

Zixi Chen
(陳梓曦)

567 West Yangsi Road, Pudong New District, Shanghai 200124, China

zixi.chen@nyu.edu

[My website](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

(Updated: Nov., 2025)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 01/2024 – present Assistant Professor of Practice in Computational Social Science, **New York University Shanghai**, China; with an affiliation at the Center for Applied Social and Economic Research, NYU Shanghai, China
- 04/2021 – 08/2023 Postdoc Associate, Learning Informatics Lab, **University of Minnesota Twin Cities**, US
- 04/2021 – 08/2023 Visiting Scholar, **Infinite Campus, Inc.**, US

EDUCATION

- 12/2020 Ph.D. in *Measurement and Quantitative Methods*, **Michigan State University**, US
Dissertation: Quantifying the Bias of Standard Error Estimates Due to Omitted Cluster Levels in Complex Multilevel Data: A Sensitivity Analysis for Empirical Researchers
Committees: Dr. Kenneth Frank (Chair), Dr. Jeffrey Wooldridge, Dr. Spyros Konstantopoulos, and Dr. Kimberly Kelly
- 12/2014 M.S. in *Educational Theory and Policy*, dual-title in *Comparative and International Education*, and minor in *Applied Statistics*, **The Pennsylvania State University**, US
- 6/2012 B.A. in *English with Teaching Specialization (Certified)*, **Hunan Normal University**, China

RESEARCH AREAS

Methodological Area:

Computational Social Science (e.g., text-as-data, social network analysis) with a focus on the applications in the educational and sociocultural contexts.

Quantitative Methods: hierarchical linear modeling, sensitivity analysis design, digital-trace and survey social data collection design.

Substantive Area:

Educational inequality mechanisms in digital and AI-mediated environments.
Meso-level analysis of institutional agents (particularly teachers) as mediators between macro-level policy constraints and micro-level student outcomes.

GRANTS & HONORS

- 08/2025 Shanghai Municipal Level Undergraduate Key Curriculum Program recognition for my course “Introduction to Computational Social Science”, ¥ 20,000 (Chinese Yuan)
- 12/2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University, \$7,000

- 10/2019 Seed Grant, “Employee Emotions and Turnover: Evidence from Open Job Market Forums,” Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), University of Northwestern, \$700 (funding unavailable due to pandemic)
- 05/2019 Summer Research Fellowship, “What Instructional Resources that Teachers Curated in Social Media? A Structural Topic Modeling Approach”, Michigan State University, \$6,000
- 08/2017 Fellowship to ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan.
- 06/2016 Fellowship to Enhance Global Understanding in the Netherlands (Immigration and curriculum development for global education), Michigan State University.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

1. Microsoft AI Economy Institute (AIEI), Program application in theme “AI and the Impact on K-12 Teaching” (Record ID: 82651805), Role: PI, \$75,000

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

(* indicates equal contribution; # indicates corresponding author; † indicates student or postdoc mentee)

1. Qu, L., Guan, Y., & **Chen, Z.** (In print). Organizational Elements and Operational Characteristics of Humanities and Social Science Labs at Top U.S. Universities: An Analysis of 32 Cases [美国顶尖大学文科实验室的组织要素与运行特点——基于 32 所人文社科实验室的分析]. *Higher Education Expectations* [高教探索] (CSSCI 核心期刊)
2. Chen, B., & **Chen, Z.** (2024). Why do students reply? Uncovering the socio-semantic entanglement in web annotation activities. *Education and Information Technologies*, 29(8), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-023-12187-5> (SSCI, JCR Q1, IF: 5.4)
3. **Chen, Z.***, Torphy, K*, Karimi, H., & Donzella, D. (2023). Building a Nationally Representative Sample of Teachers Online and Offline. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, 57(3), 521-546. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15391523.2023.2266060> (SSCI, JCR Q1, IF: 5.0)
4. Knake, K. T., **Chen, Z.**, Yang †, X., & Tait, J. (2021). Pinterest curation and student achievement: The effects of elementary mathematics resources on students’ learning over time. *The Elementary School Journal*, 122(1), 57-85. <https://doi.org/10.1086/715480> (SSCI, JCR Q2, IF: 1.4)
5. Shi, X., & **Chen, Z.** (2021). Listening to your employees: Analyzing opinions from online reviews of Hotel Companies. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 33(6), 2091–2116. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ijchm-06-2020-0576> (SSCI, JCR Q1, IF: 9.0)
6. **Chen, Z.#**, Shi, X., Zhang, W., & Qu, L. (2020). Understanding the complexity of teacher emotions from online forums: A computational text analysis approach. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00921> (SSCI, JCR Q2, IF: 2.9)
7. Liu*, Y., Torphy*, K., Hu, S., Tang, J., & **Chen, Z.** (2020). Examining the Virtual Diffusion of Educational Resources Across Teachers’ Social Networks Over Time. *Teachers College Record*, 122(6). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0161468120122006> (SSCI, JCR Q2, IF: 1.9)
8. Torphy, K., Hu, S., Liu, Y., & **Chen, Z.** (2020). Teachers Turning to Teachers:

