

## Chenyang (Akira) Wang, MPH | Curriculum Vitae

Room 2B, Campbell Hall, 51 E River Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55455

[Akirawang918@gmail.com](mailto:Akirawang918@gmail.com)/[Wang6225@umn.edu](mailto:Wang6225@umn.edu)

### EDUCATION

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- 2023- 2028    **University of Minnesota**    Minneapolis, MN  
Ph.D. in Developmental Psychopathology and Clinical Science  
Advisor: Sylvia Wilson, Ph.D.
- 2019-2021    **Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University**    Atlanta, GA  
MPH in Behavioral, Social & Health Education Sciences (Certificate in Mental Health)  
GPA: 3.98/4.00  
Master's Thesis: *The associations of maternal emotion dysregulation and parenting behavior with white matter integrity in children*  
Advisor: Negar Fani, Ph.D.
- 2015-2019    **McGill University**    Montreal, QC  
B.Sc. in Psychology, Minor in Neuroscience  
GPA: 3.70/4.00  
Undergraduate Thesis: *Independence of two attention systems: Stimulus-driven and goal-driven attention across perceptual detection*  
Advisor: Amir Raz, Ph.D.

### AWARDS & HONORS

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- 2023    **Institute for Recruitment of Teachers at Phillips Academy Andover Graduate School Application Stipend (USD 300)**
- 2022    **Queer in AI Graduate Application Scholarship (USD 1,250)**  
**American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Graduate Application Scholarship (USD 500)**
- 2019 - 2021    **Rollins School of Public Health Merit Scholarship, Emory University (USD 47,100)**
- 2019    **Yale School of Public Health Merit Scholarship (USD 10,000)**
- 2018    **Tomlinson Engagement Award for Mentoring, McGill University, (CAD 300)**

### PUBLICATIONS

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1. Haller, O., King, T., Mathur, M., Turner, J., **Wang, C.**, Jovanovic, T., Stevens, J., Fani, N. (In Press). White matter predictors of PTSD: Testing different machine learning models in a sample of Black American women. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*.

2. **Wang, C.**, Keilp, J. G., Galfalvy, H., Bridge, J. A., Sheftall, A. H., & Szanto, K. (2023). Entrapment and social problem-solving in suicidal behavior across the adult lifespan. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2023.02.099>
3. **Wang, C.**, La Barrie, D. L., Powers, A., Stenson, A. F., van Rooij, S. J. H., Stevens, J. S., Jovanovic, T., Bradley, B., McGee, R. E., & Fani, N. (2022). Associations of maternal emotion regulation with child white matter connectivity in Black American mother-child dyads. *Developmental Psychobiology*, 64(7). <https://doi.org/10.1002/dev.22303>
4. Schreiber, Z.\*, **Wang, C.\***, Tan, A., Riva-Posse, P., McDonald, W. M., Crowell, A., Hermida, A. P., & Hershenberg, R. (2021). Do baseline anxiety symptoms impact response to IV Ketamine in treatment resistant depression? *Journal of Affective Disorders Reports*, 6, 100253. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadr.2021.100253>  
\*Denotes equal contribution as first authors

