

# Yichun Zhou

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## CURRENT POSITION

NYU Shanghai, Shanghai Key Laboratory of Urban Design and Urban Science (LOUD)	Shanghai, China
<b>Postdoctoral Fellow of Urban Science</b>	Jul 2025 – Present
Eastern China Normal University, School of Ecological and Environmental Science	Shanghai, China
<b>Joint-Postdoctoral Fellow of Ecology</b>	Oct 2025 – Present

## EDUCATION

New York University, Tandon School of Engineering	Brooklyn, NY
Ph.D. in <b>Urban Systems</b>	Sep. 2021 – May 2025
Dissertation: <i>Investigating Urban Green Space Engagement Through Mobility Patterns and Visual Perceptions in High-Density Metropolitan Areas</i>	
Committee: Dr. ChengHe Guan (Advisor), Dr. Tyler Haupert, Dr. Constantine Kontokosta, Dr. Shenjing He (HKU)	
New York University, Tandon School of Engineering	Brooklyn, NY
M.S. in <b>Management of Technology</b> , Data Analytics Specialization	Sep. 2019– May 2021
Western Kentucky University, Ogden College of Science & Engineering	Bowling Green, KY
B.S. in <b>Computer Science</b> , Minor in Business Administration, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Aug. 2015 – May 2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Substantive:** Urban Analytics • Green Space Planning • Human Mobility • Environmental Equity • Urban Health

**Methods:** Machine Learning • Spatial Analysis (GIS, Spatial Statistics) • Causal Inference • Mixed Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Zhou, Y., Ren, X., Yabe, T., & Guan, C. (2026). Seeing green, staying longer? A causal analysis of visual green exposure and urban park engagement using mobility and panoramas data. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 268, 105579.
- [2] Wu, L., Zhou, Y., Nie, X., Kim, S. K., Shao, Y., & Guan, C. (2026). Buffering effects of green space on residents' mental wellbeing: A regression discontinuity analysis during COVID containment policy shift. *Cities*, 168, 106413.
- [3] Song, J., Guan, C., Zhou, Y., Akiyama, Y., & Shibasaki, R. (2025). Visitor Profile-oriented Urban Park Categorization: Analyzing Home-to-park Trip Characteristics Using Mobile Phone Data. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 0739456X251347237.
- [4] Zhou, Y., Guan, C., Wu, L., Li, Y., Nie, X., Song, J., Kim, S. K., & Akiyama, Y. (2024). Visitation-based classification of urban parks through mobile phone big data in Tokyo. *Applied Geography*, 167, 103300.
- [5] Guan, C., & Zhou, Y. (2024). Exploring environmental equity and visitation disparities in peri-urban parks: A mobile phone data-driven analysis in Tokyo. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 248, 105104.
- [6] Wu, L., Zhou, Y., Nie, X., Kim, S. K., Shao, Y., & Guan, C. (2024). "Unfenced" parks and residents' visit patterns: A regression discontinuity design in Shanghai. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 78, 128459.
- [7] Zhou, Y., Song, X., & Zhou, M. (2021). Supply chain fraud prediction based on XGBoost method. *Proceedings of the 2021 IEEE 2nd International Conference on Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things Engineering (ICBAIE)*, pp. 539-542.
- [8] Zhou, Y., Cheng, Y., Lin, Y., & Tian, M. (2021). Sales Forecasting Using GBDT Based Model and Data Mining Method. *2021 IEEE International Conference on Consumer Electronics and Computer Engineering (ICCECE)*, pp. 398-401.
- [9] Teng, Y., Chen, D., Zhou, Y., Vegh, N. M., & Zhang, R. (2020). A WaveNet based Ion Channel Prediction Method. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1651(1), 012009.