Teacherpreneurial Behaviors in Social Media. *American Journal of Education*, 127(1), 49-76. <https://doi.org/10.1086/711012> (SSCI, JCR Q1, IF: 2.3)

9. Torphy, K., Liu, Y., Hu, S., & **Chen, Z.** (2020). Sources of Professional Support: Patterns of Teachers' Curation of Instructional Resources in Social Media. *American Journal of Education*, 127(1), 13-47. <https://doi.org/10.1086/711008> (SSCI, JCR Q1, IF: 2.3)
10. Lane, J., Boggs, B., **Chen, Z.**, & Torphy, K. (2019). Conceptualizing Virtual Instructional Resource Use in an Era of Greater Centralization, Specification of Quality Instructional Practices, and Proliferation of Instructional Resources. *Teachers College Record*, 121(14). <https://doi.org/10.1177/016146811912101408> (SSCI, JCR Q2, IF: 1.9)
11. Hu, S., Torphy, K. T., **Chen, Z.**, & Eagan, B. (2018, July). How do US teachers align instructional resources to the common core state standards: a case of Pinterest. In *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Media and Society* (SMSociety '18). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 315–319 <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3217804.3217936> (Publication in the ACM International Conference Proceeding Series, a reputable collection with a high citation impact [h-index: 164].)

Work Under Review

1. **Chen, Z.**, Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (In revision for resubmission). *From Text to Context: Semantically Mapping Cultural Engagement in Curricula to Teacher Agency and Institutional Contexts*
2. **Chen*, Z.**, Kim*, J., & Li, X. (R&R). *Exploring and Measuring Principals' Feedback to Teachers: A Text-as-Data Approach*.
3. Li, T., Chen, M., Lin, Y., & **Chen, Z.** (R&R). *The Probability of a Robust Inference for External Validity: A Probabilistic Generalizability Index for Randomized Experiments*.
4. Sumerlin[‡], T., Li, Y., **Chen, Z.**, Garabiles, M., Li, G., Shi, Y., Latkin, C., & Hall, H. (R&R) *Social Networks of Filipino and Indonesian Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Peri-Migration: A Descriptive Study in Macao China*

Manuscript in Preparation

1. Li, C., Wang, Z., & **Chen, Z[#]**. *The Code of Inequality: How AI Hiring Systems Reproduce Gender Stratification in the Labor Market*. (In preparation for submission to a special issue of the Social Science Research on AI and Inequality).
2. **Chen, Z.** (Manuscript draft completed. In preparation for formal submission). *The Robustness of Inference if A Cluster Level is Omitted: A Sensitivity Analysis*
3. **Chen, Z.**, Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *The Elephant in the Room: Potential Selection Biases in Educational Digital Big Data*
4. **Chen, Z.**, Lin[‡], Y., Li, T. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *A Geometry-based Sensitivity Analysis Tool for Evaluating Moderation Effects under Heterogeneity*
5. He[‡], J., **Chen, Z.**, Li, Gu. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *Stress and Internalization Among Sexual Minority Men in China: Insights from Psychometric Network Analysis*
6. **Chen, Z.**, Kim, J. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *Principals as Local Policymakers and Intermediaries: Text-as-data Evidence from Feedback*

