

Yi Zhang

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Researcher in Social Psychology and Affective Science

I am a psychology researcher with 5+ years of experience using quantitative methods to analyze both lab and naturalistic data, using tools such as quantitative surveys and social network analysis. Current projects focus on how social network structure affects people's response to social rejection, how people develop identification with social groups, and how people learn to empathize with others.

— Education —

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

- Ph.D. in Social Psychology (expected in May 2025)
- M.A. in Psychology (received August 2022)

New York University, New York, NY

- B.A. in Psychology (with Honors) and Philosophy (received in May 2018)

— Technical skills —

Programming: R, Python, SPSS, Bash; familiar with SQL, Matlab, Javascript, HTML/CSS

Statistical analysis: Linear and Logistic Regression, Multilevel Modeling, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, RSiena (for longitudinal network analysis), FSL (for fMRI data)

Data visualization: ggplot, Seaborn/Matplotlib, igraph, XNetwork

Reproducible computing: Git, Knitr, Rmarkdown, Jupyterlab

Research Methods: online survey, in-lab experiment, social network analysis, ecological momentary assessment, neuroimaging (fMRI)

— Research Experience —

PhD Student at *University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA* | 2020 - Present

- Designing and conducting 9 behavioral and survey experiments to investigate novel theory-driven predictions about empathy, social rejection, and moral decision-making.
- Examining real-world effects of psychological phenomena by analyzing daily diary, cross-sectional, and longitudinal social network data using multilevel modeling, supervised machine learning classification, and agent-based modeling.
- Visualizing research findings for clear and concise academic and public communication purposes using R and Python.
- Crafting written and verbal reports appropriate for various outlets, from academic journals and conferences to social media posts.

Lab Manager/Research Coordinator at *Columbia University, New York, NY* | 2018 – 2020

- Coordinated scheduling, IRB compliance, and grant-compliant finances of 20+ staff members, researchers, and students.
- Analyzed quantitative survey data and visualized results on drinking behavior in college social networks.
- Built fMRI experiment scripts in PsychoPy and E-Prime; ran 200+ fMRI sessions using a Siemens 3T scanner; preprocessed and analyzed fMRI data using FSL.

— Awards and Grants —

- 2022 Honorable mention, APS Student Grant