

YIXIAO SUN

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Update: July 2025

EDUCATION

Michigan State University

Ph.D. in Communication

Advisor: Dr. David M. Markowitz

East Lansing, MI

2025–

Nanjing University

M.A. in Communication (with Distinguished Honor Graduate Award)

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 (with Distinguished Honor Graduate Award)

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

Chongqing, China

2018–2022

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [4] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Lu, G., Chen, Z.*, & Wang, C.J.* (2025). 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*. Online First in May 2025.
- [3] Zhang, Y.[†], **Sun, Y.[†]**, & Wang, C.J.* (2025). 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*, 69(3), 200–218. [Co-first author[†]]
- [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.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [8] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (2025). Bipolarity of Positive and Negative Affects: Contemporaneous Network Relations of Nuanced Affect States. Paper to be present at *National Communication Association (NCA) 111th Annual Convention*, Denver, CO.
- [7] Li, W., **Sun, Y.**, & Yue, Y. (2025). Artificial Intelligence vs. Medical Experts: A Comparative Analysis of Semantic Quality and Readability in Health Advice from Large Language Models and Human Institutions. Paper in Progress to be present at *National Communication Association (NCA) 111th Annual Convention*, Denver, CO.

- [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 *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, 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 *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, 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 *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, 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 *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, 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

- [2] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* (Under Review). Bipolarity of Positive and Negative Affects: Contemporaneous Network Relations of Nuanced Affect States.
- [1] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* (Under Review). Authoritarians in Response to Social Crisis: Reciprocal Dynamics of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, COVID-19 Fear and Prevention Belief.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [8] **Sun, Y.**, Ma, Z., & Ma, Z.* Dynamic Changes in Moral Foundations and Absolutist Tendencies Among Truth Social Users Before and After the Trump Assassination Attempt: A Study Using Distributed Dictionary Representations and Growth Curve Modeling.
- [7] **Sun, Y.**, Zhang, Y.* , & Wang, C.J.* Too Deep in the Role: Unveiling the Connection Between U.S. Politicians' Social Media Narrative Identity and Their Dissent Voting Behavior.
- [6] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* Measuring Agency Through Text and Language Data: Validating Two Distinct NLP Approaches, Riveter and LIWC, Across Diverse Scenarios.
- [5] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z.* Agency and Meaning in Life as Conscious Experiences in Shaping Emotions.
- [4] Markowitz, D.M.* , & **Sun, Y.** Language and Persuasion: A State-of-the-Field Review. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.
- [3] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.*** , & Wang, C.J.* Telling the Road to Fame: The Effects of Interactivity and Narrative Structure on the Global Prominence of 2,018 U.S. Senators.

[2] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Yan, X.F.*, & Chen, B.* Expanding the Policy Feedback Model: A Cross-Lagged Analysis of Public Attitudes Toward Autonomous Vehicle Promotion on Weibo.

[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.

SELECTED 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

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 Honor 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 Spring 2024
Graduate seminar; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma
- Advertising Strategy and Creation**, Nanjing University Fall 2023, 2024
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Services for Academic Associations

National Communication Association (NCA)

- Information Officer, Human Communication and Technology Division Jan 2025–Dec 2026
— Managed division communications, maintained the official NCA website, and oversaw social media engagement.

Services for Academic Media Platforms

- Data Visualization Editor, *Fact-Checking Records* Oct 2022–Jan 2024
— Edited data-driven news content, including topic development, research, writing, data analysis, and visual design.
- Editor, *Computational Communication Academy* Sep 2022–Aug 2023
— Compiled and disseminated computational social science research; authored newsletters highlighting developments from the Computational Communication Collaboratory.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Communication & Computation Lab, Michigan State University

Student Member

East Lansing, MI

Jul 2025–

Computational Communication Collaboratory, Nanjing University

Student Member

Nanjing, China

Sep 2021–Jun 2025

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), Japanese (Elementary)
- **Applications:** Tableau, Gephi, Brackets, Photoshop, Premier Pro, Animate, Audition
- **Music:** Piano (Level 8 Certificate), Singing