7. Aafjes-van Doorn, K., **Chen, Z.**, & van Meter, A. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *When Crisis Meets Code: A Cross-Cultural Audit of AI Responses to Suicidal Users*
8. **Chen, Z.**, & Torphy, K. (Data analysis completed, preparing manuscript for submission). *Beyond Teaching to the Standards: How Teachers Translate Policy into Practice Through Online Math Resource Selection*

Invited Talks

1. 07/2024, “Text-as-data in Social Science Research”, Institute of Economics of Education, Peking University, Beijing, China
2. 05/2024, “Building Representative Big Data with Rich Social Data”, Center for Educational Leadership and Policy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China
3. 05/2022, “Quantifying Culturally Relevant Curriculum Using Natural Language Processing”, Dev-U, Infinite Campus, MN, U.S.
4. 10/2021, “Embeddedness Crossing Over: The effects of physical and virtual collegial relations on teachers’ virtual resource acquisition”, Complex Network Analysis and Modeling in Education Panel (Virtual), Chinese National Educational Empirical Studies Seminar, Beijing, China
5. 03/2018, “Examining Teachers’ Response to Policy Change and The Classroom implementation of Curated Instructional Resources in Social Media”, Center for Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO), Notre Dame University, IN, U.S.

Conference Presentations

1. Sumerlin[†], T., Li, Y., **Chen, Z.**, Garabiles, M., Li, G., Shi, Y., Latkin, C., & Hall, H. (September, 2025) *The social network characteristics of Filipino and Indonesian female migrant domestic workers in Macao, China*. World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race, and Health conference, Lisbon, Portugal
2. **Chen, Z.**, Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (April, 2023). *Quantifying Culturally Relevant Curriculum and Examining its Relationships with Students’ and Teachers’ Race/ethnicity and Gender* [Roundtable]. American Educational Research Association 2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, U.S.
3. **Chen, Z.**, Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (September, 2022). *The Elephant in the Room: Potential Selection Biases in Educational Digital Big Data* [Paper presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Arlington, Virginia, U.S. <https://sree.confex.com/sree/2022/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/4170>
4. **Chen, Z.** & Chen, B. (July, 2022). *Integrating Lexical Networks and Word Embeddings to Quantify Idea Diversity in Knowledge Building Discourse* [Paper presentation]. 8th International Conference on Computational Social Science, Chicago, IL, U.S.
5. **Chen, Z.**, Varma, S., Rudduck[†], I., Helen[†], W., & Eckerstorfer[†], S. (March, 2022). *A Novel Natural Language Processing Approach for Investigating and Quantifying Cultural Competencies in Curriculum* [Poster presentation]. Association for Education Finance and Policy 47th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, U.S.
6. Kim*, J., **Chen***, **Z.**, & Li, X. (March, 2022). *Exploring and Measuring Principals’ Feedback to Teachers: A text-as-data Approach* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education Finance and

Policy 47th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, U.S.

7. **Chen, Z.**, Torphy, K., Tait, J., Karimi, H. (April, 2021). *Beyond Teaching to the Standards: A Text-as-data Approach to Learn How Teachers' Curate Online Math Instructional Resources to Align with CCSS Math Standards* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association 2021 Annual Meeting (Virtual), San Francisco, U.S.
8. **Chen, Z.** (April, 2020). *Robust Inferences of Educational Data with Latent Clusters: A Sensitivity Analysis for Practitioners* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association 2020 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, U.S. *The Conference was canceled due to the pandemic
9. **Chen, Z.** & Torphy, K. (October, 2018). *Embeddedness Crossing Over: The effects of physical and virtual collegial relations on teachers' virtual resource acquisition* [Paper presentation]. 2018 Midwest Sociology of Education Conference, Columbus, U.S.
10. **Chen, Z.**, Torphy, K., Hu, S., Salloum, S., Liu, Y., & McConnell, K. (March, 2018). *Indiana Elementary Teachers' Response to High-stake IREAD-3 Assessment Policy: Evidence from Teachers' Informal Professional Resource Acquisition within Pinterest* [Poster presentation]. Association for Education Finance and Policy 43th Annual Conference, Portland, OR, U.S.
11. **Chen, Z.**, Torphy, K., Hu, S., & Liu, Y (May, 2017). *Informal Instructional Resource Acquisition and Diffusion within Pinterest: A Study of Early Career Teachers' Physical and Virtual Social Networks* [Paper presentation]. International Network for Social Network Analysis Conference, Beijing, China
12. Fu, T., & **Chen, Z.** (April, 2015). *Facing the New Challenges to Educational Leadership in China: Rising Racism, Institutional Barriers, and Adaptive Strategies* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association 2015 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, U.S.
13. **Chen, Z.** (March, 2015). *College Aspirations of Rural Left-behind Children in China: Do Parental Involvement and Household Financial Contribution Matter* [Paper presentation]. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, U.S.

