

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Yama (Ya-Wen) Chang, M.A.**

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[yc3508@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:yc3508@tc.columbia.edu) | [Personal Website](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [GitHub](#)**EDUCATION**

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2018 – 2020	<b>Teachers College, Columbia University</b> <i>M.A. in Clinical Psychology</i> - GPA: 4.0/4.0 <i>Concentration in Research Methods</i> <u>Master's Thesis</u> : Childhood Gender Nonconformity and Identity Development Among a Diverse Transgender Community Sample in the United States	New York, NY
2008 – 2012	<b>National Taiwan University</b> <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	Taipei, Taiwan
2010	<b>Stanford University</b> <i>Exchange Student</i>	Palo Alto, CA

**RESEARCH INTEREST**

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I am interested in leveraging technology to enhance mental health care, particularly through the creation of digital interventions and human-AI collaboration tools. My aim is to design accessible, scalable, evidence-based solutions that address mental health disparities, with a special emphasis on the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, I'm exploring the use of language models and AI to provide timely, personalized mental health support.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCES**

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2022 – Present	<b><a href="#">Lab for Scalable Mental Health</a>   DP5OD028123</b> <b>Medical Social Sciences and Psychology, Northwestern University</b> <u>Principal Investigator</u> : Jessica Schleider, Ph.D. <u>Research Area</u> : Digital mental health interventions, minority mental health, structural stigma  <i>Data Scientist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led and co-authored projects, resulting in six publications/ongoing manuscripts (1 first-author, 5 second-author) in top-tier psychology journals</li> <li>Performed data visualization and advanced analysis using R and Python (e.g., machine learning, time-series modeling, hierarchical linear modeling, confirmatory factor analysis, and mediation/moderation analysis)</li> <li>Cleaned and de-identified large-scale datasets (e.g., EMA data, longitudinal datasets) to create analytical base tables and contributed to open data repositories (e.g., GitHub and OSF)</li> <li>Developed and visualized a county-level index in the U.S. using large-scale open datasets (600,000+ records) to study structural stigma towards LGBTQ+</li> <li>Spearheaded best practices for open data management, promoting transparency, reproducibility, and data integrity</li> <li>Served as a statistical consultant to doctoral students and research coordinators, providing expertise on data analysis and coding using the R programming language</li> </ul>
2020 – 2022	<b>Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide   R01MH085651</b> <b>Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</b> <u>Principal Investigator</u> : Katalin Szanto, M.D. <u>Research Area</u> : Suicide risk in late-life depression  <i>Senior Research/Data Analyst</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published two papers (1 first-author, 1 third-author) in top psychiatry journals</li> </ul>

- Led independent research projects, including conceptualizing research questions into hypotheses, developing and applying analytic strategies, writing first authorship manuscripts, and present research findings at national and international conferences
- Built statistical models using R for classification and prediction, communicate results to investigators using informative graphics, and write co-authorship manuscripts
- Generated and present data-driven reports using R Markdown to better inform recruitment practices for case-control study, reducing the gender gap to only 8%
- Managed clinical longitudinal databases in REDCap
- Cleaned and prepared datasets for sharing to NIMH Data Archive
- Led data team of 4 individuals and oversee the training of new team members
- Led and designed a four-session R workshop to teach R programming, including introduction to R, data wrangling, tidying data, data visualization, and data analysis

2018 – 2020

**Program for the Study of LGBT Health | R01HD079603****Division of Gender, Sexuality, & Health****Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Irving Medical Center**Principal Investigator: Walter Bockting, Ph.D.Research Area: LGBTQ+ mental health, minority stress model***Research Intern***

- Led and co-authored projects, resulting in the submission of two manuscripts (1 first author, 1 third-author) in leading sexual/gender journals
- Led an independent research project from conceptual framework development to data analysis, data visualization, and first-authoring our manuscript
- Transcribed 26 interview scripts and used Dedoose software for qualitative coding and thematic content analysis

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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1. Szkody, E., **Chang, Y.**, Schleider, J. L. (2023). Serving the Underserved? Uptake, Effectiveness, and Acceptability of Digital SSIs for Rural American Adolescents. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*. [[Web](#)] [[Preprint](#)] [[Pre-registration](#)] [[Code](#)]
2. **Chang, Y.**, Buerke, M., Galfalvy, H., & Szanto, K. (2023). Childhood Trauma is Associated with Early-Onset but not Late-Onset Suicidal Behavior in Late-Life Depression. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 1-14. PMID: 37642013 [[Web](#)]
3. Galfalvy, H., Szücs, A., **Chang, Y.**, Buerke, M., & Szanto, K. (2023). Long-Term Suicidal Ideation Profiles in Late-Life Depression and Their Association with Suicide Attempt or Death by Suicide. *The Journal of clinical psychiatry*, 84(2), 22m14469. PMID: 36791367 [[Web](#)]

