional Representatives.
- [1] Li, W., **Sun, Y.**, & Yue, Y. Artificial Intelligence vs. Medical Experts: A Comparative Analysis of Semantic Quality and Readability in Health Advice from Large Language Models and Human Institutions.

HONORS and AWARDS

Research and Academic Excellence

- Top Paper Award Jul 2024
Political Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA)
- Top Student Paper Award Jul 2024
Human Communication and Technology Division, National Communication Association (NCA)
- Chongqing Excellent Graduation Thesis Award Jan 2023

Competitive External Scholarships and Fellowships

- National Scholarship for Graduate Student Oct 2024
- HUANG Jianliang Scholarship Oct 2023

- National Scholarship for Undergraduate Student Dec 2021

Selected Competition Awards

- National Second Place, *Dissemination Data Mining Competition* Sep 2023
- First Place in West China, *ESG National College Innovation Competition* Dec 2021
- Provincial Second Prize, *Challenge Cup National Academic Works Competition* Aug 2021
- Provincial Third Prize, *National Advertising Art Competition* Jul 2021
- National Third Prize, *National English Competition for College Students* Nov 2020

Graduation Honors

- Chongqing Distinguished Graduate Award Jun 2022

GRANTS

External

- National Social Science Foundation of China (22BXW032), ¥200,000, *Research Fellow* 2022–2025
Project title: *Computational Narrative Research on Chinese Stories and Chinese Voices in the Digital Media Era* (PI: Cheng-Jun Wang)
- CAST Science Popularization Program (KXYJS2022063), ¥30,000, *co-PI* 2022–2024
Project title: *The Dissemination of Science Popularizing Information in Public Health Emergencies and Its Impact on Social Mobilization*
- Chongqing College Students' Innovation Training Program (S202010650015), ¥2,500, *PI* 2020–2021
Project title: *Research on the Visualization of Public Opinions along the Belt and Road from the Perspective of Geopolitics: Twitter as an Example*

Internal

- Distinguished Postgraduate Talent Cultivation Program (2023GYB08), ¥10,000, *PI* 2023–2025
Project title: *Research on Advertising Strategies for Imported Commodities during the Republic of China from the Perspective of Cultural Imperialism*

Travel Grants

- National Communication Association (NCA) Student Caucus Travel Grant, \$200 2024

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

- Applications of Large Language Models in Digital Humanities**, Nanjing University Spring 2025
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma
- Text Data Analysis**, Nanjing University Spring 2024
Graduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhicong Chen

Planning and Creative Strategy, Nanjing University
Graduate seminar; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

Spring 2024

Advertising Strategy and Creation, Nanjing University
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

Fall 2023, 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Services for Academic Association

National Communication Association (NCA)

Information Officer, Human Communication and Technology Division

2025, 2026

— Responsible for managing and distributing division communications, maintaining the official NCA website, and overseeing social media engagement.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Computational Communication Collaboratory, Nanjing University
Student Member

Nanjing, China
Sep 2022–present

Chongqing Overseas Publicity Research Center
Global Public Opinion Research Intern

Chongqing, China
May 2020–May 2022

SKILLS

- **Statistical Programming / Markup Languages:** Python, R, Stata, LaTeX, HTML, SQL, CSS, SPSS
- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Proficient)
- **Applications:** Tableau, CiteSpace, Brackets, Photoshop, Premier Pro, Animate, Audition
- **Music:** Piano (Level 8 Certificate), Singing