

# YIXIAO SUN

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Update: July 2025

## EDUCATION

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### 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

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- [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.<sup>†</sup>, **Sun, Y.<sup>†</sup>**, & 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<sup>†</sup>]
- [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

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- [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

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- [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

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- [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.\* Behind the Roles We Play: How U.S. Politicians' Social Media Narrative Identity Relates to 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.\* Phenomenal Consciousness in Females and Access Consciousness in Males Are More Closely Associated with 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.\* 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

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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

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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

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### 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

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### 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

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**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

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- **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