Forthcoming Conference

1. Li, C., Wang, Z., Johnson, J., De, S., & **Chen, Z.** (2025, December). *When AI Joins the Thread: A Computational Analysis of Gendered Human-AI Interactions on Weibo*. International Conference on Social Computing, Shanghai, China
2. Li, A., **Chen, Z.**, & Chen, J. (2026, April). *Mapping parental involvement and engagement: A text network analysis of U.S. school district handbooks*. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, U.S.
3. **Chen, Z.**, Kim, J., & Li, X. (2026, April). *From praise to procedures: Topic modeling the content and context of principal feedback*. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, U.S.
4. Wang, Y., & **Chen, Z.** (To be submitted) *Mining Public Transportation Experiences in Urban China: A Focus on Women's Safety, Convenience, and Accessibility*. International Society for Computational Social Science 2026 Annual Conference, Burlington, Vermont, U.S.

Web-Based Publications

1. Wei, J., Wang, H., **Chen, Z.**, Wang, H. (2014) *中国流动儿童数据报告—2014* [2014 Data

Report of Migrant Children in China]. Retrieved from New Citizen Program:
http://www.sanzhi.org.cn/?page_id=702

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Instructor & Organizer

NYU Shanghai

- SOCS-SH 190 Introduction to the Computational Social Science
- SOCS-SH 213 Applied Social Network Analysis
- SOCS-SH 400 Social Science Capstone Seminar

CASER Summer School in Applied Social Science Research Methods, NYU Shanghai

- Applied Social Network Analysis; 2024, 2025

Summer Institute of Computational Social Science (SICSS)

- Organizer of [SICSS at NYU Shanghai](#) 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Michigan State University

- CEP 933: Quantitative Methods II (Blended; Two semesters). Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Frank
- CEP 932: Quantitative Methods I. Instructor: Dr. Spyros Konstantopoulos
- CEP 932: Quantitative Methods I (Online). Instructor: Dr. Auðbjörg Björnsdóttir
- CEP 991B: Social Network Analysis (Blended). Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Frank

AERA Professional Development Workshop

- “What Would It Take to Change Your Inference? Quantifying the Discourse About Causal Inferences in the Social Sciences”. Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Frank

Mentorship

NYU Shanghai

- Zeqiang Wang (Computer Science; Visiting PhD student from Surrey University)
- Jolie Chen (Psychology undergraduate; Graduated, now a grad. student at Columbia University)
- Yujia Wang (Urban Studies undergraduate; Graduated)
- Phoebe Lemon (Data Science undergraduate; Graduated)
- Jackson Xia (Data Science undergraduate senior; Graduated)
- Lin Yi (Data Science undergraduate senior, now a grad. student at Brown University)

University of Minnesota

- Mentored *three* undergraduate students in a research project

Michigan State University

- Mentored *five* undergraduate students and *two* graduate students in three research projects

SERVICE

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

AERA Open

Chinese Sociological Review

Communication & Society
Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk
Journal of Science Education and Technology

Conference Reviewing

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference;
International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education

Grant Reviewing

Research Development Fund, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Conference Panels

1. "Mapping the Diffusion and Translation of AI in Education Policy," The Second Conference on Development and Governance, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. November 2025. (Role: Invited Discussant for the AI & Social Development Panel)

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association
Association for Education Finance and Policy
The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness