404 Wilson Road, Room 557, East Lansing, MI 48824

YIXIAO SUN

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI

Ph.D. in Communication

2025-

Advisor: Dr. David M. Markowitz

Nanjing University

Nanjing, China

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

2022-2025

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

Sichuan International Studies University

Chongging, China

B.A. in Internet and New Media (with Distinguished Honor Graduate Award)

2018-2022

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

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

- [3] Sun, Y., & Ma, Z.* (Under Review). Phenomenal Consciousness in Females and Access Consciousness in Males Are More Closely Associated with Emotions.
- [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

- [7] 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.
- [6] Sun, Y., Zhang, Y.*, & Wang, C.J.* Behind the Roles We Play: How U.S. Politicians' Social Media Narrative Identity Relates to Their Dissent Voting Behavior.
- [5] Sun, Y., & Ma, Z.* Measuring Agency Through Text and Language Data: Validating Two Distinct NLP Approaches, Riveter and LIWC, Across Diverse Scenarios.
- [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.* Understanding Interactive Narratives: Group Identity, Collaborative Networks, and Narrative Contention in Digital Media.

- [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 Political Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA)	Jul 2024
• Top Student Paper Award Human Communication and Technology Division, National Communication Association (NCA)	Jul 2024
• 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
\bullet 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
 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 Popularizating Information in Public Health Emergencies and

 Its Impact on Social Mobilization

Chongqing College Students' Innovation Training Program (S202010650015), \(\frac{3}{2}\)2,500, PI
 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

COM 100: Human Communication, Michigan State University

Fall 2025

Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Dustin Carnahan

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 high-lighting developments from the Computational Communication Collaboratory.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Communication & Computation Lab, Michigan State University

Student Member

East Lansing, MI Jun 2025–

Computational Communication Collaboratory, Nanjing University

Student Member / Student Affliate

Nanjing, China Sep 2021–

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