

Yi Zhang

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<https://yzhang96.github.io/>

Education

- 2022 – Present **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
 PhD in Psychology, degree expected May 2025
- 2020 – 2022 **University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA
 MA in Psychology
- 2014 – 2018 **New York University**, New York, NY
 B.A., Psychology (with Honors), Philosophy (double major)

Research Experience

- Aug. 2020 – Present **Social Learning and Choice Lab, University of Southern California**
 (PI: Leor Hackel, Ph.D.)
PhD Student and Researcher.
- Designed and conducted eight experiments to investigate how associative learning affects empathy, resulting in one manuscript and two conference presentations.
 - Designed and conducted online experiments, cross-sectional surveys, and a two-month longitudinal study to examine how social network dynamics influence group identification and well-being, resulting in one manuscript and one conference presentation.
 - Designed both qualitative experiments and quantitative interviews to examine how relational motives shape moral cognition and response to moral disagreements.
- July 2018 – July 2020 **Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience Lab, Columbia University**
 (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 – May 2018 **Social Cognitive and Neural Sciences Lab, New York University**
 (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 – June 2018 **Social Perception and Evaluation Lab, New York University**
 (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, natural language processing, 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 and publications

Zhang, Y., Helion, C. & Hackel, L. (*in prep*). An emotion regulation framework of interpersonal moral disagreement. Manuscript in preparation. Department of Psychology, University of Southern California.

Zhang, Y., Hackel, L. (*in prep*). Reward association with mental states shapes empathy and prosocial behavior. Manuscript in preparation. Department of Psychology, University of Southern California.

Zhang, Yi., Kapadia, K., Wen, N., Ko, M., Leon, G., Luo, J., Sourati, Z., & Ziabari, A., Dehghani, M. (*in prep*). Empathy dynamics on Reddit: Predicting empathic responses across linguistic patterns and topics. Manuscript in preparation. Department of Psychology, University of Southern California.

Zhang, Y., Hackel, L. (2022). Generalized response to social rejection in social networks. Master's Thesis. 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. (2024). Emotion regulation predicts response to moral disagreements in relational contexts. Poster presented at *Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2024 Conference*, San Diego, CA.
- Zhang, Y.,** Hackel, L. (2023). Anticipated acceptance mediates the relationship between network density and social identification. Poster presented at *Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2023 Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
- 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

Spring 2023	Teaching assistant for PSYC-100, Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2022 & Fall 2023	Teaching assistant for PSYC-274, Statistics
Spring 2022 & Spring 2024	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>