

Anqi Shao Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Science Communication

8/2025

Ph.D. Minor in Political Science and Computer Science

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

- **Dissertation:** *Beyond Misinformation: Understanding AI Hallucinations in Science Communication*
- **Committee Chair:** Dr. Dietram Scheufele
- **Committee Members:** Dr. Dominique Brossard, Dr. Kaiping Chen, Dr. Amy Claessens, and Dr. Sharon Li

Master of Science in Communication

2/2019

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Bachelor of Science in Biology

6/2016

Fudan University, China

APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Research Scholar

9/2025 -

The Arizona Water Innovation Initiative (AWII)

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Arizona State University

- Mentor a group of six graduate research assistants.
- Tech lead for azwaterbot.org, an AI-powered public-facing science communication system.
- Conduct applied research on Human-AI communication in public information and education contexts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Department of Life Sciences Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Science, Media, and Society, LSC 251

Spring 2020, Summer 2025

Documentary Photography for The Sciences, LSC450

Spring 2025

Health Communication in the Information Age, LSC 617

Fall 2024

Risk Communication, LSC 625

Spring 2023

Visualizing Science and Technology, LSC 350

Fall 2022

Research Methods in Communication Industry, LSC 250

Spring 2021

Marketing Communications for the Sciences, LSC 270

Fall 2020, Fall 2019

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Shao, A.** (2025). New sources of inaccuracy? A conceptual framework for studying AI hallucinations. *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*.
- Shao, A.**, Carradini, S., Harikrishnan, R. S., Kuriakose, J., Manylal, S., & Ravichandran, S. (2026). Currents of inquiry: Insights from two years of real-world AI-learner water conversations. In *Proceedings of the Learning Engineering Research Network Convening (LERN 2026): Insights to implementation: Learning engineering in action*.
- Shao, A.**, Chen, K., Johnson, B., Miranda, S., & Xing, Q. (2025). Ubiquitous News Coverage and its Varied Effects in Communicating Protective Behaviors to American Adults in Infectious Disease Outbreaks: Evidence from a National Longitudinal Panel Survey. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*
- Shao, A.**, Chen, K., Jin, Y. (2022). Science Factionalism: How Group Identity Language Affects Public Engagement with Misinformation and Debunking Narratives on a Popular Q&A Platform in China. *Social Media+ Society*, 8(1). **[all authors have equal contribution]**
- Chen, K., **Shao, A.**, Burapachee, J., & Li, Y. (2024). Conversational AI and Equity: Assessing GPT-3's Communication with Diverse Social Groups on Contentious Topics. *Scientific Reports*.
- Chinn, S., Hasell, A., & **Shao, A.** (2024). What does it mean to “do your own research?” A comparative content analysis of DYOR messages in Instagram and Facebook posts about reproductive health, food, and vaccines. *New Media & Society*, 14614448241293409.
- Duan, Z., **Shao, A.**, Yang, S., Chen, K., Hu, Y., Suh, Y., Kim, J., Lee, H., Liao, X. (2025). Vectionary: A Word-Embedding-Based Optimization Approach to Extracting Moral Appeals from Text. *Political Analysis*
- Middleton, L., **Shao, A.**, Cate, A., Haugen, J., & Li, N. (2024). An Enthusiastic but Uncertain Welcome: Coverage of Risks, Benefits, and Social Contexts of CRISPR Technology in US Agricultural News 2012-2022. *Journal of Applied Communications*, 108(2), 1.
- Wirz, C., **Shao, A.**, Bao, L., Howell, E. L., Monroe, H., & Chen, K. (2021). Media Systems and Attention Cycles: Volume and Topics of News Coverage on COVID-19 in the United States and China. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*.
- Ho, P., Chen, K., **Shao, A.**, Bao, L., Ai, A., Tarfa, A., Brossard, D., Brown, L & Brauer, M. (2021). A Mixed Methods Study of Public Perception of Social Distancing: Integrating Qualitative and Computational Analyses for Text Data. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*
- Meppelink, C., Hendriks, H., Trilling, D., van Weert, J. C., **Shao, A.**, & Smit, E. S. (2021). Reliable or not? An automated classification of webpages about early childhood vaccination using supervised machine learning. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 104(6), 1460-1466.
- Howell, E. L., Kohl, P., Scheufele, D. A., Clifford, S., **Shao, A.**, Xenos, M. A., & Brossard, D. (2020). Enhanced threat or therapeutic benefit? Risk and benefit perceptions of human gene editing by purpose and heritability of edits. *Journal of Risk Research*, 1-17.

Chen, K., Bao, L., **Shao, A.**, Ho, P., Yang, S., Wirz, C., Brossard, D., Brauer, M., & Diprete Brown, L. (2020). How public perceptions of social distancing evolved over a critical period: communication lessons learnt from the American state of Wisconsin. *Journal of Science Communication*, 19(5), A11.