## UNDER REVIEW

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- [1] Zhou, Y., Wu, T., & Guan, C. How perceived residential environments affect neighborhood park visitation? A nonlinear analysis of mobile and street view data. (Under Review at *International Journal of Urban Sciences*).
- [2] Zhou, Y., Huang, X., Li, Z., Guo, Q., Wei, H. Exponential Distance Decay in Urban Park Visitation: A Comparative Analysis of Recreational Mobility Across 20 U.S. Metropolitan Areas. (Under Review at *Landscape and Urban Planning*)
- [3] Wu, L., Zhou, Y., Nie, X., & Guan, C. Enhancing subjective well-being through community and demographical moderators in planning indoor and outdoor green spaces. (Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Planning Education and Research*)
- [4] Lin, Q., Zhou, Y., Quan J., Guan, C. Analyzing seasonal and nonlinear built environment-energy dynamics using street view imagery in New York City. (Under Review at *Urban Climate*)
- [5] Guan, C., Zhong, H., Zhou, Y., Li, Y., Zhang, B., & Nielsen, C. P. How do young adults' choices of active travel influence the planning of low-carbon cities? (Revise and Resubmit at *Applied Geography*).
- [6] Shan, L., Xu, T., Zhou, Y., & Wang, L. AI-enhanced Livable Environment Planning: Streetscape Synergies on Urban Thermal Environment and Cycling Vitality in Shanghai. (Under Review at *Cities*)
- [7] Chen, J., Li, C., Zhou, Y., Cheng, T., Yu, J., & Guan, C. Emotional divergency of urban climate discourse: Spatial patterns and semantics decoding across global cities. (Under Review at *npj Urban Sustainability*)
- [8] Xie, H., You, M., Guan, C., Zhou, Y., Li, C., & Liu, X. Unveiling Urban Green Space Inequality: A Quality-based, Multi-perspective Evaluation Framework with Empirical Insights from Fuzhou. (Under Review at *Applied Geography*)

## AWARDS & HONORS

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- **Saarinen Paper Award**, Association of American Geographers (AAG) Environmental Perception and Behavioral Geography Specialty Group 2025
- **Best Academic Contribution & Audience Choice Award**, AI4CITIES Workshop, Tongji University 2025
- **Best Graduate Student Poster**, Middle States Division of the AAG Annual Conference 2024
- **Best Oral Presentation Award**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Post-Doctoral and Doctoral Research Assembly, NYU Shanghai 2024
- **President's List**, Western Kentucky University Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2018
- **Dean's List**, Western Kentucky University Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

## GRANTS & FUNDING

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- Shanghai Postdoctoral Recruitment and Dispatch Programme (150,000 CNY) 2025 - 2027
- Global NYU Postdoc Collaboration Grant (4,500 USD) 2026
- Postdoctoral Research and Professional Development Grants, NYU (2,500 USD) 2025
- Scholar Travel Fund AY 2024-25, NYU Shanghai (6,000 CNY) 2024
- The International GeoInformatics Summer School (IGSS) Scholarship, Wuhan University (7,950 CNY) 2024
- Sustainability Internship Grant, New York University (3,500 USD) 2023
- Merit Scholarship, Tandon School of Engineering, New York University 2019 – 2021
- Dean's Scholarship, Western Kentucky University 2016 – 2018

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- [1] Seeing green, staying longer? A causal analysis of visual green exposure and urban park engagement using mobility and panoramas data. (Nov. 2025). *2025 Annual Conference on Behavioral Geography and Health Geography in China*, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China
- [2] A causal analysis of visual green exposure and urban park engagement. (Sep. 2025). *City+2025@Oxford: The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Interdisciplinary Urban Studies*, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- [3] Nonlinear relationship between perceived residential environment and neighborhood park visitation. (Jul. 2025). *19<sup>th</sup> International Association for China Planning (IACP) Annual Conference*, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China

