

# Yutong (Max) Zhu

Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

☎ +1 (412) 613-8313 | ✉ maxzhuyt@uchicago.edu

## 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*

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

≡ indicates equal contribution and shared first authorship.

[3] 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].

[2] Sui, Peiqi<sup>≡</sup>, **Yutong Zhu**<sup>≡</sup>, Tianyi Cheng, Peter West, Richard Jean So, Hoyt Long, and Ari Holtzman. Spoiler Alert: Narrative Forecasting as a Metric for Tension in LLM Storytelling. In submission. [Preprint].

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

## 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

**James Evans**

Max Palevsky Professor of Sociology & Data Science  
University of Chicago  
[jevans@uchicago.edu](mailto:jevans@uchicago.edu)

**John Levi Martin**

Florence Borchert Bartling Professor, Sociology  
University of Chicago  
[jlmartin@uchicago.edu](mailto:jlmartin@uchicago.edu)