

YIMENG (AMY) CHENG

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division

Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) – Psychology Chicago, IL, U.S.

Advisor: Dr Howard Nusbaum (APEX Lab); Dr Amanda Ceniti

Research Interest: Consciousness; Decision making; Intuitive and deliberate judgment; Learning

Australian National University (ANU), College of Health and Medicine

Canberra, Australia

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours; GPA: 4.0/4.0 in U.S. system)

December 2022

Honours Thesis: Decision-making Under Growing Awareness: Impact of Refinement and Expansion on Probability and Preference Judgments.

Advisor: Professor Michael Smithson, Australian National University

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program

Michigan, U.S.

Program in Quantitative Methods

June-August 2023

Key courses: Data Science and Text Analysis; Bayesian Modeling for the Social Sciences; Social Choice Theory; Machine Learning: Applications in Social Science Research

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

Smithson, M., & Cheng, Y. (under review). Blame for Intergroup Conflict Under Sample Space Unpacking and Expansion. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Smithson, M., & Cheng, Y. (under review). Sample Space (Un)packing Effects on Judgments about New Categories. *Decision*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Cárdenas, D., Reynolds, K. J., Sahib, A., Cheng, Y., & Goodman, G. (2021). National Student Wellbeing Project. Research report prepared for the *ACT Education Directorate: Education and Training*. Canberra: The Australian National University.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentation:

Cheng, Y., & Smithson, M. (2022, November 10 – 13). Does Unpacking a COVID-19 Treatment Method into its Constituents Shift People's Preference to the Treatment? [Conference presentation]. *Society for Judgment and Decision Making (SJDM) Conference 2022*, San Diego, CA, United States. <https://sjdm.org/programs/2022-program.pdf>.

Oral Presentations:

Cárdenas, D., Chen, J., Cruwys, T., Wang, Z., Cahill, A., Cheng, Y., McDonald, J., Li, K., & Pelland, M. (2023, June 30 – July 4). Social Identification and Anxiety: A Meta-Analysis [Conference presentation] *19th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP)*, Krakow, Poland.

Cheng, Y., & Smithson, M. (2022, October 14 – 15). Impact of Unpacking Treatment Options on People's Probability and Preference Judgements [Conference presentation]. *Online Student Research Conclave on Behavioural Science, Judgment and Decision*, New Delhi, Delhi, India.

Cheng, Y., & Smithson, M. (2022, September 28 – 30). Awareness Growth During COVID-19: How Do Consequences Shape our Preferences? [Conference presentation]. *Australasian Council for Undergraduate Research (ACUR) Conference*, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Cheng, Y., Liwu, S., & Xu, H. (2022, May 27). What We Need to Do for The Earth to Save Ourselves: Relationship Between Planet Health and Human Health [Conference presentation]. *International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability Online*, United Nations.

Cheng, Y., Chen, J., Cardenas, D., & Sakai, M. (2021, September 13–15). Hikikomori (Long-Term Social Withdrawal) and Re-Employment Seeking [Conference presentation]. *Australasian Council for Undergraduate Research (ACUR) Conference*, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Student Ambassador of ANU Undergraduate Research Committee	2022
Dennis Balson Essay Prize Candidate	2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Conflicting Medical Information and Online Searching Behaviour

Research Assistant, Research School of Psychology, ANU

December 2023 – Current

Supervisor: Professor Michael Smithson

- Conducted a qualitative study to investigate participants' searching strategies for medication information, and their behaviors when facing conflicting information.
- Employed thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in participants' responses; collaborated with fellow researchers to refine coding schemes and ensure the rigor and reliability of data analysis.
- Systematically coded participants' responses, categorizing them based on emergent themes and subthemes to extract meaningful insights.

Decision-making Under Growing Awareness: Impact of Refinement and Expansion on Probability and Preference Judgments

Honours Research Year, Research School of Psychology, ANU

February – October 2022

Supervisor: Professor Michael Smithson

- Explored refining a category into its disjoint components to increase probability/preference judgment towards the overall category (Support Theory; Tversky & Koehler, 1994).
- Investigated decision under uncertainty, including what happens to probability/preference judgment when expanding a category, and whether it corresponds to Reverse Bayesianism.
- Data analyzed in RStudio; adopted a hurdle model including two logistic regressions and a beta regression to analyze compensational data.

ACT Government Report, Primary and Secondary School Quality Assessment

Research Assistant, Research School of Psychology, ANU

August – December 2021

Advisor: Dr. Diana Cardenas

- Evaluated ACT primary schools' educational effectiveness for the Australian Capital Territory Education Directorate.

National Student Wellbeing Project

Research Assistant, Research School of Psychology, ANU

December 2020 – March 2021

Advisors: Professor Kate Reynolds and Dr. Diana Cardenas

- Conducted a systematic review to evaluate the psychometric properties of existing youth wellbeing measures for the Australian Capital Territory Education Directorate.

Long-Term Social Withdrawal, Self-Efficacy and Re-Employment Seeking

Special Topics in Psychology Research Program

February 2020 – July 2021

Advisors: Dr. Diana Cardenas and Dr. Junwen Chen

- Investigated the mediation effect of job-searching self-efficacy (JSSE) on the relationship between *Hikikomori* conditions and job-searching effort and satisfaction.
- Conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate the protective and risk factors of voluntary social withdrawal (*Hikikomori*).

Social Identity, School Environment and International Student's Wellbeing

Special Topics in Psychology Research Program

February – December 2020

Advisors: Dr. Diana Cardenas and Dr. Junwen Chen

- Conducted a meta-analysis regarding the relationship between social identity and depression.
- Deployed a longitudinal study investigating the impact of school climate on international students' mental health.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TOEFL & SAT Teacher at New Oriental Education (China)	December 2023 – August 2024
Marketing Intern at Princeton University Press (China Office)	August 2023 – December 2023
Applied Behavioural Analysis Therapist at Super Kids Consulting (Sydney, Australia)	May – December 2022
Educator at Outside School Hours Care Club (Canberra, Australia)	June 2020 – December 2022

SKILLS

Programming: R, LaTeX, Python

Statistical Software: SPSS, JASP

Other: Qualtrics; Prolific; Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Power BI

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Chinese (native), Japanese (fluent), Cantonese (Intermediate)