

Yangdong Liu

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Yangdong Liu is currently a third-year Ph.D. candidate in the School of Journalism and Communication, Nanjing University, under the supervision of Prof. Cheng-Jun Wang. He is also a member of Computational Communication Collaboratory and the Socrates Lab. His research interests include computational social science, political communication and causal inference.

EDUCATION

Nanjing University Ph.D. student in Computational Communication; Advisor: Prof. Cheng-Jun Wang Member of the Computational Communication Collaboratory	Nanjing, China Sept 2023 –
China Foreign Affairs University M.A. in Political Science; Advisor: Prof. Zhan Shi	Beijing, China 2021–2023
South China University of Technology B.A. in Software Engineering; GPA: 3.7/4.0 (top 10%)	Guangzhou, China 2016–2020

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [1] **Liu, Y.**, Zhou, Z., Zhang, Y., Wang, C. J.*, Unpacking the Black Box of Hostility: Threat Perception, Moral Judgement, and Aggressive Rhetoric in China's Diplomatic Press Conferences, *Under Review*
- [2] **Liu, Y.**, Huang, J., Wang, C. J.*, Mapping Causal Narratives in Political Discourse Using Large Language Models, *Under Review*
- [3] **Liu, Y.**, Zhang, Y., Wang, C. J.*, @Grok, Is This True? The Causal Effect of AI-Mediated Fact-Checking on Online Discussion Participation
- [4] **Liu, Y.**, Huang, J., Wang, C. J.*, Bringing the Narrative Back In: A Systematic Review of the Conceptualizations and Operationalizations of Narrative in Narrative Persuasion Research (1996-2025)
- [5] **Liu, Y.**, Wang, C.J.*, Does Soft Propaganda Work: Theatre Reform Movement and Female Empowerment in China

CONFERENCES

- [1] **Liu, Y.**, Wang, C.J.*, (2026) Does Soft Propaganda Work: Theatre Reform Movement and Female Empowerment in China. Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Cape Town, South Africa.

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- [2] Zhou, Z., **Liu, Y.**, Xiao X., Wang, C.J.*, (2026) The Abolition of Slavery and the Rise of Racist Narratives in Southern U.S. Newspapers: A Re-Validation Based on a Historical Racism Lexicon (1800-1920). Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Cape Town, South Africa.
- [3] Zhang, X., An, J., **Liu, Y.**, Wang, C.J.*, (2026) Great Powers as Evil or Savior? The Impact of War on Shenbao in Late Qing China (1880-1911). Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Cape Town, South Africa.
- [4] **Liu, Y.**, Wang, C.J.* (2025). Mapping Causal Narratives Using LLMs in Political Discourse. Paper to be presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [5] **Liu, Y.**, Zhou, Z., Zhang, Y., Wang, C. J.* (2025). Unpacking the Black Box of Hostility: Threat Perception, Moral Judgement, and Aggressive Rhetoric in China's Diplomatic Press Conferences. Paper to be presented at the 75th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Denver, Colorado, USA.
- [6] Zhang, Y., Wang, Y., Yan, L., & **Liu, Y.** (2024). Unraveling the NFT Narrative Labyrinth: Persuasive Effects of Interactive Engagement and Structure on Transaction Attention. Paper to be presented at the 74th Annual International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Gold Coast, Australia.

GRANTS

Internal

- Distinguished Postgraduate Talent Cultivation Program (2024GYB13), ¥6,000, PI 2024—
2026
Project title: *The Formation and Impact of Moral Narrative in China's Public Diplomacy*
- Distinguished Postgraduate Talent Cultivation Program (2024GYB01), ¥8,000, Participation 2024—
2026
Project title: *The Embeddedness of Digital Media into Daily Temporal Structure in an Accelerated Society*
(PI: Xue-Fei Yan)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

- Academic Writing**, Nanjing University Fall 2024
Instructor: Prof. Cheng-Jun Wang
– Mentored student class projects, managed class assignment.
- Quantitative Research Workshop**, Nanjing University Spring 2024
Instructor: Dr. Zhihao Ma
– Mentored student class projects, managed online Q&A and class assignment.
- Comparative Political Theory**, China Foreign Affairs University Spring 2023
Instructor: Dr. Yu Zhang
– Mentored student class projects, managed Q&A

Academic Training

- **Tsinghua University**
- Big Data and Causal Inference Seminar, hosted by Laboratory of Computational Social Science and State Governance, Tsinghua University

2023 Fall

AWARDS & HONORS

- China Foreign Affairs University Annual Scholarship
- South China University of Technology Annual Third-Class Scholarship

2022
2018 2019

SKILL

- **Statistical Programming:** Python, R, Stata, C/C++, SQL
- **Languages:** Mandarin (Native), English (IELTS 7.0)
- **Music:** Guitar, Blues Harmonica
- **Sports:** Football, Tennis