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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1. Szanto, K., Buerke, M., **Wang, C.**, Galfalvy, H., Sheftall, A., Keilp, J. (August 2022). *Changes in clinical and neurocognitive suicide risk factors across the adult lifespan*. Symposium presentation at the 19th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour (Copenhagen, Denmark).
2. **Wang, C.**, La Barrie, D., Powers, A., Stenson, A., van Rooij, S., Stevens, J., Jovanovic, T., Bradley, B., McGee, R., Fani, N. (November 2021). *The associations of maternal emotion dysregulation and parenting practice with white matter structural connectivity in children*. Poster presentation at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 37th Annual Meeting (held virtually).
3. **Wang, C.**, Vaccarino, V., Clifford, G., Levantsevych, O., Ma, X., Shah, A. (November 2021). *The Associations of linguistic features of trauma narratives, PTSD and cardiovascular health in Veteran Twins*. Poster presentation at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 37th Annual Meeting (held virtually).
4. Schreiber, Z.\* & **Wang, C.\***, Tan, A., Posse, P., McDonald, W., Crowell, A., Hermida, A., Hershenberg, R. (March 2021). *Assessing the anxiolytic and antidepressant effects of ketamine among anxious and non-anxious TRD patients*. Poster presentation at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America Conference (held virtually).  
\*Denotes equal contribution as first authors
5. **Wang, C.**, Lee, V., Castanheira, J., Landry, M., Raz, A. (May 2019). *Independence of two attention systems: Stimulus-driven and goal-driven attention across perceptual detection*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Psychology Association Annual Convention (Halifax, NS, Canada).

6. Pang, Z., Wang, C., & Ye, Z. (March 2019). *Cultural differences and win-loss framing effect of intertemporal choice: A meta-analysis*. Poster presentation at the Fourth International Symposium of Decision Making and Brain Research (China).

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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1. Wang, C. (May 2022). *Entrapment and social problem-solving in suicidal behavior across the adult lifespan*. Invited talk presented at the enrichment meeting at the Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide, UPMC Psychiatry, Pittsburgh, PA
2. Wang, C. (October 2021). *Improving suicide prevention through evidence-based strategies: a systematic review*. Invited talk presented at the enrichment meeting at the Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide, UPMC Psychiatry, Pittsburgh, PA
3. Wang, C. (March 2021). *Re-designing the early child development training materials for the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Program*. Invited talk presented at the weekly meeting at the Maternal and Child Health Branch of the PEPFAR initiative, Atlanta, GA
4. Wang, C. (January 2021). *Understanding the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on HIV pediatric treatment retention in Africa*. Invited talk presented at the weekly meeting at the Maternal and Child Health Branch of the PEPFAR initiative, Atlanta, GA
5. Wang, C. (November 2020). *Analyzing trauma narratives to predict lifetime PTSD*. Invited talk presented at the monthly meeting at the Emory Program in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research and Epidemiology (EPICORE), Atlanta, GA
6. Wang, C. (August 2020). *Interoception and mental health: a roadmap*. Invited talk presented at the biweekly journal club at the Fani Affective Neuroscience Lab, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
7. Wang, C. (November 2018). *Network analysis of pediatric eating disorder symptoms in a treatment-seeking, transdiagnostic sample*. Invited talk presented at the weekly journal club at the Biopsychosocial Examination of Eating Patterns Lab, McGill University, Montreal, QC
8. Wang, C. (June 2017). *What does the hippocampus do in our brain? – a brief introduction to memory and learning*. Invited talk presented at the weekly meeting at Dr. Yiqun Gan's laboratory, Peking University, Beijing, China

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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09/2023-present

**Family Cognitive Affective Neurodevelopment Lab  
Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota**

Principal Investigator: Syla Wilson, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Early life stress, familial transmission of psychopathology, brain development in children

***Graduate Research Assistant & Ph.D. Student***

- oversee a systematic review of maternal depression during pregnancy and its effect on children
- Conduct study visits on mother and 6-month-old infant dyads using psychophysics, self-reports, and structured play sessions
- Conduct scanning sessions for newborn babies for the HBCD Study

07/2021-07/2023

**Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide | R01MH085651**

**Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center**

Principal Investigator: Katalin Szanto, M.D.

