

## WEN XU

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### EDUCATION

#### Middlebury College

*Expected February 2024*

Candidate for B.A. in Psychology with Minor in Computer Science

**GPA:** 3.97/4.0

**Honors thesis:** Raising Risk Perception of Natural Disasters with Icon Arrays

**Relevant coursework:** Cognitive Psychology, Sensation and Perception, Social Psychology, Data Visualization, Data Science Across Disciplines, Machine Learning

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

#### Conservation Psychology Lab, Middlebury College, VT

*January 2022-present*

*Research Assistant*

- Conducted an independent study on the effect of psychological distance and personal value on climate change concern and mitigation behavioral intention. Reviewed literature, designed and ran a behavioral experiment, analyzed data, and authored a manuscript.

Principal Investigator: Michelle McCauley, Ph. D.

#### Visual Thinking Lab, Northwestern University, IL

*June 2023-August 2023*

*Research Assistant*

- Built prototypes for a web-based interactive designer's guide for creating dynamic data visualizations that respect perceptual limits using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Figma.
- Analyzed data from a behavioral experiment on argument mapping and belief change.

Principal Investigator: Steven Franconeri, Ph. D.

#### Child and Baby Lab, Uppsala University, Sweden

*August 2022-December 2022*

*Research Assistant*

- Ran behavioral experiments to examine additive cognitive biases in problem solving strategies in adults. Analyzed results and co-authored a manuscript.

Principal Investigator: Joshua C. Juvrud, Ph. D.

#### Vermont Center for Behavioral Science Research on Climate and the Environment, Middlebury College, VT

*June 2022-August 2022*

*Research Assistant*

- Collected and analyzed survey data for two studies on climate attitudes and decision making.
- Reviewed literature on the influence of personal experience of natural disasters on climate beliefs.

Principal Investigators: Michelle McCauley, Ph. D., Julia Berazneva, Ph. D.

#### Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

*July 2018-September 2021*

*Research Intern*

- Conducted complex network analysis on international plastic waste trade data and authored a manuscript.
- Modeled the future demand and recycling potentials of metal materials for lithium ion batteries of electric vehicles in 90+ cities in China. Reviewed literature, collected data, developed models, and visualized results.

Principal Investigators: Wei-Qiang Chen, Ph. D., Peng Wang, Ph. D.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Jiezi SpeakGreen**, China

*August 2021-present*

*Co-founder and Content Writer*

- Co-founded an initiative that aims to communicate environmental problems, increase affinity with nature, and encourage pro-environmental lifestyles amongst young people in Chinese cities.
- Wrote 15+ environmental and science communication articles for the initiative's public social media account, which has 600+ subscribers and received 4 million + views in total.

**EcoDorms**, Middlebury College, VT

*January 2022-May 2022*

*Student Intern*

- Organized weekly activities in first-year dorms at Middlebury College with the goal of increasing environmental awareness and building community.
- Wrote weekly posts for an environmental education blog.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Xu, W.**, Chen, W. Q., Jiang, D., Zhang, C., Ma, Z., Ren, Y., & Shi, L. (2020). Evolution of the global polyethylene waste trade system. *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, 6(1), 1756925.

Jian, X., Wang, P., Sun, N., **Xu, W.**, Liu, L., Ma, Y., & Chen, W. Q. (2022). Material flow analysis of China's five commodity plastics urges radical waste infrastructure improvement. *Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability*, 2(2), 025002.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Xu, W.** (2023, April). *Does Self-Enhancement Discount Impacts Here and Now? Psychological Distance, Personal Values, and Climate Action*. Poster presented at the Spring Student Symposium at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

**Xu, W.**, Farrin, S., Ostrow, K. D., Eddy, N., & Sullivan, L. (2022, August). *EcoDorms Intervention 2019-2022*. Poster presented at the Summer Research Symposium at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

Sullivan, L., Eddy, N., Ostrow, K. D., **Xu, W.**, & Farrin, S. (2022, August). *The Effects of Natural Disasters on Impacted Communities: A Case Study of Hurricane Irene*. Poster presented at the Summer Research Symposium at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

## SKILLS

**Analysis and modeling:** R Studio, MATLAB, Python, SPSS

**Front-end:** JavaScript (D3.js, p5.js), HTML, CSS

**Graphic design:** Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop