

Yutong (Max) Zhu

Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Sociology

Chicago, IL

Expected 2031

University of Chicago

M.A., Computational Social Science

Chicago, IL

Jun 2025

Carnegie Mellon University

B.S. (University Honors), Computer Science;

Additional Major in History

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2022

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

≡ indicates equal contribution and shared first authorship.

[2] Sui, Peiqi[≡], **Yutong Zhu**[≡], Tianyi Cheng, Peter West, Richard Jean So, Hoyt Long, and Ari Holtzman. Spoiler Alert: Narrative Forecasting as a Metric for Tension in LLM Storytelling. Conference on Language Modeling (COLM) 2026. [[Preprint](#)].

[1] **Zhu, Yutong**. Explaining Gendered Language Through Embedding Approximation: How “Stupid” Became a Man’s Word. *Forthcoming at Social Forces*.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

[1] Li, Zehan, **Yutong Zhu**, Siyang Wu, Honglin Bao, and James A. Evans. Narrative Flattening: How Post-Training Compresses Thematic, Affective, and Stylistic Variation in LLM Fiction. In submission. [[Preprint](#)].

WORKS IN PROGRESS

[2] **Zhu, Yutong**, Tianyi Zhang, Junsol Kim, Aaron Schein, and James Evans. The Zeitgeist Machine: Partisan Opinion Landscapes from Language Model Activations. *Manuscript in preparation*.

[1] Rochelle Terman, Shilin Jia, **Yutong Zhu**, and James Evans. The Nations in Our Minds: Historical Representations of Countries in Google Books. *Manuscript in preparation*.

PRESENTATIONS

Explaining Gendered Language Through Embedding Approximation: How “Stupid” Became a Man’s Word

- American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting 2025, Section Session

The Nations in Our Minds: Historical Representations of Countries in Google Books

- International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention 2025, Regular Session

Between Min and Zu: Ethnonym and National Narrative in Post-Imperial China

- Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) 2024, Regular Session

HONORS & AWARDS

University Scholar Full-Tuition Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2023–2025

Ludwig Schaefer Award for Outstanding Achievement in History, Carnegie Mellon University, 2022

Dietrich College Senior Honors Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University, 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

- Large-Scale Computing for the Social Sciences (Spring 2025), Dr. Jon Clindaniel, Dr. Fabricio Vasselai
- Perspectives on Computational Modeling (Winter 2025), Dr. Zhao Wang

PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Journal of Asian Studies
Editorial Assistant (Part-Time)

Remote
Mar 2023 – Jun 2025

Stellar Cyber
Data Engineer

San Jose, CA
Jun 2022 – Feb 2023

SKILLS

Methods: Data Management, Quantitative & Qualitative Research, Academic Writing, Data Analysis & Pipeline, Machine Learning, NLP

Technical: Python, C, Java, SPARQL, SQL, Kubernetes, Git; Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign

Languages: Mandarin (native), French (intermediate), Uzbek (elementary)

REFERENCES

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Max Palevsky Professor of Sociology & Data Science
University of Chicago
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John Levi Martin
Florence Borchert Bartling Professor, Sociology
University of Chicago
jlmartin@uchicago.edu