- [4] How perceived residential environments affect neighborhood park visitation? (Jun. 2025). *Urban China Research Network (UCRN) 2025 Conference*, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China
- [5] Nonlinear relationship between perceived residential environment and neighborhood park visitation. (Mar. 2025). *2025 Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting*, Detroit, MI, US
- [6] Classification of urban parks through visitation patterns using mobile data. (Nov. 2024). *64<sup>th</sup> Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference*, Seattle, WA, US
- [7] How perceived residential environments affect neighborhood park visitation? (Nov. 2024). *The 2024 Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers (MSAAG) Annual Conference*, West Chester University, West Chester, PA, US (Presentation & Poster)
- [8] Visitation-based classification of urban parks through mobile phone big data. (Jul. 2024). *18<sup>th</sup> International Association for China Planning (IACP) Annual Conference*, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China
- [9] Classification of urban parks through visitation patterns using mobile phone data. (Apr. 2024). *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Post-doctoral and Doctoral Research Assembly*, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China. (Presentation & Poster)
- [10] Exploring environmental equity and visitation disparities in peri-urban parks. (Jan. 2024). *Urban Systems Institute (USI) Inaugural Conference*, the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
- [11] Buffering Effect of Urban Green Space on Mental Health – a Case Study of Shanghai. (Dec. 2023). *2022 Built Environment Technology Center Open Topic Grants Conference*, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- "The Path Toward Climate Park Community" project for Biennale Architettura 2025** Shanghai, China  
*Research Associate, Principal Investigators: Prof. Ying Li & Prof. ChengHe Guan* Apr. 2024 – Oct. 2025  
 • Contributed to "The Path Toward Climate Park Community" project for Biennale Architettura 2025.
- Urban Green Spaces for Wellbeing Project** Peking University (Remote)  
*Research Collaborator, Principal Investigator: Prof. Longfeng Wu* Jun. 2023 – Present  
 • Co-authored 3 manuscripts examining green space effects on mental wellbeing.  
 • Prepared and presented key project findings to stakeholders, including funding providers.
- AI + Climate Futures in Asia Project**, Funded by: the Rockefeller Foundation Digital Futures Lab, India (Remote)  
*Research Consultant, Principal Investigator: Dr. Urvashi Aneja* Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023  
 • Co-authored policy report "Integrating AI for Climate-Resilient Urban Planning in China".

## TEACHING

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- SOCS-SHU 201 Planning Global Cities**, NYU Shanghai Shanghai, China  
*Instructor, Undergraduate course* Fall 2025  
 • Conducted specialized workshops on advanced literature review and analytic methods for urban studies.
- SOCS-SHU 133 Urbanization in China**, NYU Shanghai Shanghai, China  
*Workshop Lecturer / Teaching Fellow, Undergraduate course* Spring 2025  
 • Facilitated in-class discussions on urban neighborhoods, green spaces, active travel, and sustainable planning.
- URPL-GP 2250 Planning Global Cities**, NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service New York, NY  
*Workshop Lecturer / Teaching Fellow, Graduate course* Fall 2024  
 • Organized and led field trips to urban green spaces and key city landmarks, which fostered experiential learning.
- SOCS-SHU 247 Computational Urban Science**, NYU Shanghai Shanghai, China  
*Workshop Lecturer, Undergraduate course* Fall 2022  
 • Delivered a workshop titled "Exploring Urban Landscapes from Above: An Introduction to Google Earth Engine."
- Department of Applied Physics**, NYU Tandon School of Engineering Brooklyn, NY  
*Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate courses* Sep. 2019 – May 2021  
 • Prepared and organized course contents and materials for quizzes, midterms, and finals.

## SERVICES

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### Journal Peer Review

*Landscape and Urban Planning; Urban Forestry & Urban Greening; Applied Geography; Journal of Transport Geography; Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences; Journal of Urban Management*

### Volunteer

City+, <a href="https://www.city-plus.org/">https://www.city-plus.org/</a>	2025 – Present
GISphere, <a href="https://gisphere.info/">https://gisphere.info/</a>	2024 – 2025

### 4<sup>th</sup> Future Cities Hangzhou Forum

*Session Chair, Sessions: Urban Data Analytics & Urban Sustainable Development*

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association for China Planning**

*Session Chair, Session: Urban Mobility and Environmental Impact*

### 2023 Urban Development Forum & 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the Shanghai Key Laboratory

**of Urban Design and Urban Science**

*Conference Assistant*

Shanghai, China

Oct. 2023

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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### Amazon Web Services, Inc. Program Management Intern

Shanghai, China

Mar. 2021 – Aug. 2021

### Bosch (China) Investment Ltd. Data Science Intern

Shanghai, China

- Developed algorithms for lane change detection and surface wetness monitoring.

Sep. 2020 – Feb. 2021

### Tencent Holdings Ltd. Data Science Intern

Shenzhen, China

- Improved sensor data quality for early warning systems.

Jun. 2020 – Aug. 2020

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
- International Society for Urban Health (ISUH)
- The New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)
- International Association for China Planning (IACP)

## SKILLS

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### Programming & Applications:

Python, R, SQL, ArcGIS, QGIS, Stata, Google Earth Engine, Tableau

### Languages:

Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Proficient)