

Yi Zhang

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Researcher in Social Psychology and Affective Science

I am a researcher studying how people learn about others and make decisions across social contexts. I have investigated how social network structure affects people's response to social rejection, how people form social identity, as well as how people learn to empathize with others. I have 4+ years of experience using statistical and quantitative methods to analyze both lab and naturalistic data, using tools such as computational modeling and social network analysis.

— Education —

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

- Ph.D. in Social Psychology (expected in May 2025)

New York University, New York, NY

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

— Technical skills —

Programming: R, Python, 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

Methods: Experimental design, social network analysis, ecological momentary assessment, neuroimaging (fMRI)

— Research Experience —

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

- Designed 9 behavioral and survey studies to investigate novel theory-driven predictions about empathy, social rejection, and moral decision-making.
- Examined real-world effects of psychological theories by analyzing cross-sectional and longitudinal social network data.
- Completed courses on Multilevel Modeling, Bayesian Statistics, fMRI Data Analysis, and Machine Learning and analyzed complex data using these methods.
- Communicating findings to a broad audience by presenting at research conferences and writing science articles on media outlets.
- Taught introductory-level psychology classes to undergraduates (PSYC-165, PSYC-274).

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