ZHONGYAO(AUDREY) ZHANG

Research interests: Psychometric modelling, Education Policy, AI and Society

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https://github.com/AudreyZhongyao

Methods: R, Python, psychological network analysis, SEM, machine learning, psychometrics, survey harmonisation

EDUCATION

University College London, Division of Psychology and Language Sciences

2022 – 2026	**Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology** (expected May 2026)
	Advisors: Peter Howell (1st), Dimitrios Tsivrikos (2nd)
	Thesis: From One-Item Survey to Holistic Networks: Understanding Young People's Belongingness and Its Relation to Mental Health
2019 – 2022	**B.Sc. in Experimental Psychology** (First Class Honour)
	Dean's List Award

Harvard, T.H. Chan School of Public Health

2024	Short Course – Economic Epidemiology
	Scholarship: Harvard Fellowship Award

PUBLICATIONS & WORKING PAPERS

Tlili, A., **Zhang, A.**, et al. (in preparation). *Mapping Institutional Policies and Pedagogical Frameworks of Artificial Intelligence in Open Universities.*

Tlili, A., **Zhang, A.**, De Bruyckere, P., Huang, R., & Guerriero, S. (in preparation). *When science of learning contradicts special education: A need for more inclusive evidence-based research. Educational Psychology Review.*

Zhang A, Yifei G, Wannapon S, Nazaretsky T, & Cukurova M. (2025). Evaluating Trust in AI, Human, and Co-produced Feedback Among Undergraduate Students. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *AI & Society. Preprint available at: https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.10961.*
- *Cited in UNESCO Teacher Task Force Position Paper: Promoting and protecting teacher agency in the age of artificial intelligence.*

Zhang A, Kazazi F, Tang K, Howell P (2024) Interplay of Mental State, Personality, and Popularity Among Peers in Shaping Belongingness of First-Year Students: A Cross-Sectional Study. PLOS Mental Health 1(2): e0000019. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000019
- *Winner of the Henry Plotkin Prize for the Best Third Year Project, Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London.*

CHAPTERS & COMMISSIONED REPORT

Zhang, A. (in preparation). The science of social-emotional learning. In UNESCO, *Science of Learning: Its Promise for Education Transformation and the Need to Bridge Science and Practice.*

Zhang, A., Pieniazek, A., Patrick, M. (2023). *Creating Inclusive Student-Staff Partnerships*. UCL Arena Centre of Professional Development, University College London. https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/publications/2023/sep/creating-inclusive-student-staff-partnerships

Zhang A. et al. (2023). *Strategic Communication and Integration Report for Caritas Westminster*, UCL Consultants, University College London

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2024	University College London, Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences
2023	Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

PRESENTATIONS

Zhang A, Tsivriko D, Howell P (2025). Psychological Network Analysis Reveals How Belongingness Links Student Mental Health, Campus Climate, and Identity.

- *Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO, United States.*

Zhang A, Tsivriko D, Howell P (2024). Insightfully Inclusive: Dynamic Norm Messaging Increases BAME Students' Engagement with University Resources.

- *Poster presented at Psychology of Education Section Annual Conference, British Psychological Society, Cambridge, United Kingdom.*

Zhang A, Malgorzata, P, Patrick M (2023). Creating Inclusive Student-Staff Partnerships.

- *Workshop conducted at Arena Centre of Professional Development, University College London, London, United Kingdom.*

Zhang A, Kazazi F, Tang K, Howell P (2023). Status and Belongingness of First Year Undergraduates.

- *Poster presented at the Early Career Researchers Event, Children and Young People's Mental Health, London, United Kingdom.*

Zhang A, Kazazi F, Tang K, Howell P (2022). Status and Belongingness of First Year Undergraduates.

- *Poster presented at the Institute of Mental Health International Conference, London, United Kingdom.*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assisted Modules

2024 – 2025	Year 2 Introduction to Statistical Methods, University College London
2024 – 2025	Year 2 Research Methods Lab, University College London
2023 – 2024	Year 2 Introduction to Statistical Methods, University College London
2023 – 2024	Year 2 Research Methods Lab, University College London
2022 – 2023	Year 2 Research Methods Lab, University College London
2022 – 2023	Year 3 Research Project, University College London

Supervisions

Luana Rocha	BSc Dissertation Supervisor (anticipated 2026)
Tanisha Rahaman	BSc Dissertation Supervisor (2025)
Joy Han	BSc Dissertation Supervisor (2025)
Andy Chan	MSc Dissertation Supervisor (2024)
Siyu Li	BSc Dissertation Supervisor (2023)
Tinu Alabi	Second Year Project Supervisor (2023)
Ruiying Zhong	Second Year Project Supervisor (2023)
Rawleka Wilson	Second Year Project Supervisor (2023)

HONORS & AWARDS

2024	Centre for Population and Development Studies Fellowship Award, Harvard University
2023	Contribution to EDI in Research Award, University College London
2023	Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences Fund, University College London
2022	Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences Fund, University College London
2022	Henry Plotkin Prize for the Best Third Year Project, University College London
2021	Intel Quality Award, Intel
2019 – 2022	Dean's List, University College London

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026	**Consultant, UNESCO, Paris, France (forthcoming, Mar–Aug)**
	Supporting design and sampling for school-based trial interventions in Cyprus. Analysing EdTech survey data on alignment with the science of learning. Developing a 9-module OER course for K–12 teachers. Contributing to cross-national psychometric analysis of the Happy Schools Diagnostic Toolkit, including matching child and parent questionnaires across primary and secondary schools in the UK, France, Portugal, and Vietnam.
2025 – 2026	**Education Policy Intern, UNESCO, Paris, France**
	Coordinated the Global Education Coalition across 52 countries. Organised the 2nd Annual Meeting on Science of Learning (45 countries, 219 attendees). Drafted a chapter on social-emotional learning for a UNESCO publication on the science of learning.
2021	**Global Partnership AI for Youth Project Manager, Intel, Shanghai, China**
2020 (Summer)	**Wellbeing Counsellor, YK Pao School, Shanghai, China**
2020 (Spring)	**Psychometrician, Psylife Limited, Shanghai, China**
2019 (Summer)	**STEM Learning Designer, Steam Labs Limited, Shanghai, China**

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

2024 – 2025	Committee, London Judgment and Decision Making Seminars
2024	Project Consultant for Chanel, UCL Consultants, University College London
2023 – 2025	Research Consultant, Arena Centre of Professional Development, University College London
2023	Project Consultant for Caritas Internationalis, UCL Consultants, University College London
2022 – 2025	Research Consultant, Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London
2022 – 2025	Student Representative, Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London

AD-HOC REVIEWER

PLOS Mental Health; Journal of Fluency Disorders; Journal of Responsible Technology

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP); British Psychological Society (BPS)