

WEN XU

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EDUCATION

Middlebury College

September 2019 - February 2024

B.A. in Psychology with Minor in Computer Science (*summa cum laude with departmental honors*)

Honors thesis: *Icons, Bars, or Numbers: Concreteness of Data Visualization Influences Perception of Wildfire Risks*

Advisor: Michelle McCauley, Ph.D.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Conservation Psychology Lab, Middlebury College, VT

January 2022-February 2024

Undergraduate Researcher

- Conducted an independent study on how communicating proximal climate impacts affects climate support for individuals with different value orientations. Reviewed literature, designed and ran an online experiment, analyzed data, and prepared a first-authored manuscript.
- Conduct an honors thesis on raising awareness of natural disaster risks with concrete data visualization designs. Reviewed literature, designed and ran an online experiment, analyzed data, and prepared a first-authored manuscript.

Principal Investigator: Michelle McCauley, Ph.D.

Visual Thinking Lab, Northwestern University, IL

June 2023-August 2023

Research Assistant

- Developed prototypes for a web-based interactive designer's guide for creating effective dynamic data visualizations using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Figma.
- Created interactive visualizations with Tableau to support data analysis for a behavioral experiment on argument visualization and belief change.

Principal Investigator: Steven Franconeri, Ph.D.

Child and Baby Lab, Uppsala University, Sweden

August 2022-December 2022

Research Assistant

- Ran in-person behavioral experiments to examine additive cognitive biases in problem-solving strategies in adults from Sweden and the U.S. Analyzed data 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 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.

WORK EXPERIENCES

Jiezi SpeakGreen, China

August 2021-Present

Co-founder and Content Writer

- Co-founded an environmental and science communication initiative that aims to increase connection with nature and encourage pro-environmental lifestyles among 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 Organizer

- Organized weekly sustainability-themed 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.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Xu, W., McCauley, M. (2024, March). *Does Local Information Motivate Climate Support? Value and Political Identity as Moderators*. [Poster presentation]. Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Middlebury College Academic Travel Grant (\$800)	2023
Middlebury College Senior Research Project Supplement (\$800)	2023
Middlebury College Center for Career and Internships Summer Internship Funding Grant (\$2000)	2023

SKILLS

Analysis and modeling: RStudio, MATLAB, Python, SPSS

Front-end and prototyping: JavaScript (D3.js, p5.js), HTML, CSS, Figma

Graphic design: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop