# Zhijie Xiong

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## Education

**Columbia University** Sep 2025-Present
*MA in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences* *New York*

- **Relevant Courses:** Natural Language Processing in Social Science, Projects in Advanced Machine Learning

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** Sep 2021-July 2025
*BSc in Quantitative Social Analysis* *Hong Kong*

- **Scholarship:** Admissions Scholarship of HKD 30,000 per academic year.
- **Relevant Courses:** Computational Social Science, Quantitative Methods in Social Science

## Research Experience

**Face and Object Recognition in Autistic Individuals** Oct 2024-Present
*HKUST- Attention Brain and Cognition Lab | Advisor: Prof. Hsiao, Janet* *Hybrid*

- Conducted in-depth literature review, exploring the current explanation of origin for defective face recognition for autistic individuals, forming the research question and hypothesis.
- Designed and programmed full experimental procedures, integrating EyeLink, PsychoPy, and Pupil Labs systems for synchronized multimodal data collection.
- Contacted and hired over 40+ participants to do the experiments, meanwhile kept in collaboration with Shanghai Children's Hospital to collect diverse samples, cleaned, merged, and documented experiment data from 40+ participants to ensure accuracy and reproducibility.
- Conducted statistical analysis (ANOVA, regression) using R and Matlab to identify behavioral patterns and co-authored the manuscript currently in preparation for peer-reviewed publication.

**China Political Economy Database Project** Jan 2022-Sep 2025
*HKUST | Advisor: Prof. LIN, Yi-Min* *Hybrid*

- Systematically collected and thematically organized policy and industry materials on SOE reform, anti-corruption, digital governance, and the development of semiconductors, green energy, and EVs under shifting geopolitical and technological conditions to contextualize quantitative analysis.
- Compiled regional FDI datasets (1985–2023) and financial/PPP market yearbooks to analyze cross-provincial capital flows, local–central policy competition, and regional patterns of globalization.
- Web-scraped and consolidated a firm-level dataset on 5,000–6,000 of China's largest companies using Python and VBA, harmonizing SASAC/MOF SOE lists with major rankings (Fortune, ACFIC, CEDA, Hurun, unicorn) and standardizing ownership and sector classifications to analyze ownership patterns and organizational evolution.

**Chinese Patriotic Sentiment Analysis on Weibo** Jan 2023-May 2023
*HKUST | Advisor: Prof. ZHANG, Dong* *Hong Kong*

- Applied dual-axis coding frameworks to quantify nationalist sentiment and discourse patterns through 2,000+ Weibo posts regarding the 2012 Diaoyu Islands incident and US-China Trade War, transforming unstructured text into structured datasets for political communication research.

## Course Project

***Social Network Analysis of Public Debates on Facial Recognition and Trust in AI*** Feb 2025-June 2025
*HKUST | Advisor: Prof. WEI, Jinlin* *Hong Kong*

- Analyzed a six-month Twitter dataset (12,000+ tweets) using Python, building user interaction networks and applying social network analysis and sentiment analysis to compare trust narratives across communities.
- Interpreted network and sentiment patterns in light of theories of human–AI trust, highlighting how privacy, bias, and security concerns shape public attitudes toward facial recognition technologies.

**GIS Analysis of Public Toilet Accessibility in Hong Kong** Sep 2024-Nov 2024
*HKUST | Advisor: Prof. MA, Zhongdong* *Hong Kong*

- Conducted spatial analysis using K-means clustering to assess the distribution of public toilets in Hong Kong.
- Identified facility gaps along hiking trails and in public parks, leading to actionable recommendations submitted to local government departments and praised by course faculty (model accuracy: 71.5%).

## Skills

**Languages**: English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native), Cantonese (Basic), Korean (Basic)
**Tools**: Programming (Python, C++, VBA, Java, MATLAB), Data Analysis (STATA, R, SPSS, SQL, Power BI, Excel)