

# YIXIAO SUN

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Update: March 2026

## EDUCATION

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<b>Michigan State University</b> Ph.D. in Communication Advisor: David M. Markowitz	East Lansing, MI 2025–
<b>Nanjing University</b> M.A. in Communication (with Distinguished Honor Graduate Award) Advisor: Cheng-Jun Wang; GPA: 4.00/4.00	Nanjing, China 2022–2025
<b>Sichuan International Studies University</b> B.A. in Internet and New Media (with Distinguished Honor Graduate Award) Advisor: Hao Liu; GPA: 3.96/4.00	Chongqing, China 2018–2022

## PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

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<b>ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan</b> Coursework in Bayesian modeling, time-series and panel analysis, and quantitative foundations	Ann Arbor, MI Summer 2026
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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- [4] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Lu, G., Chen, Z., & Wang, C. J. (2025). Let Us Not Wallow in the Valley of Despair: The Role of Emotion, Panic, and Sympathy Discourses in Promoting Productive Actions. *International Journal of Business Communication*. Online First in May 2025.
- [3] Zhang, Y.<sup>†</sup>, **Sun, Y.**<sup>†</sup>, & Wang, C. J. (2025). Unraveling the Shape of Social Media Narratives: Analyzing the Effects of Online Interaction and Narrative Structure on Attention to Digital Asset Transactions. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, 69(3), 200–218. [**Co-first author**<sup>†</sup>]
- [2] Chen, Z., Yu, W., **Sun, Y.**, Wang, C. J., & Liu, X. F. (2025). The Dark Side of the Internet: Fueling Misinformation in the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election. *Communication and the Public*. Online First in March 2025.
- [1] **Sun, Y.**, Yan, X. F., Zhang, Y., Chen, J., Chen, Z., & Wang, C. J. (2024). Globalization in International Tensions: The Impact of Military Conflicts on the Cultural Orientations of Multinational Corporations' Advertising in Modern China (1932–1937). *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 17(4), 452–470.

## UNDER REVIEW

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- [7] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (Revise & Resubmit). Bipolarity of Positive and Negative Affects: Contemporaneous Network Relations of Nuanced Affect States. *Cognition and Emotion*.

- [6] Markowitz, D. M., & **Sun, Y.** (Revise & Resubmit). Language and Persuasion Research: A Computational Literature Review Spanning Five Decades of Scholarship (1974–2025). *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.
- [5] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (Under Review). Inside Authoritarianism: Heterogeneous RWA Expressions and Their Dynamic Links to COVID-19 Fear and Prevention Beliefs.
- [4] **Sun, Y.**, Markowitz, D. M., & Bailenson, J. N. (Under Review). A Guide for Studying Language Use in Virtual and Augmented Reality. In M. Slater & M. Quent (Eds.), *Handbook of the Metaverse*. De Gruyter.
- [3] **Sun, Y.**, Markowitz, D. M., Zhang, Y., & Wang, C. J. (Under Review). Behind the Roles We Play: How U.S. Politicians' Social Media Narrative Identity Relates to Their Dissent Voting Behavior.
- [2] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (Under Review). Phenomenal Consciousness in Females and Access Consciousness in Males Are More Closely Associated with Emotions.
- [1] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Yan, L., Yan, X. F., & Wang, C. J. (Under Review). Is National Identity Harmless to Ingroup Members? Leveraging Ingroup Favoritism and Moral Foundation to Promote Online Fandom Donation.

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- [8] **Sun, Y.** Character Arcs and Narrative Success: Quantifying Protagonist Development through Agency Trajectories.
- [7] **Sun, Y.** A Common Shock, Divergent Interpretations: Media Environments and Changes in Electoral Legitimacy after the Election.
- [6] **Sun, Y.**, Ma, Z., & Ma, Z. Dynamic Changes in Moral Foundations and Absolutist Tendencies Among Truth Social Users Before and After the Trump Assassination Attempt: A Study Using Distributed Dictionary Representations and Growth Curve Modeling.
- [5] **Sun, Y.**, & Markowitz, D. M. Softening the Blow? Euphemistic Framing Attenuates Threat Perception and Protective Action Intentions in Disaster Warnings.
- [4] **Sun, Y.**, Zhao, Z., Zhang, X., Oh, Y. J., & Markowitz, D. M. Developing A Tool for Collecting Multimodal Human–Human and Human–AI Conversation Data.
- [3] **Sun, Y.**, & Markowitz, D. M. Text Analysis of Social Media Content. In M. A. Hamilton (Ed.), *Handbook of Research Methods in Communication Studies*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
- [1] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, & Wang, C. J. Narrating the Road to Fame: The Effects of Politicians' Narrative Identity and Collective Narrative Competition in Shaping Popularity of U.S. Senators.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- [8] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (2025). Bipolarity of Positive and Negative Affects: Contemporaneous Network Relations of Nuanced Affect States. Paper presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 111th Annual Convention*, Denver, CO.
- [7] Li, W., **Sun, Y.**, & Yue, Y. (2025). Artificial Intelligence vs. Medical Experts: A Comparative Analysis of Semantic Quality and Readability in Health Advice from Large Language Models and Human Institutions. Paper in Progress presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 111th Annual Convention*, Denver, CO.

- [6] **Sun, Y.**, & Ma, Z. (2024). Authoritarians in Response to Societal Crises: Reciprocal Dynamics of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, COVID-19 Fear and Prevention Belief. Paper presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA. [**Top Paper Award**]
- [5] **Sun, Y.**, Fei, Y., & Yu, C. (2024). Resource Exchange, Perceived Social Support, Companionship and Intimacy: Characterizing the Social Relationship Between Users and ChatGPT. Paper presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA. [**Top Student Paper Award**]
- [4] **Sun, Y.** (2024). Building Identity Through Narratives: Who Voices Dissent Within the Party?. Paper in Progress presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA.
- [3] Zhang, Y., **Sun, Y.**, Chen, Z., & Wang, C. J. (2024). How Emotion and Narrative Foster Resilience in Adversity: The Case of Large-Scale Online Donations during COVID-19. Paper presented at *National Communication Association (NCA) 110th Annual Convention*, New Orleans, LA.
- [2] **Sun, Y.**, Yan, X. F., Zhang, Y., Chen, Z., & Wang, C. J. (2023). From Imperialism to Cultural Imperialism: Localized Versus Globalized Advertisements of Imported Commodities in China (1932–1937). Paper presented at *the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Toronto, Canada.
- [1] Zhang, Y., Lu, G., **Sun, Y.**, Chen, Z., & Wang, C. J. (2023). Traversing the Valley of Despair in Affective Mobilization: Issue Engagement, Emotion, and Online Donation on Sina Weibo During the Outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at *the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference*, Toronto, Canada.

## SELECTED HONORS and AWARDS

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### Research and Academic Excellence

- Top Paper Award Jul 2024  
*Political Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA)*
- Top Student Paper Award Jul 2024  
*Human Communication and Technology Division, National Communication Association (NCA)*
- Chongqing Excellent Graduation Thesis Award Jan 2023

### Competitive External Scholarships and Fellowships

- National Scholarship for Graduate Student Oct 2024
- HUANG Jianliang Scholarship Oct 2023
- National Scholarship for Undergraduate Student Dec 2021

### Competition Awards

- National Second Place, *Dissemination Data Mining Competition* Sep 2023
- First Place in West China, *ESG National College Innovation Competition* Dec 2021
- Provincial Second Prize, *Challenge Cup National Academic Works Competition* Aug 2021
- Provincial Third Prize, *National Advertising Art Competition* Jul 2021

- National Third Prize, *National English Competition for College Students* Nov 2020

### Graduation Honors

- Chongqing Distinguished Honor Graduate Award Jun 2022

## GRANTS

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### External

- National Social Science Foundation of China (22BXW032), ¥200,000, *Research Fellow* 2022–2025  
Project title: *Computational Narrative Research on Chinese Stories and Chinese Voices in the Digital Media Era* (PI: Cheng-Jun Wang)
- CAST Science Popularization Program (KXYJS2022063), ¥30,000, *co-PI* 2022–2024  
Project title: *The Dissemination of Science Popularizing Information in Public Health Emergencies and Its Impact on Social Mobilization*
- Chongqing College Students' Innovation Training Program (S202010650015), ¥2,500, *PI* 2020–2021  
Project title: *Research on the Visualization of Public Opinions along the Belt and Road from the Perspective of Geopolitics: Twitter as an Example*

### Internal

- Distinguished Postgraduate Talent Cultivation Program (2023GYB08), ¥10,000, *PI* 2023–2025  
Project title: *Research on Advertising Strategies for Imported Commodities during the Republic of China from the Perspective of Cultural Imperialism*

### Travel Grants

- Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF), \$2,000 2025
- National Communication Association (NCA) Student Caucus Travel Grant, \$200 2024

## TEACHING

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### Teaching Assistant

**COM 100: Human Communication**, Michigan State University Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026  
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Dustin Carnahan

**Applications of Large Language Models in Digital Humanities**, Nanjing University Spring 2025  
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

**Text Data Analysis**, Nanjing University Spring 2024  
Graduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhicong Chen

**Planning and Creative Strategy**, Nanjing University Spring 2024  
Graduate seminar; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

**Advertising Strategy and Creation**, Nanjing University Fall 2023, Fall 2024  
Undergraduate lecture; Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma

### Recommendation Letter Writer

- Bradyn Kleimola, College of Natural Sciences, Michigan State University  
Application for *University of Cincinnati Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) 2026*

Fall 2025

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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### Services for Universities and Departments

#### Michigan State University

- Dean's Advisory Committee Sep 2025–Aug 2026  
— Advise the dean on matters of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

### Services for Academic Associations

#### National Communication Association (NCA)

- Graduate Student/IDEA Representative, *Communication Anxiety and Apprehension Division* Jan 2026–Dec 2026  
— Represent graduate student members, promote IDEA initiatives, manage division social media, and facilitate communication between the division and graduate student community.
- Information Officer, *Human Communication and Technology Division* Jan 2025–Dec 2026  
— Manage division communications and oversee social media engagement.

### Services for Academic Media Platforms

- Data Visualization Editor, *Fact-Checking Records* Oct 2022–Jan 2024  
— Edit data-driven news content, including topic development, research, writing, data analysis, and visual design.
- Editor, *Computational Communication Academy* Sep 2022–Aug 2023  
— Compile and disseminate computational social science research; author newsletters highlighting developments from the Computational Communication Collaboratory.

### Ad Hoc Reviewer for Academic Journals

- Computers in Human Behavior Reports* 2025  
*New Ideas in Psychology* 2025

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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- Communication & Computation Lab, Michigan State University** East Lansing, MI  
Student Member Aug 2025–
- Computational Communication Collaboratory, Nanjing University** Nanjing, China  
Student Member / Student Affiliate Sep 2021–
- Chongqing Overseas Publicity Research Center** Chongqing, China  
Global Public Opinion Research Intern May 2020–May 2022

## SKILLS

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- **Statistical Programming / Markup Languages:** Python, R, Stata, LaTeX, HTML, SQL, CSS, SPSS

- **Applications:** Tableau, Gephi, Brackets, Photoshop, Premier Pro, Animate, Audition
- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (Proficient), Japanese (Intermediate)
- **Music:** Piano (Level 8 Certificate), Singing