

# XINYU ZHANG

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## EDUCATION

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| <b>Michigan State University</b><br>Ph.D. in Communication Studies<br>Advisor: Yoo Jung Oh<br>Relevant coursework: Quantitative Methods; Foundations of Communication and Information; Computational Social Science; Causal Inference                                                                                | East Lansing, MI<br>Aug. 2024–Present |
| <b>Kent State University</b><br>M.A. in Communication Studies<br>Advisor: Nichole Egbert; GPA: 4.00/4.00<br>Relevant coursework: Health Communication, Qualitative Methods, Communication Theory, Computational Communication, Machine Learning, Communication and Mental Health, Statistics in Educational Services | Kent, OH<br>Aug. 2022–May 2024        |
| <b>Renmin University of China</b><br>M.A. in Communication Studies<br>Advisor: Yan Yan; GPA: 3.76/4.00<br>Relevant coursework: Computational Communication, Quantitative Research Methods in Media Studies                                                                                                           | Beijing, China<br>Aug. 2020–Jun. 2022 |
| <b>Zhongnan University of Economics and Law</b><br>B.A. in Business Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Wuhan, China<br>Sep. 2016–Jun. 2020   |
| <b>National Taipei University</b><br>Non-degree Exchange Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Taipei, China<br>Sep. 2018–Jan. 2019  |

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research examines how human-AI interaction shapes self-identity and interpersonal relationships. I study language use and conversational dynamics in technology-mediated communication.

- Human-AI interaction and sycophantic AI
- Language use, conversational dynamics, and social interaction
- Communication technology, self-identity, interpersonal relationships, and well-being

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- [12] Oh, Y. J., Hu, J. M., Zhu, R., Lim, J. I., & **Zhang, X.** (2026). Artificial intelligence chatbots as relational agents: A systematic review of human–AI chatbot relationships. *International Journal of Human–Computer Interaction*, 1–25.

- [11] Xue, H., Oh, Y. J., Zhou, X., **Zhang, X.**, & Oxley, B. (2026). Users’ prompting strategies and ChatGPT’s contextual adaptation shape conversational information-seeking experiences. *Scientific Reports*. Advance online publication.
- [10] Calabrese, C., Xue, H., **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. (2026). Leveraging artificial intelligence chatbots to employ bypassing and correction strategies for addressing misinformation about contraceptive use. *Science Communication*. Advance online publication.
- [9] **Zhang, X.**, Oh, Y. J., Zhang, Y., & Zhu, J. (2025). Seeking validation in the digital age: The impact of validation seeking on self-image and internalized stigma among self- vs. clinically diagnosed individuals on r/ADHD. *PLOS One*, 20(10), e0331856.
- [8] **Zhang, X.**, & Wang, Y. (2025). Swiping through the stars: Exploring identity and intimacy through astrology sensemaking on Douyin. *New Media & Society*. Advance online publication.
- [7] Zhu, J., **Zhang, X.**, Jin, R., Jiang, H., & Kenne, D. R. (2025). Probing public perceptions of antidepressants on social media: Mixed methods study. *JMIR Formative Research*, 9(1), e62680.
- [6] **Zhang, X.**, Zhu, J., Kenne, D. R., & Jin, R. (2025). Teenager substance use on Reddit: Mixed methods computational analysis of frames and emotions. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 27, e59338.
- [5] **Zhang, X.**, & Zou, W. (2025). Shattering the silence: Exploring the role of Chinese online sexual health influencers in promoting sex education. *Sex Education*, 25(1), 95–110.
- [4] Zou, W., Tang, L., Zhou, M., & **Zhang, X.** (2024). Self-disclosure and received social support among women experiencing infertility on Reddit: A natural language processing approach. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 154, 108159.
- [3] **Zhang, X.**, & Silva, D. E. (2024). “I feel like a fraud who acts like a feminist”: The discussion themes and sexual scripts in the porn-free women online forum. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 53(6), 2189–2203.
- [2] Yan, Y., Huang, S., Ge, X., Zeng, J., Guo, K., & **Zhang, X.** (2023). WeChat group flooding: Building multiplex relationships under public panopticism [in Chinese]. *Xinwen Jizhe (News Reporter)*, 70–83.
- [1] Zou, W., **Zhang, X.**, & He, J. (2023). Making sense of Jiese: An interview study of members from a porn-free self-help forum in China. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 52(1), 385–397.

## UNDER REVIEW

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- [6] Hu, J. M., & **Zhang, X.** Profiling Actors in Network Support Using Online Text Data.
- [5] **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. Human vs. AI as Romantic Advisors: A Test of Expectancy Violation Processes.
- [4] **Zhang, X.**, Ellithorpe, M. E., & Meshi, D. The Discrepancy Between Individuals’ Estimated and Ideal Time on Social Media Is Indirectly Linked to Depressive Symptoms Through Negative Affect from Perceived Overuse.
- [3] Oh, Y. J., **Zhang, X.**, Jeon, M., Bergholz, T. M., & Yi, J. Promoting Safe Food Handling Practices Through Norm-Based Artificial Intelligence Chatbots.
- [2] **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. When Chatbots Feel Similar to Me: Relational Outcomes of Perceived Similarity.

- [1] **Zhang, X.**, Oh, Y. J., & Jeon, M. When AI Edits the Self: Psychological Tradeoffs in Adopting AI-Generated Headshots.

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- [6] **Zhang, X.**, & Yang, X. Manufacturing Consensus: An LLM-Based Simulation of Algorithmic Comment Ranking and the False Consensus Effect.
- [5] **Zhang, X.** “My Feelings Are Real, But the Bot Is Not”: Pathologizing Algorithmic Intimacy in Chatbot Recovery Communities.
- [4] **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. Individual Differences in Users’ Preferences for Sycophantic AI Responses.
- [3] **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. Reducing Attitudinal Extremity in Human-AI Interaction: The Role of Sycophantic Responses.
- [2] **Zhang, X.**, Calabrese, C., Xue, H., & Oh, Y. J. Correction Need Not Be Code: Emotional Synchrony in Chatbot Conversations Addressing Misinformation.
- [1] **Zhang, X.**, Oh, Y. J., & Jeon, M. Functional and Existential Dependence on AI Chatbots Differentially Predict Well-Being Through Perceived AI Identity Threat.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- [8] **Zhang, X.**, & Oh, Y. J. (2026, June). That’s not what I wanted to hear: How viewpoint disconfirmation triggers defensive processing in human-AI interaction. Paper presented at *the 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)*, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [7] Xue, H., Oh, Y. J., Zhou, X., **Zhang, X.**, & Oxley, B. (2026, June). Users’ prompting strategies and ChatGPT’s contextual adaptation shape conversational information-seeking experiences. Paper presented at *the 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)*, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [6] Zhu, R., Oh, Y. J., **Zhang, X.**, Forsyth, S., Markowitz, D., & Van Der Heide, B. (2026, June). How we accommodate to AI: Linguistic style accommodation and its effects in human-AI chatbot conversations. Paper presented at *the 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA)*, Cape Town, South Africa.
- [5] **Zhang, X.**, & Egbert, N. (2026, April). Normative influence in context: Discussion network heterogeneity’s impact on family vs. social media pathways to gynecological care. Paper presented at *the 2026 Annual Conference of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA)*, Minneapolis, MN.
- [4] Hu, J. M., & **Zhang, X.** (2026, April). What is network support? Computational insights translated from communicated tensions between friends and romantic partners. Paper presented at *the 2026 Annual Conference of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA)*, Minneapolis, MN.
- [3] **Zhang, X.**, & Zou, W. (2023). Shattering the silence: Exploring the role of Chinese online sexual health influencers in promoting sex education. Paper presented at *the 109th Annual Convention of the National Communication Association*, National Harbor, MD.

- [2] **Zhang, X.**, & Silva, D. E. (2023). Exploring thematic features and sexual scripts in women's online pornography abstinence forums. Paper presented at *the 106th Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication*, Washington, DC. [**First Place Student-Faculty Paper**]
- [1] Egbert, N., Noi, S., Rindfleisch, M., & **Zhang, X.** (2023). Uncertain poets describe their reactions to COVID-19 vaccines. Paper presented at *the 7th Biennial DC Health Communication Conference*.

# SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

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## Research and Academic Excellence

- Top Paper Award, AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women 2023

## Competitive External Scholarships and Fellowships

- Strosacker Scholarship, \$4,000 2025
- Dr. Dominic Infante Communication Scholarship, \$2,000 2023
- Second Prize Academic Scholarship, Renmin University, 8,000 CNY 2021
- National Endeavor Fellowship, 5,000 CNY 2018, 2019

## Competition Awards

- Outstanding Volunteer Pioneer 2016, 2017, 2018

# GRANTS

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## Travel Grants

- Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF), \$2,000 2024, 2025, 2026
- Conference Travel Grant, \$880 2023

# TEACHING

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## Teaching Assistant

- COM 100: Human Communication**, Michigan State University 2024–2026  
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Dustin Carnahan
- Media Research Design and Thesis Writing**, Renmin University 2021  
Graduate lecture; Instructor: Professor Yan Yan

## Instructor

- Introduction to Human Communication**, Kent State University 2023–2024  
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Jennifer L. McCullough

# ACADEMIC SERVICES

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## Ad Hoc Reviewer for Academic Journals

- Archives of Sexual Behavior* 2024
- Culture, Health & Sexuality* 2024, 2025, 2026
- New Media & Society* 2025, 2026
- Social Media + Society* 2025
- The Journal of Sex Research* 2025

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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**Communication & Computation Lab, Michigan State University**  
Student Member

East Lansing, MI  
Aug. 2024–Present

**Media Lab, Kent State University**  
Student Member / Student Affiliate

Kent, OH  
Sep. 2022–May 2024

## SKILLS

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- **Statistical Programming / Markup Languages:** Python, R, LaTeX
- **Applications:** GitHub, WordPress, Qualtrics, Overleaf, NVivo
- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Proficient)
- **Music:** Guitar