

Yi Zhang

yzhang51@usc.edu | 917-803-4197 |
<https://yzhang96.github.io/about/>

Education

- 2020 – 2025 **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
 PhD in Psychology, degree expected May 2025
- 2014 – 2018 **New York University**, New York, NY
 B.A., Psychology (with Honors), Philosophy (double major)

Research Experience

- Aug. 2020 – **Social Learning and Choice Lab, University of Southern California**
 Present (PI: Leor Hackel, Ph.D.)
PhD Student and Researcher.
- Designed three lab studies to investigate how associative learning affects empathy.
 - Designed three lab studies and one cross-sectional survey and analyzed one existing longitudinal social network dataset to examine how people respond to rejection in social networks.
 - Designed three online surveys to test how relational motivations shape people's moral and meta-ethical judgments.
- July 2018 – **Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience Lab, Columbia University**
 July 2020 (PI: Kevin Ochsner, Ph.D.)
Lab Manager and Research Assistant.
- Assisted in the planning and execution of eight research projects and managed their IRB protocols.
 - Created and modified fMRI experiment scripts in PsychoPy and E-Prime.
 - Ran fMRI experiments using a Siemens 3T scanner; collected, preprocessed, and analyzed behavioral and fMRI data.
 - Trained research assistants on recruitment procedures, MRI operation, data collection and analysis.
 - Coordinated and participated in weekly lab meetings on lab projects, articles, and analysis techniques.
- Sep. 2017 – **Social Cognitive and Neural Sciences Lab, New York University**
 May 2018 (PI: Jonathan Freeman, Ph.D.)
Honors Student and Research Assistant. Thesis title: "Perception of in-group and out-group prejudice between racial and political contexts: The role of social identity"
 Advisors: Anne Hill, Jonathan Freeman, Ph.D.
- Designed and conducted a computer-based behavioral study.
 - Analyzed questionnaire and mouse-tracking data using R.
- Mar. 2017 – **Social Perception and Evaluation Lab, New York University**
 June 2018 (PI: Jay Van Bavel, Ph.D.)
Research Assistant.
- Worked on a study (OSF link: <https://osf.io/u6bd2/>) investigating the neural substrates of intergroup punishment in political contexts. Conducted literature search, created stimuli via PsychoPy, and analyzed data using SPSS; completed training on fMRI operational procedures.

June 2017 – **Couples Lab, New York University**
 Jan. 2018 (PI: Patrick Shrout, Ph.D.)

Research Assistant.

- Conducted a cross-cultural study on social support between couples. Responsibilities included: developing and validating the Chinese versions of multiple scales, creating experiment stimuli and questionnaires (using Qualtrics), data entry, coding and analysis (SPSS), and literature search.

Skills

Research Methodologies

- Behavioral: online survey, in-lab experiment, social network analysis, ecological momentary assessment (EMA).
- Neuroimaging: fMRI data collection, processing, and analysis.

Programming

- R, Python, SPSS, Bash, SQL, Matlab, Javascript, HTML/CSS

Software

- Qualtrics, Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop.
- FSL, PsychoPy, E-Prime, PsychToolbox, MouseTracker.

Manuscripts

Zhang, Y., Hackel, L. (in prep). Generalized response to social rejection in social networks. Manuscript in preparation. Department of Psychology, University of Southern California.

Cosme, D., Kang, Y., Tartak, J. C., Ahn, J., Corbani, F. E., Cooper, N., ... **Zhang, Y.**, ... & Falk, E. (2022). Study protocol: Social Health Impact of Network Effects (SHINE) Study. PsyArXiv. <https://psyarxiv.com/cj2nx/download?format=pdf>

Conference Presentations

Zhang, Y., Hackel, L. (2022). Generalized response to social rejection and acceptance in social networks. Poster presented at *Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2022 Conference*, San Francisco, CA.

Zhang, Y., Hackel, L. (2021). Learning empathy via Pavlovian conditioning. Poster presented at *Society for Affective Science 2021 Conference*.

Zhang, Y., Stanoi, O., Ochsner, K., & Falk, E. (2020). Enhanced craving for alcohol in social context predicts centrality in undergraduate social network. Poster to be presented at the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2020 Conference*, New Orleans, LA.

Krueger, S. M., Colombo, S., Rodrik, O., Zhang, T., **Zhang, Y.**, Weber, J., Eich, T., Stern, Y., & Ochsner, K. (2019). Age-related differences in goal-directed emotion regulation. Poster presented at *Social Affective Neuroscience Society 2019 Conference*, Miami, FL.

Shu, J., Cohen, N., Maddaluno, O., Weber, J., **Zhang, Y.**, Zhang, T., McRae, K., & Ochsner, K. (2019). The neural mechanisms of social emotion regulation. Poster presented at *Society for Affective Science 2019 Conference*, Boston, MA.

Zhang, Y., Hill, A., & Freeman, J. (2018). Social identity shapes perception of in-group and out-group bias between racial and political contexts. Talk presented at *NYU Undergraduate Research Conference*, New York, NY.

Honors and Awards

2022	Honorable mention, APS Student Grant
2017 – 18	Psi Chi, New York University Chapter
2017 – 18	Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF), New York University
2014 – 18	Dean's List for Academic Year, New York University

Teaching Experience

Fall 2022	Teaching assistant for PSYC-274, Statistics
Spring 2022	Teaching assistant for PSYC-165, Drugs, Behavior, and Society

Professional Memberships

2018 – Present	Member, <i>Society for Personality and Social Psychology</i>
2021 – Present	Member, <i>Society for Affective Science</i>
2021 – Present	Member, <i>Association for Psychological Science</i>