

Zixi Chen 陳梓曦

Pronouns: she, her, hers ([Hear my name](#))

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(Updated: Feb. 2, 2024)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

01/2024 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 (CASER), NYU Shanghai

04/2021 – 08/2023 Postdoc Associate, Learning Informatics Lab, **University of Minnesota Twin Cities**, MN; with an affiliation at the Penn Wonder Lab, University of Pennsylvania, PA.

04/2021 – 08/2023 Visiting Scholar, **Infinite Campus**, MN

EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. in Measurement and Quantitative Methods

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

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

2014 M.S. in Educational Theory and Policy, dual-title in Comparative and International Education, and minor in Applied Statistics

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

2012 B.S. in English with Teaching Specialization (Certified)

Hunan Normal University, Changsha City, Hunan Province, China

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Computational Social Science Approaches;

Quantitative Methods;

Critical Data Literacy & Fair Practice;

Teachers in Social Media.

GRANTS & HONORS

12/2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University, \$7,000

10/2019 Seed Grant recipient, “Employee Emotions and Turnover: Evidence from Open Job Market Forums,” Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), University of Northwestern, \$700 (declined due to COVID-19 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.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

(* indicates equal contribution; † indicates student mentee)

1. **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*
2. Chen, B., & **Chen, Z.** (2023). Why do students reply? Uncovering the socio-semantic entanglement in web annotation activities. *Education and Information Technologies*, 1-25.
3. 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>
4. 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>
5. **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>
6. 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>
7. 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>
8. 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>
9. 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>

Work-in-progress

1. **Chen*, Z.**, Kim*, J., & Li, X. (R&R). *Exploring and Measuring Principals’ Feedback to Teachers: A text-as-data Approach*.
2. **Chen, Z.**, Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (Under Review). *Quantifying Culturally Relevant*

Curriculum and Examining its Relationships with Students' and Teachers' Race/ethnicity and Gender

3. **Chen, Z.** & Torphy, K. (In Prep.). *Embeddedness Crossing Over: The Effects of Physical and Virtual Collegial Relations on Teachers' Virtual Resource Acquisition.*
4. **Chen, Z.** (In Prep.). *The Robustness of Inference if A Cluster Level is Omitted: A Sensitivity Analysis.*
5. **Chen, Z.,** Chen, B., Konstan, J., & Varma, S. (In Prep.). *The Elephant in the Room: Potential Selection Biases in Educational Digital Big Data*

Invited Talks

1. 05/2022, "Quantifying Culturally Relevant Curriculum Using Natural Language Processing." Dev-U, Infinite Campus, Blaine, MN.
2. 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.
3. 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, Notre Dame, IN

Selected Conference Presentations

1. **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, United States.
2. **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, United States. <https://sree.confex.com/sree/2022/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/4170>
3. **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, United States.
4. **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, United States.
5. 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, United States.
6. **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, United States.

7. **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, United States. *The Conference was canceled due to the pandemic
8. **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, United States.
9. **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, United States.
10. **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
11. 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, United States.
12. **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, United States.

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

Teaching

01/2024 – present **Instructor**, NYU Shanghai

- SOCS-SH 190 Introduction to the Computational Social Science

08/2017 – 05/2019 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Michigan State University

I facilitated instruction, held weekly office hours, and conducted homework grading in several doctoral-level quantitative method classes (~ 35 students per class) to students of mainly social science majors. I prepared and delivered lecture modules on ANOVA and HLM and facilitated lab sessions.

- 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

04/2020 (Online) & 04/2018 **Teaching Assistant** in 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

2018 – 2020, **Mentorship** at Michigan State University

- I mentored *five* undergraduate students in qualitative coding and inter-rater reliability testing.
- I mentored *two* graduate students from the educational policy and sociology programs in conducting quantitative modeling and social network analysis using Stata and R in three research projects. One of the students won an AERA dissertation grant with the learned coding and analytical skills. The other student has co-authored a journal paper and was accepted by the Ph.D. program at UPenn with a scholarship.

2020 – 2021, **Mentorship** at the University of Minnesota

- I mentored *three* undergraduate students in qualitative coding and inter-rater reliability testing.

SERVICE

Journal Reviewing

AERA Open

Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)

Journal of Science Education and Technology (JOST)

Conference Reviewing

American Educational Research Association Conference (AERA)

International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED)

Grant Reviewing

Research Development Fund, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)

The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)