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

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\* indicates equal contribution

1. Schumacher, E.\*, **Chang, Y.\***, Martino, R., Maheux, A., Choukas-Bradley, S., Salk, R., & Thoma, B. (Under Review). Structural Stigma and Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior Among U.S. Sexual Minority Youth.
2. **Chang, Y.**, Jackman, K., Dworkin, J., Singh, A., LeBlanc, A., & Bockting, W. (Under Review). Childhood Gender Nonconformity and Identity Development among a Diverse Transgender Community Sample in the United States.
3. Paine, E., Barucco, R., **Chang, Y.**, Navalta, T., Ehrhardt, A., & Bockting, W. (R & R). “Too Much Trouble”: Transgender and Nonbinary People’s Experiences of Stigma, Discrimination, and Affirmation in the Workplace.

**DRAFTED MANUSCRIPTS**

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1. **Chang, Y.**, Sotomayor, I., Szkody, E., Fox, K., & Schleider, J. L. (In Preparation). Effectiveness of an Online Single-Session Minority Stress Intervention: No Evidence for Variation by Structural Stigma or Social Support. [[Pre-registration](#)]
2. Sotomayor, I., **Chang, Y.**, Szkody, E., Fox, K., & Schleider, J. L. (In Preparation). Intersectionality and a Minority Stress-Based Single-Session Intervention Benefit Multiply-Marginalized LGBTQ+ Adolescents. [[Pre-registration](#)]
3. Ahuvia, I., **Chang Y.**, Eberle, J., Chen, S., Shroff, A., Bringmann, L., Mullarkey, M., Schleider, J.L. Using Idiographic Symptom Networks to Predict Change in Adolescent Depression Symptoms. [[Pre-registration](#)]
4. Schleider, J. L., **Chang, Y.**, Friedman, S., Szkody, E., Mullarkey, M; Weisz, J. Virtual Reality and Web-Based Growth Mindset Interventions for Adolescent Depression: A Three-Arm Randomized Trial. [[Pre-registration](#)]
5. Grzenda, A., **Chang, Y.**, Kirchner, S., Wang, P., & Clarke, D. (In Preparation). A Systematic Review in Psychological Effects of Gender-Affirming Hormone and Surgical Treatments on Gender Diverse Youth.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Conference Presentations

1. **Chang, Y.**, Sotomayor, I., Szkody, E., Fox, K., & Schleider, J. L. (2023, November). Effectiveness of an Online Single-Session Minority Stress Intervention: Variation by Structural Stigma? In Ahuvia, I., & McKetta, S. (Chairs), Price, M. (Discussant), *The Role of Structural Stigma in Psychopathology Among Marginalized Youth*. Symposium to be presented at the 57th annual meeting of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Seattle, WA.
2. Sotomayor, I., **Chang, Y.**, Szkody, E., Fox, K., & Schleider, J. L. (2023, November). Intersectionality and a minority stress-based single-session intervention benefit multiply-marginalized LGBTQ+ adolescents. In A.L. Silverman & G. Ramos (Co-Chairs), A. Aguilera (Discussant), *Leveraging digital mental health interventions to increase access to care among marginalized racial and ethnic groups*. Symposium to be presented at the 57th annual meeting of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Seattle, WA.
3. Paine, E., Barucco, R., **Chang, Y.**, Navalta, T., Ehrhardt, A., & Bockting, W. (2022, April). “Too Much Trouble”: *Transgender and Nonbinary People’s Experiences of Stigma, Discrimination, and Affirmation in the Workplace*. Paper presented at 2022 Population Association of Americas annual conference. Atlanta, GA.
4. Calati, R., Maisto, M., Miranda, R., Thompson, L., Lesanpezeshki, M., Baiden, P., Miller, C., **Chang, Y.**, Wang, P., Grzenda, A., Kirchner, S., & Clarke, D. E. (2021, October) Ethnic discrimination and suicidal thoughts and behaviors: an international-intercontinental collaborative project for a systematic review. In G. Zalsman (Chair), *IASR Metanalysis and Systematic Review Workshop Project*. Paper presented at the 2021 IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research (held virtually).

### Poster Presentations

1. **Chang, Y.**, Brown, V., Whitman, K., Dombrowski, A., & Szanto, K. (2022, April). Hippocampal MRI Volume Differences in Late-Life Suicidal Behavior. Poster presented at the IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research. Poster accepted at the Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) 2022 Annual Meeting. [[Poster](#)]
2. Galfalvy, H., Szücs, A., Buerke, M., **Chang, Y.**, & Szanto, K. (2022, April). Long-term suicidal ideation profiles in late-life depression and their association with prospective suicide attempt and death by suicide. Poster accepted at the Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) 2022 Annual Meeting.
3. **Chang, Y.**, & Bockting, W. (2021, November). Identity Development Trajectories and Childhood Gender Role Nonconformity Among a Gender and Racial Diverse Sample in the United States. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (held virtually). [[Poster](#)]

4. **Chang, Y.**, Galfalvy, H., Buerke, M., & Szanto, K. (2021, October). Age of Onset of First Suicidal Behavior Determines Risk Factor Profiles in Older Suicide Attempters – Focus on Childhood Trauma Experiences. Poster presented at the IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research (held virtually). [[Poster](#)]
5. **Chang, Y.**, Brown, V., Whitman, K., Dombrowski, A., & Szanto, K. (2021, October). Hippocampal MRI Volume Differences in Late-Life Suicidal Behavior. Poster presented at the IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research (held virtually). [[Poster](#)]  
  - Nominated as a poster finalist (Top 10) for the Early Career Researcher Best Poster Award
6. **Chang, Y.**, Galfalvy, H., Buerke, M., & Szanto, K. (2021, October). The Relationship of Childhood Trauma Experiences with the Age of Onset of First Suicidal Behavior in Late-Life Depression. Poster presented at the Pitt Psychiatry Research Day. Pittsburgh, PA. [[Poster](#)]
7. **Chang, Y.**, & Malgaroli, M. (2021, April). *Longitudinal Predictors of Non-Suicidal Self-Injury among Gender Diverse Population: Machine Learning Approaches*. 2021 Diversifying Clinical Psychology Conference, Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (held virtually).
8. **Chang, Y.**, & Chen, S. (2020, November). Identifying School-Based Intervention Targets for the Risk of Suicide Attempt Amongst Gender Questioning Youth. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (held virtually). [[Poster](#)]
9. Tang, S., & **Chang, Y.** (2020, August). Mental health disparities among LGBTQ Asian and Pacific islander youth: A cross sectional analysis (held virtually). Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Convention.
10. **Chang, Y.**, & Bockting, W. (2020, June). Childhood gender nonconformity and identity development among a diverse transgender community sample in the United States. Poster presented at the annual Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (JCCAP) Future Directions Forum (held virtually). [[Poster](#)]

## NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

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1. **Chang, Y.** (2022, June). Three-Year Anniversary of Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in Taiwan – Has Structural Stigma Decreased and Mental Health Improved? *Taiwan Women ePress*, 174(2). [In Mandarin] [[Article](#)]

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Chang, Y.** (2022, April) *Career Talk: Finding and Interviewing for Post-Bacc Positions as an International Student*. Invited talk presented at NextGen Psych Scholars Program (held virtually).
2. **Chang, Y.**, Schumacher, E., & Brian Thoma (2022, April) *The Relationship Between Structural Stigma and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors among SGM Youth*. Invited talk presented at the Enrichment Meeting at Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide at UPMC Psychiatry, Pittsburgh, PA.
3. **Chang, Y.** (2021, August) *The Relationship of Childhood Trauma Experiences with the Age of Onset of First Suicidal Behavior in Late-Life Depression*. Invited talk presented at the Enrichment Meeting at Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide at UPMC Psychiatry, Pittsburgh, PA. [[Slide](#)]
4. Brown, V. & **Chang, Y.** (2021, April) *Morphometric Alterations in Late-Life Suicide and Relationships with Cognitive Decline*. Invited talk presented at the Enrichment Meeting at Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide at UPMC Psychiatry, Pittsburgh, PA. [[Slide](#)]
5. **Chang, Y.** (2021, April) *Career Talk: How to create a position for yourself during pandemic (as an international student)*. Invited talk presented at the Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY. [[Slide](#)]

## ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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- 2021 – 2022     **Gender Minority Youth Study (GMY Study) | K01MH117142**  
**Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center**  
Principal Investigator: Brian Thoma, Ph.D.  
Research Area: Structural stigma and suicide risk among SGM adolescents
- Data Analyst*
- Designed, curated, visualized, and analyzed data from GMY Study
  - Explored the relationship between structural stigma and suicidal behaviors among sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth
- 2020 – 2022     **IASR Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review Workgroup**  
**Sponsored by International Academy of Suicide Research**  
Principal Investigator: Diana E. Clarke, Ph.D.  
Research Area: Social determinants and health inequalities in relation to suicide risk with a focus on racial and sexual and gender minority groups
- Co-Investigator*
- Conducted systematic reviews under the guidelines of PROSPERO and draft manuscripts
- 2019             **Stress and Development Laboratory**  
**Department of Psychology, Harvard University**  
Principal Investigator: Katie McLaughlin, Ph.D.  
Research Area: Impact of childhood adversity on neurobiological mechanisms
- Summer Research Assistant*
- Developed stimuli presentation programs using FaceGen and photoshop for fMRI task
  - Conducted literatures reviews regrading multi-voxel pattern analysis of fMRI tasks
- 2016 – 2018     **Lab of Clinical and Translational Studies**  
**Department of Psychiatry, Taipei City Hospital and Psychiatric Center**  
Principal Investigators: Po-Yu Chen, M.D., Ming-Chyi Huang, M.D., Ph.D.
- Clinical Research Coordinator*
- Coordinated four national grants of major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, and substance use disorder studies
  - Screened, recruited, and ran 200+ sessions with participants at inpatient and outpatient settings
  - Conducted clinical interviews (SCI-PANSS, C-SSRS, HAM-A, MADRS) and cognitive tests with inpatient and outpatient participants for clinical research studies
  - Maintained the lab's recruitment database by regularly updating participants' eligibility, interest, and participation status for ongoing studies
  - Prepared and updated IRB project materials including writing annual reports

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

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- 2017 – 2018     **Taiwan LGBT Hotline Association**  
Supervisor: Chia-Wei Shiu, MSW
- Crisis Counselor*
- Answered to 350+ callers and committed 15+ hours a week, including writing clinical reports and attending weekly clinical supervision
  - Passed a selective screening process after completing an intensive 16-week clinical training on people centered counseling techniques, crisis management, and interventions

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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- 2021      **R Workshop**  
Designed materials and developed a workshop to teach R programming for beginners. The workshop included four sessions, including introduction to R, data wrangling, tidying data, data visualization, and data analysis. Please find my slides and R scripts on my [GitHub](#).
- 2017-2018      **GRE Quantitative Tutor**  
Helped college student to improve their score percentile from 30% to 80% for the GRE quantitative test. [My GRE Quantitative percentile: 95% (169/170)].

## AWARDS & HONORS

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- 2022      **Data Science Fellowship**, Correlation One
- 2021      **Queer in STEM Scholarship (\$1250)**, oSTEM & Queer in AI
- 2021      **Poster Finalist (Top 10)**, IASR/AFSP International Summit on Suicide Research
- 2020      **Awarded A+** in Computational Psychiatry, Teachers College (TC), Columbia University
- Only given in rare circumstances per school policy; awarded for exceptional research project
- 2019      **Program Ambassador**, Dept. of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, TC, Columbia University
- 2019      **Graduate Representative Speaker**, Admitted Student Day Student Panel, TC, Columbia University
- 2019      **Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society**, TC, Columbia University
- 2018      **Teachers College Scholarship (\$2,500, Merit-based)**, TC, Columbia University

## SKILLS

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**Statistical/Programming:** R (Tidyverse, RMarkdown, Rshiny, Plotly), Python, SQL, SPSS, HTML, Bash, GitHub

**Advanced Quantitative Modeling:** Supervised/unsupervised machine learning, gaussian mixed modeling, survival analysis, cluster analysis, time-series modeling, hierarchical linear modeling, confirmatory factor analysis

**Research Data Management:** REDCap, Qualtrics, Dedoose, Sysrev, Zotero, OSF

**Neuroimaging Skills:** FreeSurfer, FaceGen

**Coursework:** Probability and Inferential Statistics; Applied Regression Analysis; Data Science I; Computational Psychiatry; Research Methods in Clinical Psychology; Child Psychopathology; Adult Psychopathology

**Languages:** English, Mandarin

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- 2022 – Present      International Society for Research on Internet Interventions (ISRII)
- 2019 – Present      Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies; Sexual and Gender Minority Interest Group
- 2018 – 2020      American Psychological Association of Graduate Students; APA Division 44