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Shao, A., Scheufele, D. A., (under review). When AI Does Not Follow Instructions: Belief Updates and Information Seeking After Hallucinated and Corrective Responses.

Yuan, S., **Shao, A.** Bao, L., (under review). Human-Machine Justice in Disaster Response: How Just Conversations with AI Chatbots Work -- and When They Don't.

Eom, D., Renner, J., Zhu, E., **Shao, A.**, Choi, S., Newman, T., Brossard, D., & Scheufele, D. A. (under review). Augmentation or autonomy? Key influences on AI opposition and regulatory support.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Human-Machine Communication

Bao, L., **Shao, A.**, & Yang, S. (2025, Jun). Does ChatGPT Make users feel more informed and engaged with science than Google Search? The mediating roles of perceived contingency and elaboration. [Conference presentation]. *75th Annual ICA Conference*, Denver, CO.

Yuan, S., **Shao, A.**, & Bao, L., (2025, Jun). Human-Machine Justice in Disaster Response: How AI Chatbots Influence Risk Perception and Public Behavior [Conference presentation]. *75th Annual ICA Conference*, Denver, CO.

Science & Political Communication

Shao, A., Wang, Y., (2023, April) Cutting "Long COVID" Stories Short: Did News Outlets Oversimplify the Uncertainty in Medical Research about Post-COVID Conditions? [Conference presentation]. *Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) Conference*, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Shao, A., Xenos, M., (2022, Aug). Thematic and Semantic Shifts of Human Gene Editing in News Coverage through the CRISPR Baby Scandal. [Poster presentation]. *Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference*, Detroit, MI, United States.

Shao, A., Chen, K., Jin, Y., (2021, Aug), How Group Identity Polarizes Public Deliberation on Controversial Science: Examining Public Discourse on GMO Misinformation and Counter-Narratives from a Popular Q&A Platform in China. Paper presented at the *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference*. Virtual.

Computational Social Science

Shao, A. (2021, Aug). Influencers Alleviate Spiral of Silence, but Levitate Public Opinion Polarization? Preliminary Observations from an Agent Based Modeling Approach [Conference presentation]. *Fourth Annual Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference*, Virtual

- Shao, A.**, Chen, K., Duan, Z., Yang, S. (2022, Jun). The Reproductive Dynamics of Moral Appeal Expression on Social Media – Examining Public Discourse of COVID-19 Issues on Twitter [Conference presentation]. *ICA 2022 Regional Conference: Computational Communication Research in Central and Eastern Europe*, Virtual
- Shao, A.** (2020, Nov). Echoing Inside or Beyond the Walls: The #SciComm Discussion on Twitter [Conference presentation]. *106th National Communication Association (NCA) annual convention*. Virtual
- Shao, A.**, Meppelink, C., Smit, E., Trilling, D., Weert, J., and Hendriks, H. (2019, May), Automatically distinguishing correct information from misinformation about vaccines: a supervised machine learning approach [Conference presentation] *69th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Shao, A (2026, Feb). *How AI Hallucinates Science: Lessons from Health and Climate Communication*. Post Doc Panel at 2026 AAAS Annual Meeting.
- Shao, A. (2023, Mar). *Implementation and Ethics of Automated Online Data Collection*. Invited talk at CMRG Brownbag, University of Wisconsin–Madison, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

Jean A. Shipman Scholarship	2024-2025
LSC Professional Development/Travel Awards	2020-2024
UW Student Research Grant	2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Internships	02/2019-08/2019
Primary Intelligence Department - market research and analysis	IQVIA, Shanghai
Market analysis & interview	ZS Associates, Shanghai
Marketing Internships	10/2014-06/2016
Issue Department – writing promotional materials	<i>China Daily</i> , Shanghai
Marketing & Communication Department – graphic design and writing	Fonterra, Shanghai

ACADEMIC SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

- Manuscript Reviewer for *Scientific Reports*, *Science Communication*, *BMC Psychology*, *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, *Media and Communication*, *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*
- Newsletter translator for Mandarin Chinese, *Digital Journalism* 06/2024 – Present
- Session Chair, "Social Media Repertoires and Psychological Well-Being", ICA2024 06/2024

METHODS & TECHNICAL TOOLKIT.

Research skills: experiment design, survey design and programming, computational methods, quantitative content analysis, mixed-method studies

Data analysis & visualization: R, Python, Tableau, SPSS

Programming: Python (for natural language processing and machine learning pipelines, and API integration), HTML/CSS (for web design), NetLogo (for agent-based modeling)

Learning management systems: Canvas, Blackboard, Peerceptiv

Languages: English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (native), Japanese (intermediate)

REFERENCES

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University of Wisconsin-
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