Study Aims: Risk/protective factors in late-life depression and suicide behavior

***Research Coordinator & Data Manager***

*Data Management and Research Coordinating*

- Create and maintain R scripts to streamline dataset building, data missingness check, monthly participant follow-up list, and recruitment progress
- Conceptualize and lead independent research projects studying suicide risk using advanced statistical methods such as logistic regression modeling and linear mix-effect modeling
- Develop analytic strategies and disseminate research findings at national and international conferences
- Lead data team and oversee the training of new team members
- Manage REDCap database
- Re-structured and designed the clinical and data training manuals
- Assisted in grant writing, submission, and revision to an NIH-funded R01 grant

*Clinical Assessment*

- Conduct clinical and physical health assessments (HDRS-24, SSI, SIS, CSSRS, CIRS-G, etc.)
- Conduct neuropsychological assessments (MMSE, WTAR, EXIT)
- Recruit participants who have acute suicide risk or recently attempted suicide from the psychiatric unit

05/2020-05/2021

**Fani Affective Neuroscience Laboratory | R01AT012667  
Grady Trauma Project, Department of Psychiatry, Emory University**

Principal Investigator: Negar Fani, Ph.D.

Study Aims: The impact of breath-focused mindfulness techniques on PTSD symptoms with a particular focus on dissociation

***Research Assistant***

- Pre-processed diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) data and conducted probabilistic fiber tracking for over 60 participants using Bash and FSLeves
- Pre-processed DWI data and conducted deterministic fiber tracking using DSI Studio
- Conducted phone interviews with participants
- Administered breath-focused intervention sessions using psychophysics measurements and computer-generated tasks
- Developed and led an independent graduate thesis exploring maternal emotion dysregulation and white matter connectivity in children among trauma-exposed Black American mother-child dyads
- Created DTI pre-processing scripts to streamline future DWI data management
- Created DSI Studio tutorial slides and video series for training future research assistants

05/2020-03/2021

**Emory Program in Cardiovascular Outcomes Research and Epidemiology**

**School of Medicine, Emory University**

Supervisor: Amit Shah, MD, MSCR

Principal Investigator: Viola Vaccarino, MD, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Psychosocial factors and the effect of mind-body interactions on cardiovascular health

***Data Analyst***

- Extracted trauma characteristics from trauma narratives of war veterans in the Vietnam Era Twin Registry
- Conducted linguistic analysis on the trauma narratives using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count software

- Conducted stepwise regression analysis, cross-validation analysis, and non-linear mixed modeling on the predictability of linguistic characteristics on lifetime PTSD and cardiovascular issues

11/2019-03/2020

**Informal Caregiving Networks for Dementia Superimposed on Complex Multimorbidity | 3R01NR017018-02S1**

**Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University**

Principal Investigator: Mi-Kyung Song, Ph.D.

Study Aims: End-of-life care to patients with end-stage renal disease and dementia

***Graduate Research Assistant***

- Conducted phone interviews, data entry, medical record review, and questionnaire proofreading on an observational study examining the caregiving experience of patients with end-stage renal disease and moderate to severe dementia
- Administered the Montreal Cognitive Assessment to participants with dementia and end-stage renal disease
- Assisted in administering counseling sessions on end-of-life care to patients with end-stage renal disease and their caregivers

09/2018-05/2019

**Stanford Cohen Lab**

**Graduate School of Education, Stanford University**

Principal Investigator: Geoffrey L. Cohen, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Processes that shape people's sense of belonging and self and implications for social problems

***Research Assistant***

- Conducted data collection, and data entry for multiple ongoing projects
- Sorted collected data based on study protocols

09/2018-05/2019

**Biopsychosocial Examination of Eating Patterns Lab**

**Department of Psychology, McGill University**

Principal Investigator: Sarah Racine, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Examining how biological, psychological, and sociocultural risk and maintenance factors intersect to influence eating disorders

***Research Assistant***

- Tested participants using physiological measures (electromyography, skin conductance) and computerized tasks
- Conducted data entry and data quality check
- Presented an article at the weekly journal club meeting

09/2017-05/2019

**Raz Cognitive Neuroscience Lab**

**Department of Psychology, McGill University**

Principal Investigator: Amir Raz, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Attention, placebos, and consciousness

***Research Assistant***

- Administered computerized executive tasks to participants
- Trained two undergraduate students on administering testing sessions
- Led an independent research project that investigated the relationships of two attention systems across perceptual detection
- Conducted data analysis, thesis writing and presented my thesis at a national conference

06/2017-07/2017

**Dr. Gan's Lab**

**School of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, Peking University**

Principal Investigator: Yiqun Gan, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Stress, burnout, positive future orientation

***Research Assistant***

- Administered the Trier Social Stress Test and computerized survey
- Translated surveys from English to Chinese
- Attended lab meetings and contributed to the discussions on experimental designs

06/2016-08/2016

**Neuropsychology and Applied Cognitive Neuroscience Lab  
Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, China**

Principal Investigator: Raymond Chan, Ph.D.

Study Aims: Neuropsychopathology of psychotic disorders and identification of endophenotypes/biomarkers

***Research Assistant***

- Conducted preliminary quality checks of T1-weighted structural imaging collected using FslView
- Collected and entered participants' self-report data
- Conducted literature review on imaging studies examining impaired empathy in clinical populations

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

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10/2020-05/2021 **Pediatric Team, Maternal and Child Health Branch, PEPFAR Initiative  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

### *Graduate Assistant*

- Conducted HIV pediatric treatment retention analyses on countries in Africa participating in the PEPFAR initiative
- Reorganized and streamlined the training materials of early child development for the Orphan Vulnerable Children program
- Presented analysis results and updated training materials to the entire branch during weekly meetings

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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09/2018-12/2018 **Course: Modern Psychology in Historical Perspective, PSYC 403  
McGill University**  
Instructor: Mathieu Roy, Ph.D.

### *Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*

- Facilitated discussion groups on course topics
- Created review session presentations, and answered questions on course content
- Devised exam questions
- Organized an exam result viewing session

11/2016-05/2017 **East Asian Study Student Society  
McGill University**

### *Chinese Language Tutor*

- Offered verbal practices and Q&A sessions to Chinese learners at McGill University

## EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

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11/2019-05/2020 **Rollins International Student Association**  
**Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University**

*Event Chair*

- Organized celebratory events that reflected the diversity and inclusivity of the program (Lunar New Year celebration, Holi Festival)
- Planned career development events such as alumni networking and internship panel for international students
- Organized orientation welcoming sessions for international students

01/2019-05/2019 **McGill Association for Collaborative Mental Healthcare**  
**McGill University**

*Core Member*

- Participated in learning around the subject of collaborative mental healthcare through discussions and journal clubs
- Attended workshops on a variety of subjects including suicide, intersectional healthcare, cultural competency, and mental healthcare design
- Volunteered in the McGill undergraduate population to organize mental healthcare-related events such as graduate school information nights, conferences, and guest lecture series

10/2017-05/2019 **Science Undergraduate Society Equity Committee**  
**McGill University**

*Co-commissioner*

- Handled equity complaints from students in the science faculty
- Organized equity trainings for all the faculty clubs affiliated with the science faculty
- Organized semester events such as panel discussions and movie nights
- Participated in the recruitment and interview process of McGill science faculty orientation leader application

## **VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT**

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11/2018-05/2019 **Volunteer at Friendship Circle**

- Paired up with children with special needs to engage in weekly social activities

09/2017-12/2018 **Volunteer at Huntington Society of Quebec**

- Organized a weekly Social Club for Huntington disease patients and their family members

## RESEARCH SKILLS & OTHER CERTIFICATES

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- **Programming languages:** R, SPSS, SAS, Linux, GitHub
- **Statistical analyses:** Machine learning, SEM, Linear mixed-effect modeling, Hierarchical linear regression
- **Research tools:** REDCap, Qualtrics, Zotero, Endnote, Mendeley
- **Neuroimaging Software:** DSI Studio, FSLeys
- **Certificates:** CITI Certifications, Mental Health First Aid Certification, Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST)
- **Languages:** English (native-level), Mandarin (native), French (intermediate), Japanese (elementary)