

# YIJIA XU

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## EDUCATION

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**Pennsylvania State University, University Park** *May 2025*  
**M.A., Educational Theory and Policy** (GPA: 3.97/4.0)

Research Interests: Comparative Education, Policy Evaluation, Inequality, and Student Outcomes

Relevant Courses: *Applied Statistics in Behavioral Science, Qualitative Methods in Education, Statistics, Research Design, Comparative Education Research, Sociology of Education, Youth Engagement*

**Shenzhen University** *June 2022*  
**B.S., Psychology** (GPA: 3.33/4.5)

4 Relevant Courses: Psychological Statistics, Experimental Psychology, Psychological Measurement

## CONFERENCE

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**The College of Education Research Conference** *Nov. 3, 2023*  
Poster Presentation: *To Ask or Not to Ask: Barriers to Mental Health Help-Seeking on College Campuses*

## INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Examine the Use of Shadow Education under the “Double Reduction” Policy: Evidence from China Family Panel Studies (Master’s Project)** *Spring 2025*  
*Supervisors: Soo-yong Byun and David Baker* Pennsylvania State University

- Analyzed China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) data from 1,364 households in 28 regions to examine regional disparities and socioeconomic predictors of tutoring participation before and after the policy
- Constructed an SES composite index using principal component analysis (PCA) and applied logistic regression, cross-tabulation, and correlation analyses in Stata to evaluate policy effects

**School Bullying Trends in the Post-pandemic Era: A Cross-national Comparative Study across 80 Countries** *Spring 2024*  
*Supervisor: Soo-yong Byun* Pennsylvania State University

- Conducted a large-scale comparative analysis using PISA data from 600,000 students in 80 countries to assess bullying trends pre- and post-COVID-19
- Developed standardized bullying indicators; performed regression and correlation analyses in R and SPSS to identify socioeconomic and gender disparities

**Youth Voice Against Violence** *Spring 2025*  
*Supervisor: Dana Mitra* Pennsylvania State University

- Conducted a systematic literature review of 45 peer-reviewed articles and reports on children’s engagement in violence prevention
- Integrated frameworks from the Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) and Positive Youth Development (PYD) models, emphasizing youth participation and power structures

## The Effect of Exposure to Domestic Violence on Depression among Adolescents: The Mediating Role of Self-Compassion and Gender Differences

Supervisor: Xiaoqing Li

Spring 2022

Shenzhen University

- Designed a quantitative study involving 1851 adolescents; analyzed correlations between exposure to violence, self-compassion, and depression symptoms using SPSS mediation analysis

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant

Shenzhen University

Summer 2022

China

- Participated in field experiments on civic honesty and conducted post-experiment interviews, contributing to data cleaning, transcription, and research reports

### Project Leader

Shenzhen University

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

China

- Led an project titled *Exposure to Domestic Violence and Depressive Symptoms in Chinese Adolescents: The Mediating Role of Self-Compassion and Gender Differences*.
- Investigated domestic violence exposure and adolescent depression, managing data collection, transcription, and report preparation

### Research Assistant

Shenzhen University

Fall 2022

China

- Collaborated on the replication project *Unraveling Controversies Over Civic Honesty Measurement: A Field Study in China*, an extension of the *Science* study "Civic Honesty Around the Globe", conducting structured post-experiment interviews and ensuring ethical compliance and data accuracy

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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### Volunteer

We Independent NGO

Oct. 2025 – Present

Remote, U.S.

- Supported project coordination and documentation for educational initiatives

### Autism Support Teaching Assistant

Autism Support and Mental Health Center

Fall 2022

China

- Delivered group interventions for children with autism (etc. social play and sensory integration)

### Volunteer Teacher

Rural Education Support Program

Summer 2021

China

- Designed and taught English and Math lessons for rural and left-behind children

## SKILLS

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### Software

### Quantitative Skills

### Qualitative Skills

### Certificate

### Language

Stata, R, SPSS, MATLAB, Mplus, Excel, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Tableau, Zotero, Office

Multiple Regression, Mediation, Longitudinal/Panel Analysis

Interviews, Observation, Thematic Coding, Mixed Methods

Human Subjects Research (IRB) Certificate

English, Mandarin, Cantonese