Zidong Zhao

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Brooklyn, NY

SKILLS

Data Science & Analytics: Machine Learning (Regression, Classification, Clustering, Neural Networks), Statistical Analysis (Generalized Linear Models, Multilevel Models, Latent Variable Models), Experimentation (Experimental Design, A/B Testing, Causal Inference), Data Visualization, Data Modeling
Programming & Tools: Python (pandas, scikit-learn, seaborn, PyMC), R (tidyverse, dplyr, ggplot2, lme4, lavaan, rstan), SQL (PostgreSQL, Snowflake), MATLAB, Bash, JavaScript
Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Native), Cantonese (Full professional), Spanish (Intermediate)

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Science of Well-being, Yale University — New Haven, CT
Research Scientist — August 2021 – Present

- Conduct advanced statistical modeling and machine learning analyses using Python and R across multiple data streams (surveys, app usage, web behavior) from 1.5M+ users
- Evaluate product effectiveness and derive recommendations that directly inform the design of two new well-being online courses
- Develop decentralized research and data collection protocols, scaling data analysis and reporting pipelines to provide teachers with student well-being insights
- Manage and mentor 3 junior researchers through full research cycles: study design, data collection, statistical analysis, and results sharing
- Drive adoption of quantitative research practices - including A/B testing and data analytics - to improve decision-making across partnership, curriculum development, and marketing teams

Princeton Social Neuroscience Lab, Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
Graduate Researcher — August 2016 – May 2021

- Designed, implemented, and completed multiple end-to-end quantitative research projects combining social psychology and cognitive neuroscience methods
- Employed diverse research methods such as surveys, laboratory experiments, remote and online A/B testing, as well as fMRI human neuroimaging
- Extracted insights from data using state-of-the-art methods such as mixed effects models, structural equation modeling, classification, dimensionality reduction, and Bayesian generative modeling
- Recruited and moderated 400+ in-person research sessions and coordinated 2000+ online participants
- Collaborated extensively with mentees, peers, and senior researchers to drive interdisciplinary research

Vanderbilt University — Nashville, TN
Undergraduate Researcher — January 2013 – May 2016

- Managed data collection and analysis for 4 research projects across multiple domains of psychology
- Conducted structured and semi-structured interviews with clinical and sub-clinical populations
- Collected and analyzed quantitative behavioral data using techniques such as ANOVA and regression

EDUCATION

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
Ph.D., Psychology — May 2021

- Dissertation – Dyadic Emotion Prediction: Knowledge Structure, Accuracy, and Implications

M.A., Psychology — May 2019

- Centennial Fellowship

Vanderbilt University — Nashville, TN
B.A., Psychology (Honors), summa cum laude — May 2016

- Minors in Quantitative Methods and Philosophy