

# Yi Zhang

Phone: +1 (917) 803-4197 | Email: yzhang51@usc.edu |

Linkedin: [www.linkedin.com/in/yizhang96](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yizhang96) | Website: [yizhang96.github.io](https://yizhang96.github.io)

## 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, their formation of social identity, as well as how people learn to empathize with others. I have 4+ years of experience using statistical and quantitative methods of analyzing 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

**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